

# Highland Cattle Club of Wales Newsletter

Issue 52 – Spring 2013



[www.hccw.org.uk](http://www.hccw.org.uk)

## CONTENTS

- 3 A Word from the Chair
- 4 TB Testing
- 5 Small Holders 2012
- 7 Bovine TB
- 9 Show Diary
- 12 Committee Address Book

## Find us on Facebook!



*A forum for sharing your  
Highland Cattle experiences,  
questions, comments, photos, etc.*

## Royal Welsh Show July 22<sup>nd</sup> 2013

The Club will host a buffet in the evening of show day itself, Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> July, on the stand by the cattle ring. Last year the meal was a great success and proved very popular. The food will be provided by the same caterer as last year and will cost £12.50 a head, children under six free. It is essential that bookings are received and paid for by 10th July at the latest, so please let James Williamson, the club treasurer, know your requirements as soon as possible. James' details are at the back of this newsletter: if you cannot contact him, any member of the committee will be able to help.

Payment may be made either by cheque payable to:

HCCW with the reference 220713 on the back, or by BACs to account number 31235435, sort code 40-27-01, using the reference 220713 and your surname.

# A Word from the Chair

Hello everyone, I hope that you and your stock are looking forward to a better spring and summer this year. The club will be having its usual stand at the Smallholders Festival at Builth in May, and we look forward to seeing you there if you can make it. The HCCW committee now includes Beverley Evans and Gareth Davies. Gareth has taken over the printing of the newsletter and has been co-opted onto the committee.


This year, apart from the Smallholders and Royal Welsh shows, the Society will be holding an Open Day to promote best practice within the breed. We anticipate many hints and tips on how to maximise investment and gain maximum enjoyment from Highland cattle. Date and venue to be confirmed.

The club would like to set up a rota for volunteers to man the stand at the Smallholders: the festival lasts the whole weekend, so if you are planning to come on either Saturday 18th or Sunday 19th, and can spare an hour or so to come on the stall and chat to the public, you will be gratefully received! If you could let me know when you are likely to be able to do a stint that would be marvellous. (I think my contact details are at the end of the newsletter.)

You may have noticed that the website has been a little intermittent lately. There have been security problems and Mike is in the process of redesigning it, with the aim of making it more user friendly and easier to update. Users mainly access the show diary, for sales adverts and newsletters online, so these will go onto the new site first. Mike has maintained the site for several years now, and if anyone feels they would like know what is entailed, they should contact him on [mikemccombe@btinternet.com](mailto:mikemccombe@btinternet.com) for further information.

The Society will have a stand at the Royal Welsh Show in July, on the corner of the cattle ring as in past years. Judging will be on Monday 22nd July, and in the evening the club will provide a buffet supper. Tickets for this event must be paid for when booking in advance, details are elsewhere in the newsletter. The club is also asked to help man the stand over the four days, so names will be taken for a rota. If you are able to spare half a day to talk to the public, or even an hour or two, it will be a huge help.

Finally, may I wish all of you a happy and successful summer and show season, and see you soon!



Liz McCombe

If any member of the HCCW feels they would like to host a fold visit it would be much appreciated . It is an opportunity to draw a group of people together to meet and admire cattle. It is also an opportunity for any topics that you may want more details and / or knowledge on to be discussed. It is an ideal time for a person with the appropriate knowledge and skills to come and enlighten people on anything they feel is required.

If anyone would like to put their fold forward with any topic they feel needs explaining please contact Liz McCombe or Mo Morgan. Their contact details are in the newsletter.

## THE TWO THAT GOT AWAY!

Three weeks ago I drove fifty miles each way to deliver two OTM steers to an abattoir. This morning I did the same to collect them only to discover that they had lost them both! I can understand if they were alive and wondering around the Forest of Dean but they were all boxed up.

*Sue Ievers*

## TB TESTING

### *The Smallholders and the Royal Welsh Shows*

All cattle must be premovement tested before leaving their home premises. Once passed, the test allows for movement within the next sixty days. Owners of animals tested prior to going to Builth for the Smallholders Festival must be sure to test early if they are intending to take the same stock to the Royal Welsh. If the animals are tested during the week before the Smallholders there is just about time to re-test for TB during the week prior to the Royal Welsh.

# SMALLHOLDERS 2012

The first theme for last years' stall was the taste, quality and healthiness of Highland beef when compared with other breeds of cattle.

The information about the relative cholesterol of Highland beef and "modern commercial" beef breeds was provided jointly by a scientific study done between Scotland and America.

SCIENTIFIC tests carried out on Highland Beef by the Scottish Agricultural College-National College for Food, Land and Environmental Studies demonstrate convincingly that Highland Beef is significantly lower in Fat and Cholesterol, and higher in Protein and Iron than other beef.

