## Report of Out-Going President, Michael McKeon

When I was elected President of the Irish Shorthorn Society at the 2012 A.G.M., I stated clearly my ambition - that when my term of office ended, the Society would be in much stronger position, both organisationally and financially. I am therefore very happy – not alone have my targets been met, but my expectations have been surpassed.

Let me be quite clear, this was not achieved by one person or by chance. Everybody involved played their part, from Mary O'Brien in the office, our ever courteous Secretary, Mary Purcell and all Council Members who gave their time and knowledge in intensely debating our projected proposals before agreeing decisions acceptable to all. I know all will agree if I single out one person for special mention. Due to his financial training, John Clarke was in a position to clearly draw up the road map and erect the sign posts that got the Society along a dangerous and tricky route. This task he did brilliantly.

I know all changes were not accepted. However it is impossible to achieve gain without pain. I think Council arrived at decisions by minimising the pain and maximising the gain. I have always argued that if Breeders got a fast and efficient service from the Society, they would value it more than a few euro in registration fees. Only a strong and vibrant Society could deliver such a service.

I welcome our new President, Michael Conway, happy in the knowledge he will continue to build on the progress we have already achieved. I also welcome the 50+ new members who joined the Society in the past two years, and wish them every success with their breeding programmes. I invite them to attend the A.G.M. and give their views on how the Society can be improved.

Finally to all who made my term in office so enjoyable Thank You.

Michael McKeon.

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<u>Website</u>: www.grousehallshorthorns.com

#### **Chairman's Report**

It was a great honour to be elected President of the Irish Shorthorn Society at the 2015 council AGM. I hope to maintain the high standard of work undertaken by my predecessors.

I would like to thank Michael McKeon and John Clarke, for steering the society through a particularly difficult time from a financial point of view. I am glad to report that following some difficult decisions that had to be made in 2014 and 2015 the society is in a healthy financial position at the moment, but we must not allow ourselves to be complacent in any way going forward.

I would like to thank my council colleagues, for the support and work they have done during 2015.

This year saw the setting up of committees to get some specific work done. These were namely- the breed development committee -,the show committee -,the journal committee,- the finance committee and the dairy committee. Some of these were very effective ,some were not so for various reasons. The Finance committee (Jim Foley, Michael McKeon, John Clarke, Ml Conway) has a hard job to do, and thanks for doing a great job. I would like to thank the dairy committee (Kenny Smith, Mary Purcell, James Lambe) -we have a bit of a late start but I look forward to hearing from you in the near future.

I would like to thank Andy O'Donoghue , Jim Foley, and Michael McKeon for looking after the show committee.

I would like to thank George Carter , and Kieran Flately for their work in trying to get the next journal edition out. It has not been easy for them ,and unfortunately we are all to blame for not getting our ads and articles in on time . I would like to thank the breed development committee of Peter Luttrell , MI Mckeon, John Clarke, Joe Doherty for the work during the year . Joe unfortunately was out for some of the year due to various health issues -l am glad to see you back Joe, and don't worry -we will have plenty to work on in the future. I would like to thank the Luttrell family for hosting what was a very well attended Open day,( which was mainly aimed at the commercial sector), and was hugely successful.

The development of a commercial market is so important to our breed . We as breeders of the most suitable suckler cow for the Irish market, must in my view concentrate our efforts in getting the facts about shorthorns out there. I believe that never before did we as breeders have a tool as good as the Beef Genomics scheme to deliver the message about our breed. I would like also to encourage breeders to record birth weights of calves with ICBF. It has come to light that simple changes like recording birth weights and weighing and scoring make such a difference to our overall performance figures. The present AI shorthorn usage is running at an alarming 1% of total usage . The breed development committee have a scheme started with signed up commercial

farmers, with agreement to use shorthorn straws. This will help in the long term I am sure. It seems at the moment that we are the best kept secret of the beef suckler sector -lets change that.

I wish to thank all the people that showed cattle during the year, this is also a very important part of pedigree breeding. It takes a huge effort to train ,groom and present animals to the standard you all do. Thank you all for the huge efforts you make to show your animals . It is always striking to see a good big class of shorthorns at a show, but we must always be aware that we have a lot to offer the commercial cattle breeder.

I would like to thank all the new members of the GENE IRELAND programme, its great to see you on board and I am sure it will be very beneficial for the breed.

This year saw a very busy ploughing stand with heightened interest in the breed -commercial use and crossing of shorthorn was the theme. We also had some fine examples of beef shorthorns from the Kelly family, Tom Fox, and of course the lovely draw heifer that Michael McKeon sourced and prepared. I would also like to thank Glen Carter and Kenny Smith for representing the dairy side of the house, thank you again for your help. But there are other unsung heroes of the ploughing, that year after year work so hard to help us put it all together. To a special lady of the ploughing 2015 -namely Carmel Kelly, for all her tireless work -cups of tea and ticket sales- thanks Carmel . I cannot ignore the Queen of the ticket sellers and seller of the winning ticket, Colette Middleton! Thanks Colette for the huge help you gave. I must also say a special thanks to Eddy Dowling and the team that put the stand together and took it down afterwards. To the Whelan and Darker families- for all your help a big thanks. I would like to thank John Clarke for the huge effort he put in at the ploughing-thanks John for your tireless efforts. This years ploughing was an example of great cooperation and teamwork and thanks to you all. I am looking forward to 2016 ploughing -please drop in and see us if you are there.

This year saw a fantastic Premier sale at Roscommon .This sale is improving year after year ,thanks to all involved especially Maura and her staff at Roscommon Mart

It would be remiss of me if I didn't pay tribute to Mary O' Brien in the office -thank you Mary. Which brings me to our Secretary - Mary Purcell .Thanks Mary for all the work you do . This year was a particularly busy one ,and you came up trumps again.

Finally to you, the breeders, I would like to invite you, should you have any suggestions or queries that you wish us to discuss at council to feel free to contact us by email, letter or contact myself directly. Wishing you all a great years breeding.,

Michael Conway.

#### **Secretary's Report**

This is the ninth volume of the Irish Shorthorn Society's Breed Journal. Always a highly anticipated read by breeders. On the registration front total registration numbers for 2015 were strong with a marked increase in Beef Male registrations which can be accounted for by the introduction of the new Beef Data Genomic Scheme which has put an increased influence on the Eurostar ratings, and as a Breed the Beef Shorthorns are performing very well. We had an increase in new members joining the Society during 2015 which again can be attributed to the increased interest in the Shorthorn Breed in recent times. With regard to the TH testing program, we currently have 1800 animals tested with 240 coming back as carriers, so the carrier rate has dropped ever so slightly from 15%. to 13%. These TH testing figures will increase substantially in the next 12 to 18 months with a huge number of Shorthorn animals currently being genomically tested and TH testing will become available as part of a Shorthorn Society Genomic package. At this stage also in our Herd book there are of course a large number of progeny of tested animals that are now declared as being TH Free by Inheritance.

Our Hall of Fame recipient for 2015 was Donal Bowe breeder of the Capponellan Beef Shorthorn herd. Congratulations to Donal and family on his lifetime commitment to the breed. A very large number attended the award night with the Mount Leinster Club well represented. The Flatley family made a lovely presentation to Donal on the night acknowledging the wonderful joy and success Donal 's Cow Capponellan Nancy had brought to them over many years on the Show circuit.

