



the South Devon

DECEMBER 2012

NEWSLETTER 53

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Welcome to all Members,

As I sit down to write this report and reflect on the past twelve months of the farming scene where the pricing of our commodities are having a downward spiral we have just received the results of our first draft of lambs and freezer ewes. The prices received being back \$53 for lambs and \$64 for ewes which makes 2013 a year of containment for sheep farmers and on the positive side the beef schedule is just above last year which gives us some hope to receive the rewards we deserve.

The spring has been kind to us farmers with good weather conditions throughout and with good survival rates being recorded in both islands.

October-November were a lot more challenging with the cool windy conditions making grass growth very slow, hopefully summer will arrive with some moisture.

The PBB service contracts for all breed societies are up for renewal and at the end of November PBB held a forum to discuss a formula for the new contracts. It was very informative with a very open discussion of all aspects of the old and new contracts.

James and I attended this forum and were also in attendance at the Future Beef NZ, NZ Beef Expo and Steak of Origin

AGM's where they outlined the 2013 draft programme content. A lot of work has been done to lift the profile of Beef Expo and make it more appealing to attend. A lot of new initiatives have been put forward but it may take two or three years to implement all of these changes which look very exciting for the future.

South Devons are competing very well at shows and carcass competitions both here and Australia which is a great achievement for the breed.

The 2013 AGM is to be held in March in the Waikato/ Bay of Plenty/King Country region and I would encourage all members to attend this and enjoy the programme and fellowship of members.

Thank you to all members who ordered 2013 calendars, the Board appreciates your efforts.

Christmas and New Year is always a time for family to reflect on the past and forward for the future.

On behalf of Ann and myself we would like to extend our very best wishes to all members and their families for a Merry Christmas and safe and Happy New Year.

Brian Thomson
President

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SOUTH DEVONS CARCASE WIN AT ROYAL MELBOURNE SHOW

With 62 exhibits entered in the carcass competition and 23 of those were schools, it's no wonder a number of educational institutes took home a school bag full of ribbons from the Royal Melbourne Show beef carcass competition.

Grand champion live steer or heifer was won by Finley High School, while it was Billabong High School, Culcairn, that won the grand champion carcass award.

The winning steer on the hoof was exhibited by a large Finley High School show team, and went on to be sold in the Young Auctioneers competition.

Weighing 385 kgs, the Limousin steer was first awarded champion medium domestic steer, and judge Craig Grapes, Triple M Red Angus, Kyogle, said it ticked all the boxes.

The steer was also part of the team of three Limousins to win the prestigious Borthwick Trophy, receiving the highest points of the trio with 90.090, as well as winning the Clarke Rubber Steer Bonanza.

Grand champion carcass was awarded to Billabong High School's heavy domestic South Devon, bred by Shaun & Sheree Hamson of Kirdeeen South Devons, Culcairn.

The steer was awarded a total of 92.690 points out of 100, receiving full marks for rump, fat, meat colour, rib fat and eye muscle area.

It was also awarded the Marcus Oldham College trophy for the champion school carcass.

Mr Hamson said they provided the steer to Billabong High to promote both the South Devon breed and their own stud.

"It was the first steer we have entered in the Melbourne Show carcass competition and the first time Billabong High had prepared a South Devon, so there were quite a few unknowns there, but we managed to produce the grand champion which is fantastic," he said.

"It is great for the breed recognition that it does have quality meat, even fat cover and the necessary rib and rump fat needed to win carcass competitions."

It was also good promotion for Kirdeeen's own meat brand – Billabong South Devon Beef – which they supply via orders to local areas.

Champion light domestic carcass was awarded to another school, Barham High, for their Murray Grey, while champion export carcass went to Longerenong College with a Red Angus/Hereford cross.

Champion medium domestic carcass was won by Team H and the Alberni family with a Charolais/Shorthorn cross.

Yanco Agricultural High School were the most successful schools or college exhibitor.

EXTRACT FROM A LETTER FROM AN AUSTRALIAN COMMERCIAL FARMER

One of the reasons that I chose South Devon's to use in my program was that the US research shows that they have good meat eating qualities.

This should be raising a lot of questions in your minds.

Does this win add any value to commercial herds like mine who use South Devon's? Unfortunately at the moment the answer is a resounding **NO!**

The simple reason for this is that commercial beef producers only get paid for weight. However I think there is a very good chance that this will change and some meat processors will shift to value based payment systems for cattle sold over the hooks. We do know that the differences in final value between individual carcasses is massive. On a line of very similar 300 kg steers the difference between the highest and the lowest can be as much as \$500.00. (This is based on a system that takes into account yield and eating quality.)