FOOD Scientist at SAC led by Dr. Ivy Barclay, Head of the Food and Science & Technology Department have published analytical results which have been determined on the pure Highland Beef cuts comparing eat grade of meat with results from all beef published by McCance & Widdowson at the Ministry of Agriculture Fisheries and Food.

<b>CUT</b>	<b>FAT g/100g</b>	<b>Cholesterol mg/100g</b>	<b>Protein g/100g</b>	<b>Iron g/100g</b>
<b>Pure Highland Rump</b> MAFF All Beef Rump	<b>4.2</b> 13.5	<b>48.5</b> 63.0	<b>22.4</b> 18.9	<b>2.0</b> 2.3
<b>Pure Highland Shoulder</b> MAFF All Beef Shoulder	<b>4.7</b> 10.6	<b>42.2</b> 63.0	<b>21.6</b> 20.2	<b>1.9</b> 2.1
<b>Pure Highland Sirloin</b> MAFF All Beef Sirloin	<b>7.1</b> 22.8	<b>37.0</b> 67.0	<b>21.8</b> 16.6	<b>2.3</b> 2.0
<b>Pure Highland All Cuts</b> MAFF All Cuts	<b>4.5</b> 15.6	<b>40.9</b> 64.3	<b>20.7</b> 18.6	<b>2.1</b> 2.0

The second theme was the uses of the Highland cow as a dam to cross breed for the beef market. The Highland cow is mated to the Beef Shorthorn traditionally to provide an easy calving milky female with the hybrid vigour required (Simmental is a modern alternative giving a larger frame). This animal is then put to a modern terminal sire to provide a carcass suitable for the supermarket specification whilst providing quality beef.

The Highland provides a thrifty, easy calving and milky dam for the calf to have a good start in life. The Shorthorn or Simmental provides hybrid vigour. Choice of terminal sire gives carcass shape, Belgian Blue being popular.



*Cross highland heifers*



*Cross highland cow with Continental calf*

The low point of last year's Smallholders was the disregard of the show committee to the likely TB risk provided by untested Alpacas housed under the same roof and barely 7 meters away from our stall. The literal letter of the Law was followed, but the spirit of the Law and common sense was definitely missing. Consequently the cow and calf that should have been the centrepiece of our stand was kept in the cattle lines as it was further from a possible TB threat.

## **MINERAL LICKS**

With or without garlic (to repel flies). Suitable for cattle and sheep.

Soil Association approved.

Available in 20kg or 100kg tubs.

For further information contact Charles or Mo Morgan

**Tel: 01550 740206**

email: [mo@phonecoop.coop](mailto:mo@phonecoop.coop) or visit [www.wenallt.com](http://www.wenallt.com)

# BOVINE TB

## A Very Personal View

With several months to go until our routine annual TB test, last June we received a letter from the ministry stating that we were required to carry out an additional TB test. We live in a TB hotspot so it was arranged as soon as possible, and within a week we were awaiting the results. Our first home bred female, now expecting her third calf, had tested as inconclusive the previous October, but after a period in isolation her retest had been clear. However, this time she reacted positively to the test, along with a two year old heifer we had bought in six months earlier. The two animals had never been in the same field and had certainly not had contact, so whilst Fioled's result wasn't a total surprise, Button's was out of the blue as only six months earlier she had been completely clear.

We moved Fioled with her three month old calf at foot into separate isolation from the heifer whilst we waited for the wheels of officialdom to grind into gear. The valuer came to decide compensation – there is no compensation for a trusting relationship with animals you know and respect, but we all went through the motions.

The ministry rang to say that the abattoir would send a lorry out one Wednesday afternoon to collect the two animals that had tested positive, leaving the calf with us. If his mother's post mortem results were positive, he would have to go too but not until the following Wednesday. Mike told the abattoir that these were pedigree highland cattle with horns, and one was a cow in milk. They had not been notified of the animals' breed or condition, and agreed that collection in the afternoon to slaughter the following morning was an animal health issue. Mike arranged to take them himself on Thursday morning. The halal abattoir in Swansea was not where we would ever dream of taking any of our meat animals, but that is where they went. The calf was beside himself and after 24 hours Animal Health allowed us to call our vet out to put him down. His mother had lesions so he would have had to go anyway, but the heifer was what is euphemistically referred to as a "false positive" and completely clear.

The ministry vet came to visit and "advise us on managing our TB breakdown" according to the notification. She was interested in the history of the two animals and took copious notes for the records. She knew the area and expressed surprise that we had not had a case before. The advice is geared towards farms with buildings, so not knowing how to disinfect the outdoors we simply left our isolation fields empty for as long as possible.