On the SHOW circuit, we had excellent Shorthorn numbers at all the main regional shows. I would like to congratulate all our exhibitors on their achievements during the year. Again we had the Young Handler Classes which took place at four regional shows, namely Athlone, Tullamore, Limerick and Strokestown. We would like to thank all our young members for their hard work preparing and showing their animals with such dedication.

We were Ploughing again in September in Stradbally, Co. Laois. The weather obliged us after what could be only described as a very poor summer and a great busy three days was had by everyone working on the stand. The energy and enthusiasm at times was palpable. We had a big emphasis on the Commercial Beef Shorthorn sired female cross from the Holstein/Friesian with a number on display which proved to be a really hot topic of conversation over the whole event. I would like to thank everyone who helped in any way with the event, too many to mention but thanks to all, we could not attend events like this without such a strong team. I would like to thank all our members for supporting the draw, without their support we could not afford to attend this event This year the Draw heifer was won by Martin Hehir, Clonalkilty, Co. Cork. Martin is delighted with his prize and he is looking forward to becoming a member and getting even more involved with the breed.

Sales: The first Autumn Club Sale was the Shannonside Club Sale in Ennis in early October and there was a brisk trade with a really high clearance rate (see comprehensive Sale report in the Report section). The next sale was the Moyside/Croghan Club Sale in Castlerea, they also having a very good sale later in October . The Premier Sale took place in November in Roscommon, entries were up on the previous year with quality & prices very good. The Export facility on the day as opposed to the Monday definitely paid dividends with over 40% going for export. This year the Council opted for an International Judge and Jane Landers owner of the Cairnsmore Herd duly obliged and what a great job she did and many thanks to Jane for making the journey over.

Gene Ireland: In late 2013 a number of breeders joined the Gene Ireland Maternal Beef Program, now at the end of 2015 we have 12 breeders joined. Their herds will be inspected and suitable bulls for entry to the program will be selected, I want to thank these progressive breeders for joining and showing such commitment to the breed. The first Beef Shorthorn to be added to the program was Doon Erasmus (EMS) bred by John Clarke, Strokestown, Co. Roscommon. Erasmus's progeny are now coming on stream and are of an excellent quality with very good confirmation, colour and shorthorn quality. Straws of Erasmus are no longer available through the Gene Ireland program but he was purchased by Progressive Genetics and should be available as a bull of the day. As we go to print two more bulls have been selected for the program and if all tests are passed should be available in April, the bulls are by Chapelton Typhoon and Paintearth Rama. We would encourage breeders to join this progressive program as the Maternal aspect of breeding is so critical to us as a breed. As a Society we now have a Gene Ireland Beef Shorthorn committee to push this work forward.

Finally, I would like to thank our committed breeders on the ground for their support and help during the year, I also want to thank our President Michael Conway and Council for their commitment to the Society during the year. I would like to thank Mary O'Brien in the office, I would like to acknowledge the work of the Clubs on a regional basis organising classes at local shows, organising Club sales, the Club Secretaries do Trojan work on an ongoing basis. 2015 has been a very busy year and I hope 2016 will be equally as busy, when you are busy you are making progress. I would like to wish our breeders all the best for the future. And remember cattle breeding is a long term game but the rewards if you stick to your vision are rewarding beyond riches and gold and in the autumn of you days you will think back on the wonderful memories that you are making here and now every single day.

Mary Purcell, Secretary.

## IMPORTANT NOTICE IRISH SHORTHORN SOCIETY FEES 2014

## New Full Membership:€90.00Made up of:Membership fee€65.00Herd Prefix fee€24.00Shareholding€1.00

Associate Membership €40.00

Overseas Membership €40.00

#### **Annual Membership:**

#### Annual Renewal rates as follows:

- Special rate of €55.00 applies to members who signed up to Standing Order payment.
- Membership fee €55.00 applies if renewed by March 31st 2016 after March 31st a Membership fee of €65.00 applies. Membership must be paid before any animal can be registered.
- Membership is deemed to be lapsed if two full years subscriptions remains outstanding. All lapsed members must re-apply for membership, pay herd prefix fee and be proposed by Council.

#### **Registration Fees:**

Male Registration - registered within 183 days
Female Registration - registered within 30 days
Female late registration fee - over 30 days

€50.00

#### **Other Fees:**

Importation of Pedigree data from other Herdbooks €20.00 Change of ownership €10.00

#### Late registration fees:

- All female calves must be registered within 30 days, after 30 days an additional fee of €20.00 applies and a DNA may be requested.
- All males calves must be registered within 183 days, thereafter an additional fee of €50.00 applies plus DNA.. A fee of €150 applies to all male animals not registered by the original Breeder/Owner and that have a movement recorded on the AIMS system.



Michael Ring T.D. - Junior Minister of State at the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport presenting the award to Donal Bowe.



Flatley Brothers Kieran & Adrian making a special presentation to Donal on his achievment.

#### **Donal Bowe - Shorthorn Recipient 2015**

Donal started his Shorthorn journey in 1965 when he purchased a red Shorthorn weanling heifer. As a cow she milked 5 gallons daily. The Inspector of Cattle Testing at the time awarded her a silver cup which Donal still has to this day.

In June 1977 Donal bred an exceptional female calf by a Deerpark bull and she has bred the majority of his Shorthorn cattle. Donal also used the Dovea A.I. sire Castletroy Bertie with great success.

In 2009 Donal bred Capponellan Nancy who has gone on to win numerous Show Championships and prizes in recent years. Nancy's dam Capponellan lvy is still on farm and is due her tenth calf in 2015 and lvy is the mother of a very impressive two year old bull by Perfect Storm currently still in use on farm.

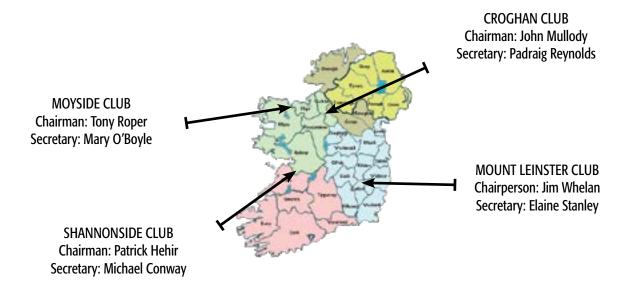
Donal has found over the years that a raw egg given prior to showing or sale always gives a great sheen to an animal's coat of hair.

Throughout the years Donal has enjoyed trips to England and Scotland to see the quality of the Shorthorns there. Donal always enjoyed the time spent with his fellow Shorthorn breeders on those wonderful trips and equally at shows and events here at home in Ireland. Donal has enjoyed his Shorthorn journey and hopes to continue breeding Shorthorns for as long as he is able.

As a Society, the Irish Shorthorn Society was delighted to nominate Donal for the 2015 award. Donal is a great conversationalist and is always a pleasure to meet and chat with at any event. Donal's local Mount Leinster Breeders Club would like to congratulate Donal on all his achievements and thank him for his loyal support to their annual Club Sale in Carlow and especially on supporting the relatively new All Ireland Shorthorn Crossbred Competition in recent years.

Donal was indeed a most worthy recipient of the Shorthorn Hall of Fame Award 2015.