So how do you position your cattle to take advantage of this if and when it happens? In my view the answer is pretty simple. Get into recording and BreedPlan in a big way and scan your cattle so you can generate carcass EBV's.

I have recently found a bull - ACE F1 and have just finished an AI program using this bull. *What is significant about him?* Read his EBV's.

	Bth	200	400	600	M	EMA	Rib	Rmp	Rby	IMF
ACE F1	+1.7	+18	+24	+30	+4	+1.6	+1.8	+2.3	-0.7	+0.9
Breed Av	+1.3	+13	+16	+21	+1	+0.6	-0.1	-0.3	+0.3	0.0

This bull has slightly higher than average birth weight a bit better than average growth, good milk, and very high muscle and fat. This is a rare combination. There is a strong correlation between increased muscle and less fat. This bull breaks the rules. This bull has the highest combination of muscle and fat breeding values that I can find in the breed. Also the highest IMF EBV for a bull that I can find. Muscle drives yield and fat, in particular intra muscular fat drives meat eating quality. Fat is also important for female survival and reproduction. This has been well demonstrated by the Beef CRC.

So if anyone can come up with a bull with a better combination of birth weight, growth, milk, muscle and fat please let me know.

I am looking for the bull that reads something like this.

	Bth	200	400	600	M	EMA	Rib	Rmp	Rby	IMF
IDEAL BULL	-0.5	+20	+25	+30	+6	+3.5	+2.0	+2.0	+1.0	+2.0

I hope that someone produces a bull like this in the not too distant future.

John Buxton

SOUTH DEVON NEWSLETTER NOTES & DATES

2013 AGM & TOUR

The 2013 AGM & Tour will be held in the Waikato/Bay of Plenty/King Country region from 12-15 March. All enquires to Peter Foss.

BEEF EXPO

South Devon's will be having led and unled bulls at the 2013 Expo so please support it.

The Queen of Hearts show and sale will be run again so if you have an outstanding young heifer please consider entering her.

FUTURE BEEF NZ

If you have steers available for this competition please let Sharyn at PBBNZ know.

BOARD OF MANAGEMENT

There is a vacancy on the board as Gavin Osborne has indicated he is not available for re-election so if you have something to offer please consider standing.

Nomination forms are enclosed with this newsletter.

SOUTH DEVON TRIAL

The Board of Management are currently investigating running a commercial purebred South Devon heifer and steer competition beginning in April 2013. It is intended animals will be entered as weaners, run together, and taken through to finishing. Once prime they will be purchased by Elevate Bar and Function Centre, (www.elevatebar.co.nz), at current market value. The prime cuts will be served at Elevates' restaurant and the secondary cuts manufactured into their small goods.

During the course of the trial live weight gain, finishing time, scanning and then carcass testing will be conducted on each animal.

The purpose of the trial foremost is to increase the South Devon breeds profile while gaining relevant information that

can be used by breeders and for future publicity. Secondary objectives will be to generate income for the South Devon Breed Society and ensure quality supply for Elevate who are expanding their South Devon Menu. The team at Elevate are passionate about the South Devon Brand and believe it can achieve big things!

Planning for the trial is very much in its' infancy and any input, both positive or negative, will be very much appreciated and can be directed to Richard van Asch, 03 5702114 or email: aschwood@xtra.co.nz

In order for initiatives such as this to succeed and the South Devon breed to move forward you as breeders must take an active interest!

CANTERBURY A & P 150th SHOW

The Canterbury Show was held on 14th -16th November 13 breeds were represented consisting of 182 animals which made for a very high standard of competition.

The weather couldn't have been better with very warm conditions for the entire show. The South Devons featured well with good placings in the Interbreeds and the All Breeds.

Attending was an English South Devon breeder who watched all the judging of the South Devons and he was heard to say "the South Devon cattle on show here are of a very high standard and a credit to the breed and also their exhibitors achieving excellent results".

On the Friday one of the new initiatives at the show was a Young Auctioneers competition for stock agents under 30 years old. This was held in the judging ring next to the Rural Livestock. They set up temporary seating to make it look like an

on-site home stud sale. Burtergill and Loch Lomond supplied a bull and a heifer for the auction which was being held over the lunchtime period. It was attended by a huge crowd of people which was great exposure for our breed.