It is hard to describe those few weeks last summer when we were overwhelmed by the system. It felt like lying in a muddy field face down while a steam roller ran over you and disappeared in the rain through the hedge on the other side before you could lift your head out of the puddle. Having spoken to other people who have lost stock to TB, some as many as a third of their herds, I am not surprised that many farmers decide not to keep cattle at all following a breakdown. The insensitivity shown by office based staff is breath-taking. Not until the official at Carmarthen heard the distress of the calf over the phone did she relent and agree we could call our own vet at our expense to put him out of his misery. Why don't the ministry tell abattoirs the breed and status of the cattle they are to collect, when the regulations state that there is a correct way to transport horned beasts, and surely common sense indicates the cruelty of leaving a cow in milk unsuckled overnight? The response of "we don't have to say anything to anyone" shows massive lack of concern for the welfare of animals and farmers.

Having cattle react to a TB test is devastating: in my innocence I imagined that the worst moment would be being told the results and from then we would become used to the inevitable. I was not prepared for the anxiety and stress which deepened over the next few weeks until with all the animals gone we could draw a line under the episode.

**By kind permission of Mr & Mrs Duncan Handley  
the Highland Cattle Society will hold an**

## **OPEN DAY**

**At Gilden Vale Fold on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> August 2013, 10.30–4pm**

*All are welcome, new and non-owners as well as those who have had cattle for a while.*

*Come and learn more about this iconic and individual breed!*

*Lunch provided, to book see below.*

### ***Topics to include:***

- Minerals and Trace Elements
- Structure of the Beef Animal
- Breed Points of Highland Cattle
- Care of Weaned Calves
- Basic Cattle Handling
- Show Etiquette
- Health Status

### ***Demonstrations of:***

- Foot trimming
- Crushes
- Breaking down a carcass for sale

*If there is anything else you would like to see or do on the day, please let us know as soon as possible, and we will try and accommodate it.*

Booking for this event is essential, please ring Duncan or Angela Handley, or email Liz McCombe (details at the end of this newsletter) before 1st August if you would like to attend.

***There will be a charge of £10 per head to cover refreshments***



# SHOW DIARY

*Listed below are a selection of summer shows for 2013.*

*Events shown in bold are expected to include separate classes for Highland Cattle, so please give them your support.*

<b>Nefyn Annual Show</b>	<b>6<sup>th</sup> May</b>	<b>Lampeter Show</b>	<b>9<sup>th</sup> August</b>
<b>Royal Welsh Spring Festival</b>	<b>18<sup>th</sup>–19<sup>th</sup> May</b>	Chepstow Show	10 <sup>th</sup> August
Shropshire County Show	25 <sup>th</sup> May	Llanilar Show	10 <sup>th</sup> August
Royal Bath & West Show	29 <sup>th</sup> May–1 <sup>st</sup> June	Anglesey Show	13 <sup>th</sup> –14 <sup>th</sup> August
Aberystwyth & Ceredigion County Show	8 <sup>th</sup> June	Pembrokeshire Show	13 <sup>th</sup> –15 <sup>th</sup> August
<b>Three Counties Show</b>	<b>14<sup>th</sup>–16<sup>th</sup> June</b>	Denbigh & Flint Show	15 <sup>th</sup> August
<b>Royal Highland Show</b>	<b>20<sup>th</sup>–23<sup>rd</sup> June</b>	Mid-Somerset Show	18 <sup>th</sup> August
<b>Royal Welsh Show</b>	<b>22<sup>nd</sup>–25<sup>th</sup> July</b>	Monmouthshire Show	29 <sup>th</sup> August
Cardigan County Show	31 <sup>st</sup> July	Usk Show	14 <sup>th</sup> September
<b>Oswestry Show</b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> August</b>	<b>Newbury Show</b>	<b>21<sup>st</sup>–22<sup>nd</sup> September</b>

## FULLY HALTER-TRAINED 3 YEAR-OLD HEIFER



*Very straightforward 3 year-old heifer, home-bred, now ready for the bull – but we still have her sire so, sadly, she has to go. Shown with some success as a yearling, she's been haltered since weaning and is very used to being handled.*

**Contact Liz & Mike:**

**Tel: 01291 652957**

**Email: [info@highlandmoos.co.uk](mailto:info@highlandmoos.co.uk)**

## BLACK COW WITH RED HEIFER CALF AT FOOT

To keep our small fold to a manageable size, we wish to reduce the number of breeding cows. So, we are offering a five year old black cow with red heifer calf at foot (April born).



Both have good Scottish ancestry.

Our fold is registered organic and has accredited status for Johnes, Lepto and IBR.

*Any reasonable offer considered.*

Three yearling heifers also available (red, yellow, black).