#### **Shorthorn Breeders Clubs**



### **Moyside Shorthorn Breeders**

Promoting Shorthorn Cattle In The North West & Beyond

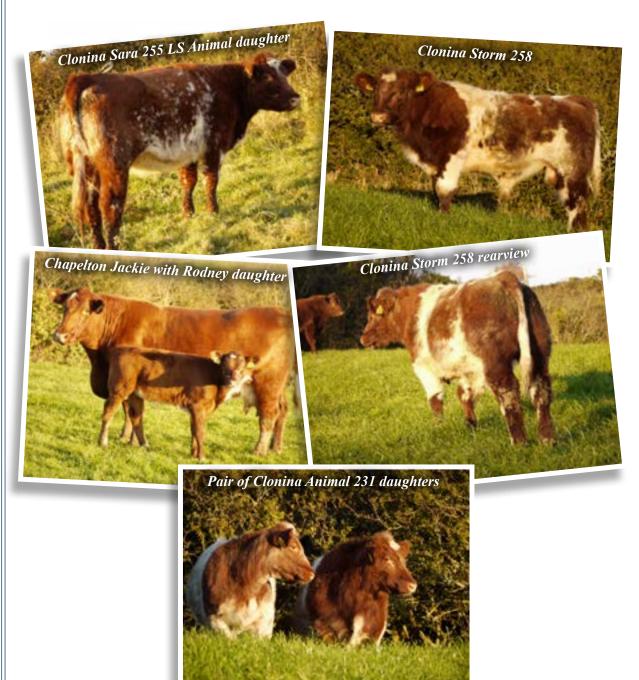
- Spring & Sutumn sales held in Castlerea Mart, Co.Roscommon.
- Club outings organised
- Club members take part in many shows throughout the country
- Guest speakers invited to meetings

Club meetings are held regularly in Walshe's Lounge, Charlestown, Co. Mayo.

New members are always welcome.

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Vice Chairman: Jim Foley 087 9285367
Secretary: Mary O'Boyle 087 6695263
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IVAN STANLEY Killedmond Herd 059 9773410



DONAL BOWE Capponnellan Herd 057 8736281 EILEEN & JIM RYAN Drummin Herd 087 4156166 PETER LUTTRELL Raheenadeeragh Herd 086 2480934 BINION'S FAMILY Bannpark Herd 053 9383234

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#### **Appreciation**

#### THE LATE LARRY LAVIN

by Anthony Dockery

September 9th 2015, was a sad day when news broke of the passing of Larry Lavin. He lived in, Lacken, Strokestown, Co Roscommon and all I can say is I was fortunate to have known him. He was a gentleman, a character and a judge of cattle. He was known near and far and will be best remembered by all who knew him for his quick wit and turn of phrase. He was a lover of both Hereford and Shorthorn cattle and many a day I called to Larry and got a guided tour of his stock. On approaching the field at the back of the house - Larry rarely having a coat on him and never without a cattle stick would always say "be God we'er nearly landed" then follow by "don't laugh at me" as if one would??

Larry was a lover of quality stock and spent many years travelling to sales in Co. Clare where he purchased breeding stock, brought them home and traded them again. He was a keen judge and had an eye for as he used to put it "the slip that will make a cow".

In April 1996, the 'Sloehill Herd' was eatablished where his first pedigree heifer 'Sloehill Nora' was registered. From my end, at that time I too was interested in having a pedigree shorthorn where I regularly frequented the sales in Carrick-on-Shannon. At that time prices weren't too high but it was difficult to see what one liked. In April 1998, I purchased the champion heifer "Sloehill Molly" bred by Larry, out of Mohill Jack and Tierlaheen Noreen for 1700 guineas. This was my first introduction to Larry Lavin. Sloehill Molly went on to be a very lucky and prolific cow where her bloodline still remains. Larry rarely missed the annual shorthorn sales in Ennis and Kilfenora. He loved to make the journey and meet all his friends and never came home without purchasing. As John Joe Conway, once said about Larry "I often saw him giving a fancy price".



Larry & myself at Strokestown Show 2014

Larry was no stranger in the show ring either as an exhibitor or a judge. I recall one year he had a weanling heifer in Strokestown show and half way through the class his calf started playing up and got awkward for him to the degree where he stood aside. On leaving the ring an onlooker said "fair play to you Larry, hold on to her" to which he replied "no more than myself she didn't get much schooling". One of the great stories of Larry's wit was him judging at an Agricultural show where his final selection didn't sit well with an exhibitor in the ring and later the exhibitor in question made his disappointment and frustration known to Larry. He approached Larry and asked "do you know anything about cattle?" to which Larry responded "Well, I don't know the hell, but one thing I's sure of is - you'll tell me". The exhibitor ranted on about his animal was a first prize winner and champion at this show and that show. Larry listened for a few minutes and in his usual calm and respectful manner put his hand on the man's shoulder and said "My good man, I want to make one thing clear to you. Whatever mistakes other judges made, I intend correcting them today"........ and as you can imagine the conversation came to an abrupt ending!!

Larry loved the agricultural show especially his local show, Strokestown. It was ironic that Larry was laid to rest on Saturday 12th September 2015, the day of Strokestown show.

I wish to extend our deepest sympathy to his wife and family.

May he rest in peace.

Anthony Dockery

#### **Appreciation**

#### OWEN O'NEILL

Most of us in the Shorthorn Society would have known Owen O'Neill personally and those who did not would have heard of him as he was a staunch supporter of our society and shorthorn cattle.

Owen came into the world seventy seven years ago and became a proud Limerick man devoting his efforts to promoting county affairs, local community developments, sport particularly his passion for hurling, both in county and club level and above all his family.

In his early life he attended school in Cappamore, the Abbey C.B.S. in Tipperary before going on to U.C.D. where he studied veterinary science. Having qualified he worked in practice before joining the Department of Agriculture and in time established his own A.I. station, Bova Genetics. The latter achievement was a long tough struggle but his dedication to the task on hand won out in 1985 when Bova was born and now offers access to top quality beef and dairy genetics.

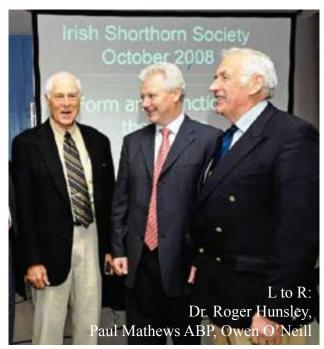
In pursuit of his study on genetics, Owen often travelled outside of Ireland, however the introduction of technology and its continued improvement allowed him to follow bloodlines on websites from the armchair of his home at Ballyart House, Brittas Co. Limerick. He did bring back some of these Bloodlines perhaps not as much as he would have liked.

Breeders in the U.S. and Canada valued his words and discourse on breeding. Owen was a man held in high regard by these people many of whom visited and judged in Ireland such as Dr, Roger Hunsley (U.S.), Don Cagwin (U.S.), John Hay (Canada) to name but a few – all three judges at Limerick Show. Owen himself exhibited and judged at many shows throughout Ireland and it was enlightening listening to him talk on rearing, grooming and presenting cattle for show.

Owen enjoyed life so it was always a joy and pleasure to join with him and friends for a "cuppa" or a "glass", topics for discussion could be wide ranging but cattle and hurling would be recalled many a time with the words "Do you remember the day..."