SHOW RESULTS

WYNDHAM A & P SHOW

1st December 2012

JUDGE: Nic Clarke, Ranfurly

Yearling Bull

- 1st Loch Lomond Sid
2nd Loch Lomond Red *Reserve Champion Male*

Yearling Heifer

- 1st Loch Lomond Claire *Champion Female*
2nd Loch Lomond Janet *Reserve Champion Female*

Supreme Champion South Devon

Loch Lomond Sid

Junior Meat & Wool Cup Winner - 8 breeds

Loch Lomond Sid

ALL BREEDS

JUDGE: Rebecca Paterson

Breeders Group – 1 Bull, 2 females - 6 entries

- 2nd Loch Lomond

Yearling Bull - 11 entries

- 1st Loch Lomond Sid

Yearling Female - 14 entries

- 3rd Loch Lomond Claire
6th Loch Lomond Janet

Best Pair of Yearling Bull & Heifers - 6 entries

- 1st Loch Lomond

Alliance Senior Meat & Wool Cup Winner - 8 breeds

- 1st Loch Lomond Sid

CANTERBURY A & P SHOW – 150TH

14th - 16th November 2012

JUDGE: Catherine Rawnsley, Auckland

Senior Yearling Heifer

- 1st AE & RA van Asch Burtergill Henry's Belle 1147
Champion Female
2nd BJ Thomson Loch Lomond Claire 1110
Reserve Champion Female
3rd BJ Thomson Loch Lomond Janet 1109

Performance Plus Class with Group EBV

- 1st AE & RA van Asch Burtergill Henry's Belle 1147
2nd BJ Thomson Loch Lomond Claire 1110
3rd BJ Thomson Loch Lomond Janet 1109

Bull 2 years and over

- 1st AE & RA van Asch Burtergill Harry 815
Senior Champion Male
2nd BJ Thomson Loch Lomond Ted 702
Junior Reserve Champion Male

Senior Yearling Bull

- 1st BJ Thomson Loch Lomond Sid 1104
Junior Champion Male
2nd AE & RA van Asch Burtergill Zion 1120 Junior
Reserve Champion Male
3rd BJ Thomson Loch Lomond Red 1116

Junior Yearling Bull

- 1st AE & RA van Asch Burtergill Zeus 1135

Yearling Bull Performance Class with Group EBV

- 1st AE & RA van Asch Burtergill Zion 1120
2nd BJ Thomson Loch Lomond Sid 1104
3rd AE & RA van Asch Burtergill Zeus 1135

Two Yearling any Sex Bred by Exhibitor to be judged as a Pair

- 1st AE & RA van Asch
2nd BJ Thomson

Group Bull & two Females any age

- 1st BJ Thomson

Two Animals by Sire or Dam

- 1st BJ Thomson

Champion Junior South Devon

- BJ Thomson Loch Lomond Sid 1104

Supreme Champion South Devon

- AR & RA van Asch Burtergill Harry 815

ALL BREEDS

JUDGE: Geoff Bush, NSW, Australia

ASSOCIATE: Reuben Carter, Northland

Bull 2 yr & over - 20 entries

- 2nd AR & RA van Asch Burtergill Harry 815

Bull Yearling - 41 entries

- 3rd AR & RA van Asch Burtergill Zion 1120
6th BJ Thomson Loch Lomond Sid 1104

Heifer Yearling - 55 entries

- 4th AR & RA van Asch Burtergill Henrys Belle 1147

Pair of Yearling owned by Exhibitor - 25 entries

- 2nd AR & RA van Asch

INTERBREEDS

Best Junior Heifer in Show

- 1st AR & RA van Asch Burtergill Henrys Belle 1147

Best Junior Male in Show

- 1st BJ Thomson Loch Lomond Side 1104

Interbreed pair One male & One Female Any Age to be judged as a unit

- 2nd Burtergill Henry's Belle 1147 & Loch Lomond Sid 1104

Junior Meat Wool Cup

- 2nd BJ Thomson Loch Lomond Sid 1104

Senior Meat Wool Cup

- 3rd AR & RA van Asch Burtergill Harry 815

merry
christmas from  **PBB**_{nz}

PBBNZ Office will close for the Christmas break from 5pm on Friday 21st December 2012 and re-open at 8am on Monday 7th January 2013.

PBBNZ would like to wish all South Devon Breeders a 

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year.