Charles & Mo Morgan – Mynydd Du Fold, Carmarthenshire

**01550 740206**

Email: [mo@phonecoop.coop](mailto:mo@phonecoop.coop)

## HIGHLAND CATTLE FOR SALE

*Various ages, types and colours*

- Cows with Calves at Foot  
(*Ex – Angus Dubh AI Bull*)
- Bulling Heifers
- Yearling Heifers – Black
- Yearling Steers
- Two year old Steer
- Two year old Heifer

**Please phone for more details**

*(I can send videos by Emails to anyone interested in a particular animal)*

**TIM STRANG**

Corgam, Bwlchllan, Lampeter SA48 8QR

**01974821624**

Email – [trstrang@gmail.com](mailto:trstrang@gmail.com)

*Waterwynch*  
FARM

**Home of the Rowston Fold**

**– FOR SALE –**

Highland Cattle (various ages) –  
White Bred Shorthorn Bull

**– WANTED –**

Red Highland Cows

Contact: Dai Ormond  
(Red Roses, Carmarthenshire)

**07831 111896**

[www.waterwynch.co.uk](http://www.waterwynch.co.uk)



# FOR SALE

*The May Fold is a high hard place  
and the cattle that come from it  
are very hardy.*

**2 weaned heifer calves:**

## **ENFYs 1st OF THE MAY**

She really does have a gorgeous rainbow coat!  
Extremely docile heifer out of a prize winning  
cow from rare black Chanaidh bloodlines.

*The cat is not for sale!*



## **FRANGAG 1st OF THE MAY**

Extremely sweet, well put together heifer with  
the famous Torloisk and black Rigg bloodlines  
in her pedigree.



## **ORAG SAMHACH OF THE MAY**

Male champion at the Smallholders' and  
Lampeter show 2012 and 2nd in the calf class  
at the 3 Counties Malvern 2010 when his  
mother won the cow and calf class. A docile  
boy with plenty of beef!



Also a weaned bull calf with potential, shown last year at RWAS with his prize winning  
dam, therefore extremely quiet. Will work this year.

Snap up a bargain before the vet comes and gives all the boys a high voice!

Contact: Geoff Spawton

**Tel: 01570 423 080**

Email: [Geoff@themay.co.uk](mailto:Geoff@themay.co.uk)

[www.themay.co.uk](http://www.themay.co.uk)

# Committee Address Book

**Liz McCombe** (Chair)

Great House Farm  
Earlswood  
Chepstow  
Monmouthshire NP16 6AT  
01291 652957  
lizmccombe@btinternet.com

**James Williamson** (Treasurer)

Rielth Top  
Bishops Moat  
Bishops Castle  
Shropshire SY9 5LL  
01588 630666  
james@williamsonharrison.co.uk

**Dafydd Morgans**

Blaengorlech  
Gwernogle  
Carmarthenshire SA32 7RT  
01267 223253

**Angela Handley** (Joint Vice Chair)

Quarry Farm  
Dorstone  
Herefordshire HR3 6BL  
01981 550096

**Howard Dare**

Brynhebog  
Brechfa  
Carmarthen SA32 7QR  
01267 202291  
howard\_dare@yahoo.co.uk

**Mo Morgan** (Secretary)

Wenallt  
Llanddeusant  
Llangadog  
Carmarthenshire SA19 9TP  
01550 740206  
mo@phoncoop.coop

**Geoff Spawton** (Show Co-ordinator)

Gilfachwen  
Cellan  
Lampeter  
Ceredigion SA48 8HL  
01570 423080  
geoff@themay.co.uk

**Becky Rowlands** (Assistant Show Co-ordinator)

Pentrecelyn  
Llanbrynmair  
Powys SY19 7DZ  
07971 638727  
becky@silverlinning.orangehome.co.uk

**Olwen Ford** (Joint Vice Chair)**Llinos Ford** (Youth Representative)

Llan Farm  
Llanfrothen  
Penrhyndeudraeth  
Gwynedd, LL48 6DU  
01766 770399  
olwen.llanfarm@btinternet.com

**Beverly Evans**

Gwarfelin Isaf  
Merthyr Cynog  
Brecon  
Powys LD3 9SG  
01874 690483  
bevandsimon97@hotmail.com

**Gareth Davies**

Bryn-Cerrig  
Stone Lane  
Brook Street  
Welshpool  
Powys SY21 7NZ  
01938 556939  
gareth.r.davies@btinternet.com

---

Remember to check the club website

**[www.hccw.org.uk](http://www.hccw.org.uk)**

for the latest news, updates on events, show diary, adverts and more!

Disclaimer: The views expressed in this Newsletter are not necessarily those of HCCW