Thank you for the memories Owen, it was a privilege being part of your life, may you rest in peace.

P.L O'Callaghan



#### JOHN RYAN, Enaughbeg, Killala

The recently deceased John Ryan from Enaughbeg, Killala, Co. Mayo, was a multi-facated man. Apart from his passion for Shorthorn cattle, John also bred Prize winning Suffolk sheep, was a Fisherman, an All Ireland winning Hand-baller and a bird enthusiast.



John's mother milked Shorthorn cows in the field and he promised her that he would continue the tradition after her lifetime. During the 70's & 80's in addition to farming with cattle and sheep, John worked on Trawlers out of Killala, but the fishing ran into difficulties, John moved to England where he worked for a few years.

Returning home he began to breed Suffolk sheep and showed them going into winning classes at local shows and eventually John had the Champion at Maynooth.

Whatever John was in to he went at it with passion. He always knew what he wanted and went to great lengths in order to achieve his aims. Over the years he built up the finest Shorthorn herd which he took great enjoyment and pride in.

Apart from Livestock, John was also devoted to birds which he bred and sold. No doubt broken hearted, his spectacularly coloured Bullfinch died just three days after John's own death. Currently his Shorthorns are in the good hands of his sister Annette.

A thiarna dean trocaire agus ar dheas Dé go raibh a anam. Jim Foley.

#### **Appreciation**

### NOEL BINIONS, Camolin, Co. Wexford.

Shorthorn cattle breeders and the wider farming community were deeply saddened to hear of the recent passing of the well known popular Shorthorn breeder Noel Binions.

Noel passed away on Saturday October 24th 2015 at the age of 78. Noel was a larger than life character who was passionate about Shorthorns since he was a child. He was originally from Wilmount House, Kiltealy. Co. Wexford where he farmed for years before leaving for England where he married his wife Teresa in 1965. He worked as a butcher there and returned to Ireland in 1976 and he set up home in Camolin, Co. Wexford where he established the Bannpark Shorthorn herd.

He had a special passion for Shorthorn cattle preparing them and taking htem to shows far and near and always had a prize winner and everyone would hear about it!

Shorthorn cattle were his life and he even called his house after Shorthorns – Shorthorn Lodge. He was one of the founding members of the Mount Leinster Shorthorn Breeders Club and was President of the club for a number of years. He was great at organizing events for the breeders and doing a lot of charity work for Bothar along with Fr. Felix Byrne another well known Shorthorn breeder.



Noel used every opportunity to promote Shorthorns, speaking on local radio stations even speaking once on national radio. After a lapse of 28 years he brought back the Shorthorn classes to Wexford County Show in Enniscorthy and introduced the Paddy Murphy Memorial Cup for the overall prize winning Shorthorn Champion. The Shorthorn cattle were his pride and joy and he made a lot of friends in the Shorthorn circles, meeting people at shows and sales and at farm walks. Once you met him you had a friend for life. He had a great sense of humour and had a word for everybody. He had the gift of the gab and was very talented at recitations and storytelling and he wrote a poem about a Shorthorn Claf he had as a child called 'Rosey My Shorthron Calf' The poem was recited as a fitting tribute as his funeral service. ( See the poem as composed by Noel published here.)

His beloved breed of the Bannpark herd still lives on with his daughter Barbara and son in law Jay at the foothill of Mount Leinster.

To his devoted wife Teresa, loving daughter Barbara, sons John and Alfie, son in law Jay, daughters in law Noirin and Eimir, grandchildren Emma, Charlie, and Milo, extended family and many friends we extend our heartfelt sympathy. May he rest in peace.

Written by Jim & Eileen Ryan.



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#### ROSEY, MY SHORTHORN CALF

some sixty years ago,
My parents they kept Shorthorn cows,
this well I do know,
They were such lovely cattle, I dream about them still,
And if the good Lord spares me, I always will.

I was born at the foothills of Mount Leinster,

They were the happy days, I never will forget,
My Father gave me a Shorthorn heifer
calf and I called her Rosey pet,
She used to graze in the little fields,
at the food of Clorouge hill,
And when she had her first calf,
it was my greatest thrill.

My years are getting shorter now, but my heart in full of glee, I have some lovely Shorthorn stock, they would delight your heart to see, They are very much like Rosey, that I was given as a boy, And I still love my Shorthorn stock, they are my pride and joy.

It's time for me to finish, for I am getting old,
Remember this little story, to you I have told,
And when I'm up in Heaven,
in the land beyond the sky,
I hope there will be some Shorthorn stock, with every
farming boy.

Composed by **Mr Noel Binions,**Camolin, Co. Wexford on the 27th May 1998.

#### **Blast From The Past**

#### **Carrick Shorthorn Sale**

- 6th February 1975

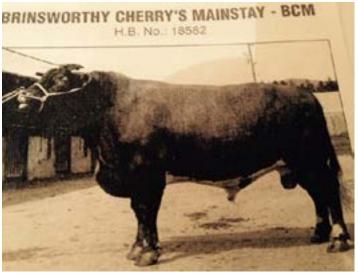
A total of 283 bulls were catalogued for the 1975 February Sale in Carrick on Shannon. This number included 72 Angus, 214 Hereford, 30 Shorthorn and 14 Friesian. Premiums were still being awarded while the Department of Agriculture was still purchasing some top bulls for the 'Special Term' scheme.

There were three categories of Shorthorns, 11 entered in the Coates Herd book section, 9 Dairy bulls and 10 Croghans. In the previous year 71 Shorthorns were entered, including 33 Croghans. Artificial Insemination had truly arrived by 1975. Most of the Shorthorns entered were by Sligo A.I. bulls such as Tullig Green Rover (*TGR*), Deerpark Leader 4th (*DPL*), Garry Laurence Control (*GAC*) and the English bull Brinsworthy Cherry Mainstay (*BCM*).

Thomas Byrne of Tullerpatrick, Strokestown sold the champion at 380gns. The bull was born in September 1973, and was sired by Tullig Green Rover (*TGR*). Mr Byrne also owned the famous 'Bally' herd of pedigree Herefords. James Kilcoyne from Drumfin, Co. Sligo obtained 200gns for a son of Deerpark Leader 4th (*DPL*). Both these bulls had around 850 gallons in their dams milk yields. Most Shorthorns had yields of between 800 and 850 gallons in their background, while the Friesians entered had yields from 1000 to 1300 gallons. Clearly the era of the dual purpose Shorthorn was coming to an end. Tom Long from Cullen, Co. Tipperary took 170gns for a dairy bull. All the Croghans sold, making from 125gns to 225gns, obtained by Sean Gill, Elphin.

In summary, Shorthorn numbers more than halved since the previous year. Friesians were easily outperforming dairy and dual purpose Shorthorns, Croghans were the best trade and A.I. breeding was taking over in the Shorthorn world.





#### 'The Mother cow across St. George's Channel'

- extract from the UK Society Breed Journal of 1973

"Our Irish Shorthorn Improvement Scheme has identified some 350 pure but unregistered Shorthorns for special breeding within Coates's Herd Book in the first year" Mr. W. Carlos, Department of Agriculture, Dublin 1972.

"The dominant breed of cow in Ireland today is still the Shorthorn." Dr. Austin Mescall, Department of Agriculture, Dublin May 1972. "The date of the introduction of Shorthorns into Ireland is unknown" stated Sinclair in his noted history 1907.

Many millions of Shorthorn and Shorthorn cross store cattle have been shipped across "St. George's Channel" to be finished for the British beef market, and as still in 1972, half the cows in Ireland are Shorthorns, their proportion of the total Irish export must have been very high for every one of the last 150 years. Whether on farms in Ulster, Leinster, or Connaught so far as cattle are concerned the mother cow of the area, the mother cow of Ireland is the Shorthorn.

And yet no one knows how it all started, except that certain British landlords took their favourite breed to the Emerald Isle. From that time the Irish took the Shorthorn to their hearts and developed it

entirely in their own way, but being careful to maintain their links with Coates's Herd Book.

During the course of Irish agricultural history, other breeds have improved and increased in numbers at some expense to the Shorthorn, and certainly on its back, because when the Shorthorn was not used in grading up other breeds it was used as the mother of the cross-bred steers. The Shorthorn influence in the first crosses cannot be disputed. Colour and conformation are clearly visible. However, as successive bulls of competitive breeds are used on Shorthorn cows the colour changes, conformation varies sufficiently to be in doubt, but the sires' breed benefits considerably from the crossing value of the original females. Consequently at this point in time – the 150th Anniversary of Coates's Herd Book the Irish Shorthorn has:

- Developed along its own distinctive line producing excellent stores, whether pure or crossed, as well as milk mostly from grass.
- Provided the basic females for other breeds which could not otherwise adapt so quickly to Irish conditions.
- Maintained its place in Coates's Herd Book so that collaboration amongst breeders and the Breed continues unimpaired.

Naturally the passing of time brings problems, particularly during a period like the last 10 years when improvements in the quantity and quality of milk and beef have been so marked, and as a result breed competition has intensified. Simply because it provides the female side with rather than the male side of the crossing programme the demand for Shorthorn bulls in Ireland has decreased, only to be followed automatically with a reduction in numbers. Simultaneously higher prices and larger numbers of other breeds have taken their place and received the publicity. This situation was inevitable followed by a decrease in the Irish Shorthorn cow population, especially the registered Irish Shorthorn cow population.

It is fortunate that not only the Irish Shorthorn breeders led by their Associations, but also the Department of Agriculture in Dublin and Belfast recognise the value of the Shorthorn breed. Officials from both Cities have not been satisfied to pay just lip service, they have always translated their beliefs and statements into action. When they thought it desirable they set up their own registers alongside Coates's Herd Book. Wherever they saw Shorthorn blood which they thought desirable they went out and bought at any reasonable expense, and they have always been eager to discuss, with great expertise and usually open minds, how the future of the breed can be guided on to sure lines.

Artificial insemination was carefully controlled by the Departments. In the North the centres were Government owned and in the South every bull as well as the centre itself was kept under constant scrutiny even after licensing. So it was possible to ensure that only the best available bulls were given wide usage. So eventually it could be ensured that proven bulls were used to the best possible advantage.

Thus Dairy Shorthorn bulls, proven both milk and beef, are available to the smallest farmer and others are being tested to provide a never ending supply of bulls of increasing genetic merit. In this way continuous progress is being made, a sure progress rather than a steep improvement which cannot be maintained.

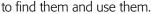
By this means a gentle rise in the number of registered calves is being achieved, because confidence has been restored in the minds of individual breeders.

But no stone must remain unturned if all opportunities are to be taken and the maximum secure progress is to be maintained. Breeders in certain parts of Eire have been deprecating for many years that there are thousands of unregistered pure-bred Shorthorn cows in Ireland which ought to be used for breed improvement. Times of depression which the Irish have suffered all too frequently, led to failure to register calves, and it takes quite an effort to go back to square one, to return through five top crosses of the Grading Register before a bull can be registered when you know you have some of the best bloodlines in the Breed. Loud and clear insistent voices of some of the most able breeders who were also locally born and bred as well as having maintained their own Coates's Herd Book pedigrees at great expense in difficult times, eventually persuaded the Eire Department of Agriculture to provide a subsidy and the Shorthorn Society to accept as pedigree the best of the females which were clearly unregistered pure Shorthorns.

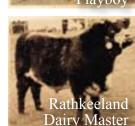
In the first year some 13,000 cows were seen by Department of Agriculture Officials and Breed Judges, and about 350 were selected as suitable for the Herd Book and the grant of £15 per head with a further £15 for female progeny which are retained and calve to an approved Shorthorn bull.

Some of these animals will fall by the wayside before making a contribution to the registered breed, but if only a few are as outstanding as the bull *(resulting from this scheme)* which weighed 1000lbs before reaching a year of age and which realised 1700gns at the Dublin Auction in February 1972, this scheme will have made a unique contribution to the future of the breed.

Other stones must be turned. There must be ideas which when implemented will add to this great Breed. The Irish are determined









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## Caramba

**Beef Shorthorn** 

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Podehole Beefeater
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This sale will be a Farm to Farm / online sale. Free deliver to anywhere in Ireland or the UK. Full details of sale will be available on our facebook page at Caramba Beef Shorthorns in January 2016. or call Tom for more details on 00353 86 6047333.

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#### Coolera Colin at 8 months

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**Senior section** was won by *John Keane* 

Junior section was won by his son Jonathan.



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**EST. 1987** 



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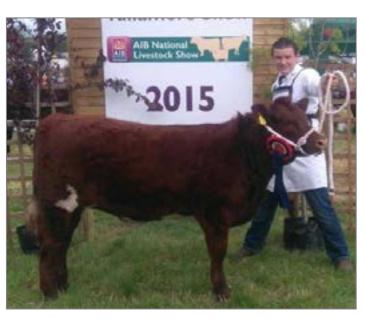
National Shorthorn cross heifer 2015 unbeaten in her show season 2014/2015



Reserve All Ireland Cow 2015



Reserve Champion Shorthorn at Enniscrone show



Adrian Flatley young handler Tullamore show with Glann Della Prize winner at numerous summer shows

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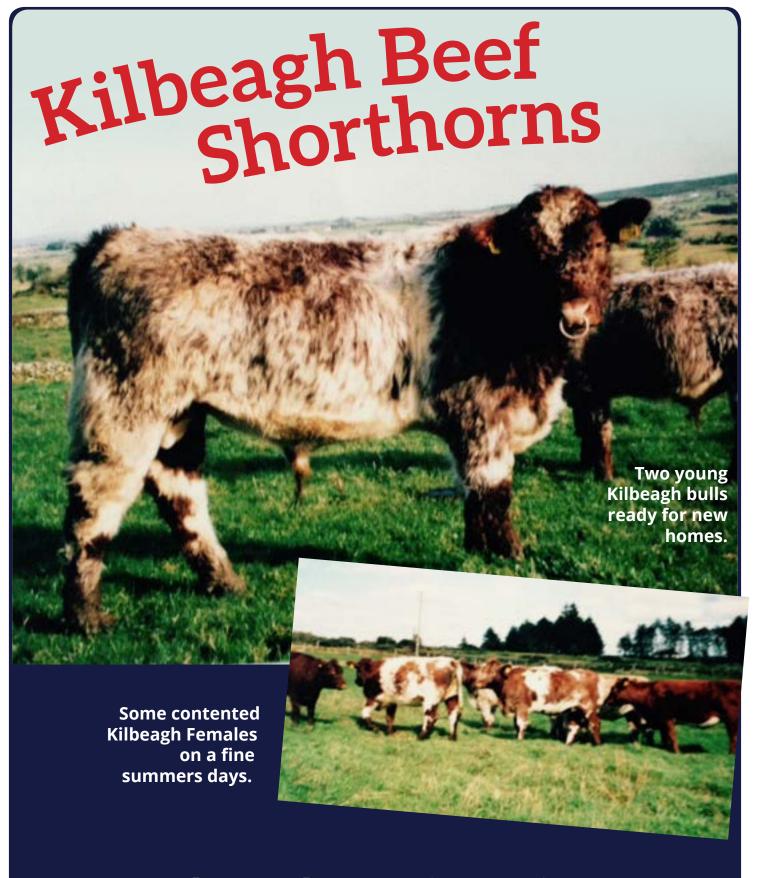
Tel: 0504 21755

Web: www.dovea.ie

**Email: info@dovea-genetics.ie** 







Stock for Sale from time to time

**CONTACT: JOE DOHERTY** 

Lurga, Charlestown, Co Mayo Tel 094 9254633 | 0872590112

## **Beef Shorthorn Spring Sale Report**April 11th 2015

On the day there was a very strong trade for females with a more difficult trade for males. Very strong demand from Northern Ireland with 25% going for export. **The Top priced female** was Bethlehem Ruby bred by Tom Fox, Glasson, Athlone was sold at €1920 to a suckler farmer from Co. Meath. **The Top priced male** was Clashagad Typhoon Ban bred by Pat Sheedy, Roscrea sold to a Commercial Beef farmer from Westmeath for €2150. Padraig Flanagan from Elphin pulled off the double by being awarded **the Champion Male** with Lismacool Jethro and the Champion Female with Lismacool Crystal. The Reserve Champion male was awarded to Grousehall Ted bred by Noel & Patrick Brady, Grousehall, Co. Cavan and the Reserve Champion Female was awarded to Bethlehem Ruby bred by Tom Fox, Glasson, Athlone, Co. Westmeath.











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## Reversing the decline in suckler reproductive performance

Mervyn Parr, Federico Randi and David Kenny. Animal and Grassland Research and Innovation Centre, Teagasc, Grange, Co. Meath. Mervyn.Parr@teagasc.ie



There is clear evidence of a decline in both productive and reproductive efficiency of Irish beef cows. For example, the average calving interval for the Irish suckler herd in 2015 was 407 days (ICBF). One of the major factors affecting reproductive performance is the interval between calving and the resumption of normal heat cycles. To achieve a 365 day calving interval, the cow must become pregnant within 85 days after calving. There are many potential reasons for poor fertility in beef cow herds, although the relative importance and potential impact of the various contributory factors has not been fully quantified. A large Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine- (DAFM) funded all-Ireland beef cow fertility research programme, involving University College Dublin, ICBF, Agri-Food and Bioscience Institute in Northern Ireland and the Irish Farmers Journal, and led by Teagasc, is currently examining a range of factors affecting the fertility of beef heifers and cows. This work includes two large on-farm trials running over each of two years.

The lack of use of AI is a major limiting factor to genetic progress in Irish beef cow herds, with only 23% of suckler calves born to an AI sire. Such low usage of this well tested and effective technology most likely reflects the difficulty and labour requirements for heat detection and assembly of cow(s) for insemination. It also reflects the effects of land fragmentation on beef farms. Despite this, it is well acknowledged that AI allows access to genetically proven sires for terminal, maternal and ease of calving traits, thereby facilitating greater genetic progress. In 2014 and 2015, a large beef cow fertility experiment was carried out on 2205 cows across 74 commercial suckler herds on the island of Ireland. The objective of the first on-farm experiments was to develop a heat synchronisation protocol for beef cows to facilitate cost- and labour-effective use of AI and remove the need for heat detection. The average pregnancy rate following examination of three synchronisation/fixed time AI (FTAI) programmes was 55%.

#### The benefits of synchronisation/FTAI to a suckler farmer include:

- Meeting the requirements of Beef Data and Genomics
   Programme by using high maternal index AI sires to produce replacements;
- Less bull(s) required on the farm;
- No heat detection:
- Only a single insemination; and
- All cows are submitted for breeding.

Herd health issues, and in particular infectious diseases such as BVD, IBR, Neosporosis and Leptospirosis are regularly implicated as contributing agents to poor reproductive performance. Furthermore, deficiencies in trace minerals, particularly copper, iodine and selenium, have frequently been cited as a cause of poor reproductive performance in cattle, but again the evidence to support this is unclear.

The second on-farm trial was carried out to examine the effect of these factors on suckler cow fertility. The study was carried out over two years (2014 and 2015) and incorporated 4,000 cows across 169 herds. Herds were distributed across the four provinces of Ireland, including Northern Ireland. Preliminary findings indicate that many cows are deficient in selenium and iodine even when at grass for a number of months. It is thus likely that the situation will be worse over the winter and early spring while cows are consuming silage. Thus, it is important to ascertain herd status for important trace elements (copper, iodine and selenium) and take remedial action, where necessary. Final results of both experiments will be available later in 2016.

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# BETHLEHEM SHORTHORNS

Stock for sale from time to time.

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Bethlehem Breeze All Ireland Intermediate & Overall Bull Calf Strokestown Show 2013

Bethlehem Johnny All Ireland Intermediate Bull Calf Strokestown Show 2015. Johnny is a son of previous winner Bethlehem Breeze.



Bethlehem Beauty All Ireland 2year old Heifer Limerick Show 2012

TOM FOX

Bethlehem, Glasson, Athlone, Co. Westmeath

087 9066727

## BALLYLAFFIN BEEF **SHORTHORNS**





**Stock Bull Glann Thomas** 





#### **Strokestown Show Results 2015**

#### Beef Shorthorn Senior Female calf born from 1st September 2014 to 31st December 2014

1st Anthony Dockery, Elphin, Co.Roscommon 2nd Anthony Dockery, Elphin, Co. Roscommon

#### Beef Shorthorn Intermediate Female calf born from 1st January 2015 to 31st March 2015

1st John Keane, Kilfenora, Co. Clare 2nd Noel & Lisa Dowd, Cregga, Co. Galway 3rdTom Fox, Athlone, Co. Westmeath

#### Beef Shorthorn Junior Female calf born from 1st April to 31st May 2015

1st P.J., C&M Kelly, Rathvilly, Co. Carlow 2nd Terry & Amelda Middleton, Moate, Co. Westmeath 3rd Cyril Dunne, Delvin, Co. Westmeath

#### Beef Shorthorn Intermediate Bull calf born from 1st January 2015 to 31st March 2015

1st Tom Fox, Athlone, Co. Westmeath 2nd Noel & Lisa Dowd, Cregga, Co. Galway 3rd Joseph & Martin Kelly, Moate, Co. Westmeath

#### Beef Shorthorn Junior Bull calf born from 1st April 2015 to 31st May 2015

1st Conor Murphy, Tullow, Co. Carlow 2nd Jim Dockery, Shinrone, Co. Offaly 3rd Padraig Flanagan, Elphin, Co. Roscommon

#### Young Handlers Class Under 16

1st Emma Hynes, Athlone, Co. Westmeath 2nd Laura Murphy, Tullow, Co. Carlow 3rd Ronan Dockery, Shinrone, Co. Offaly

**Strokestown Show Beef Shorthorn Champion** – Noel & Lisa Dowd - Creaga Gipsy

Reserve Champion - John Keane - Bushypark Cherry



Strokestown Show 2015 Reserve Champion Bushypark Cherry



Strokestown Show 2015 Champion Creaga Gipsy

#### **Mullingar Show Results 2015**

#### **Beef Shorthorn Cow**

1st Noel & Lisa Dowd, Creggs, Co. Galway 2nd Tom Fox, Athlone, Co. Westmeath

#### All Ireland Two year old Beef Shorthorn Heifer

1st Conor Craig, Edworthstown, Co. Longford 2nd Jim Foley, Rathanna, Co. Sligo 3rd Flatley Family, Kilkelly, Co. Mayo

#### **Beef Shorthorn Heifer born in 2014**

1st Jim Foley, Rathanna, Co. Sligo 2nd Noel & Lisa Dowd, Creggs, Co. Galway 3rd Flatley Family, Kilkelly, Co. Mayo Beef Shorthorn Heifer calf born in 2015

1st Tom Fox, Athlone, Co. Westmeath 2nd Noel & Lisa Dowd, Creggs, Co. Galway 3rd Flatley Family, Kilkelly, Co. Mayo

#### Beef Shorthorn Bull calf born in 2015

1st Noel & Lisa Dowd, Creggs, Co. Galway 2nd Tom Fox, Athlone, Co. Westmeath 3rd Joseph & Martin Kelly, Moate, Co. Westmeath

Show Champion - Noel & Lisa Dowd - Creaga Gipsy

Reserve Champion Conor Craig – Mohill Jemma



Mohill Jemma All Ireland Beef Shorthorn 2 year old heifer 2015



Champion Creaga Gipsy



All Ireland Reserve Champion 2 year old heifer 2015 Clarencehill Rosemae

## Moygara Shorthorns



Senior Stock Sire:

Boolies Beggar

Junior Stock Bull:

Ballylinney

Eagle



Purchased in Scotland as a 6 month old calf, he combines the bloodlines of two of the best breeding Beef Shorthorn bulls, Chapelton Wildfire on his sire side and Cairnsmore Nike Sportsman (Sire of Cairnsmore Thrasher) on his dams side.

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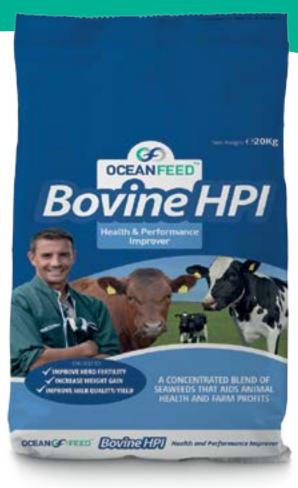


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# Irish Shorthorn Society Premier Sale Report Saturday November 14th Roscommon

A brisk trade at the Irish Shorthorn Society sale in Roscommon Mart on Saturday November 14th. With a clearance rate of over 95% for females. Springing Heifers were a strong trade with a top price of 3100e paid for a Malton Zenith daughter by a buyer from Northern Ireland for Alan & Frank Gibbons, Strokestown. The top quality Maiden heifers were also a strong trade with a top price of 4000e paid by a Galway breeder for an Uppermill Gladiator daughter owned by Shane McKiernan, Ballinagh, Co. Cavan.

**The Champion Female** was a maiden heifer- Ricketstown Rosette 177 bred by the Kelly family from Carlow and she sold for 2500e to a Galway based breeder. **The Champion Male** Orkney Fresh Prince was bred by Henry Dudley, Templemore, Co. Tipperary and was sold for 2700e to an Northern Ireland buyer. There was a very strong contingent from Northern Ireland present around the ringside, which was confirmed with over 40% going for export to Northern Ireland. With a particularly good trade for older bulls with the younger weanling bulls showing a more difficult trade.

Averages were well up on 2014 with females up by 25% and males up by 35%.

The Society auctioned a Commercial Beef Shorthorn heifer in aid of the Middleton Family Fund and raised 1200e for the fund. The Middleton Family were victims of a horrific fire at there family farm in early November and were unfortunately without insurance. The Shorthorn Society have opened a special account to help the Middleton Family and donations can be sent to the Society Office, Templemore Road, Thurles, Co. Tipperary and cheques can be made payable to Irish Shorthorn Society Ltd Trust Account.

The Judge on the day was Jane Landers owner of the Cairnsmore Herd in Scotland.



Beef Shorthorn Sales take place each April and November in Roscommon Mart.

Male and Female Champions



### **Top 20 Shorthorn Replacement Index cows**

Quinflo Bernie owned by Peter & Martina Luttrell, Raheenaderragh, Athy, Co. Kildare is the Top Eurostar Replacement Index Shorthorn cow in the country with a Eurostar value of €240.

She is currently in her 8th lactation and she has an average Calving interval of 371 days. She first calved at 25 months of age. She is by Woodfield Jackall. Quinflo Bernis is in claf to 5 star bull Quinflo Landfall pictured below. John & Ann Marie O'Malley, Upperchurch are owners of the Quinflo Beef Shorthorn herd.

Second on the list is Gougane Jill 2nd owned by Padraic Joyce Jnr, Rathcarne, Athboy, Co., Meath. She has a Euro Star value of €224. This cow is in her 8th lactation and she has a average Calving interval of 364 days. She is sired by Quinflo Charles 2nd.



Quinflo Landfall

Third on the list is Kilbride Dorothy owned by Thomas Shryane, Rooskey, Ballaghaderreen, Co. Roscommon and she was bred by Kieran & Leo McAllister, Aclare, Co. Sligo. She is in her 10th lactation with Eurostar value of €204. She has a n average Calving interval of 395 days. This cow is sired by Sloehill Roger 2nd.

#### **Top 20 Shorthorn Cows (In HerdPlus Herd) Ranked on Eurostar Value Dec 15**

Rank	Tag	Animal Name	Main Breed	Replacement Index	Stars Within Breed	Owner	Address
1	IE331375830394	QUINFLO BERNIE	SH	€240	****	Peter Luttrell	Raheenadeeragh, Athy, Co Kildare
2	IE141740060194	GOUGANE JILL 2ND	SH	€224	****	Padraic Joyce Jnr	Rathcarne, Athboy, Co Meath
3	IE321437630074	KILBRIDE DOROTHY	SH	€204	****	Thomas Shryane	Rooskey, Ballaghaderreen, Co Roscommon
4	IE371373120041	SHILOH LIBBY	SH	€202	****	Caroline Gould	Upper Seskin, Leighlinbridge, Co Carlow
5	IE141224250468	CASTLEHAVEN GRAYLING 30TH (RW)	SH	€198	****	Philip Salter	Rea, Skibbereen, Co Cork
6	IE111082510279	UPPERSESKIN LINDA	SH	€196	****	Caroline Gould	Upper Seskin, Leighlinbridge, Co Carlow
7	IE231040330087	GLENCAR ROSE 2ND	SH	€194	****	Daniel Gallagher	Meenakillew, Killybegs, Donegal PO Co Donegal
8	IE321569110028	CABRA BLISS	SH	€194	****	John Clarke	Cabra, Rathlee, Easkey Co. Sligo
9	IE131014480888	LICKEEN ANNA 21ST (RED)	SH	€193	****	Brian McGrath	Oaghty, Knockroe, Kilfenora Co Clare
10	IE331374940405	CAPPANAVILLA STELLA 3RD (RW)	SH	€193	****	Tommy Morgan	Meadowville, Grangebeg Fethard, Clonmel Co Tipperary
11	IE321232630186	CORRADOO MILLIE	SH	€190	****	Tommy Langton	Corradoo, Culfadda, Ballymote Co Sligo
12	IE321026660541	ARDTRASNA BIDDY	SH	€190	****	Joseph O Doherty	Ardtrasna, Ballinfull, Co Sligo
13	IE321569140063	CABRA AOIFE (R)	SH	€188	****	John Clarke	Cabra, Rathlee, Easkey Co. Sligo
14	IE131402690117	CLONMORE HAYLEY 4TH	SH	€185	****	Peter Luttrell	Raheenadeeragh, Athy, Co Kildare
15	IE131014460960	LICKEEN EMPRESS 7TH (RO)	SH	€185	****	Brian McGrath	Oaghty, Knockroe, Kilfenora Co Clare
16	IE191055330298	CARRIGISLAND RITA 2ND	SH	€185	****	Garrett Dee	Carrig Island, Ballylongford, Co Kerry
17	IE321026650557	ARDTRASNA MAGGIE	SH	€185	****	Joseph O Doherty	Ardtrasna, Ballinfull, Co Sligo
18	IE182233330029	FAIRYHILL ROSY 2ND	SH	€183	****	Michael McHugh	Bloomfield, Hollymount, Co Mayo
19	IE131077860194	INCHOVEA ROSE 21ST	SH	€183	****	Michael Murphy	Leap, Churchtown, Mallow Co Cork
20	IE231403770053	BELLANTRA THERESE	SH	€182	****	Thomas Keenan	Breanross South, Farnaught, Co Leitrim

# **Beef Data and Genomics Programme** (BDGP 2015 – 2020)

This new Government scheme was launched in June 2015. Almost 29,000 farmers have joined and over the 6 year scheme the demand for 4 & 5 star animals will be very high. The Shorthorn breed is very well placed to fit a lot of the criteria of this scheme, hence the very strong replacement indexes coming through on Beef Shorthorn animals. We would anticipate an increase in demand for High Replacement index Beef Shorthorn animal over the duration of this scheme.

#### There are six key requirements:

- 1. Calving Applicants will have to adhere to all current requirements regarding the tagging of animals and in addition they must complete the Calving Ease Survey either on the Animal Events Book as provided by ICBF or on line through the Department of Agriculture's website HYPERLINK "http://www.agfood.ie" www.agfood.ie or Department approved Farm Software providers.
- **2.** Surveys: Applicants will be required to complete Farm Surveys as supplied by ICBF. Surveys will cover Calf, Cow and Stock Bulls with regard to docility, health, quality and size of calves, also cow docility the culling reasons and milk ability of the cow will be surveyed and with Stock bulls, docility, functionality and culling reasons will all be surveyed.
- **3.** Genotyping: , ICBF will select the animals to be genotyped in each herd. The number selected each year will be at least equivalent to 60% of the number of calved suckler cows (reference animals) on the holding in 2014.
- **4.** Replacement Strategy: Applicants will be required to maintain a proportion of high genetic merit animals on their holding.

#### Stock Bull Replacements:

At least one stock bull on the holding on June 30th 2019 must have been genotyped 4 or 5 star on either Terminal or Replacement Index (on a within or across breed basis) at the time of purchase. If the bull has to be replaced in the period to 30th June 2020. It must be replaced with a bull of equivalent genetic merit (4 or 5 star).

#### A.I. usage only herds:

From 30th June 2016 at least 80% of the A.I. used must be 4 or 5 star bull on either Terminal or Replacement Index (on a within or across breed basis).

#### Female Replacements:

Applicants must ensure that a percentage of their heifers/ eligible suckler cows are genotyped 4 or 5 star Replacement Index (qualifying threshold is €74 or higher on Replacement Index) either at time of purchase for bought in heifers or at time of genotyping for homebred heifers. Non genotyped purchased heifers must be genotyped 4 or 5 star on the Replacement Index in the new herd to be eligible for the programme. They must be at least 16 months old and born in 2013 or later.

#### Replacement Strategy deadlines are:

October 31st 2018 – number of eligible heifers/suckler cows must be equivalent to 20% of the number of reference animals.

October 31st 2020 - number of eligible heifers/suckler cows must be equivalent to 50% of the number of reference animals.

**5.** Carbon Navigator: This element must be completed by October 31st 2016. The online farm management package quantifies the environmental gains that can be made on each farm by settings targets in key areas.

The first Carbon Navigator must be undertaken in conjunction with an approved advisor. Thereafter, the Carbon Navigator must be updated by submitting data annually. The data will be submitted via survey forms Issued by ICBF. The key areas are: 1. Grazing season length 2. Fertilizer usage 3. Slurry spreading.

**6.** Training: Applicant s must attend a specific training course related to this programme. Training must be completed by 31st October 2016.

Full terms and conditions of the programme are available on www.agriculture.gov.ie

# **Athlone Show Results** 2015

#### **Young Handlers Class Under 14**

1st Kaelum Muldowney, Gathabawn, Co. Kilkenny Young Handlers Class Under 18 1st Adrian Flatley, Kilkelly, Co. Mayo

#### **Beef Shorthorn Cow Class**

1st Noel & Lisa Dowd, Creggs, Co. Galway 2nd Tom Fox, Athlone, Co. Westmeath 3rd James & Peter Gormley, Ballymote, Co. Sligo

#### **Beef Shorthorn Heifer born in 2013**

1st Flatley Family, Kilkelly, Co. Mayo 2nd Tom Staunton, Kinvara, Co. Galway 3rd James & Peter Gormley, Ballymote, Co. Sligo

#### **Beef Shorthorn Heifer born in 2014**

1st Shane & Frances Brigdale, Ennis, Co. Clare 2nd Noel & Lisa Dowd, Creggs, Co. Galway 3rd Pat & Rachel Hehir, Inagh, Co. Clare

#### **Beef Shorthorn Bull calf born in 2015**

1st Noel & Lisa Dowd, Creggs, Co. Galway 2nd Tom Fox, Athlone, Co. Westmeath 3rd James & Peter Gormley, Ballymote, Co. Sligo

#### **Beef Shorthorn Heifer calf born in 2015**

1st Noel & Lisa Dowd, Creggs, Co. Galway 2nd Flatley Family, Kilkelly, Co. Mayo 3rd Middleton Family, Moate, Co. Westmeath

Prize fund of 200e for this class and a New Perpetual Cup Kindly sponsored by the Flatley Family Beef Shorthorn Champion – Creaga Gipsy



Reserve Champion - Rowanberry Honour



# Raneenadeeras 84

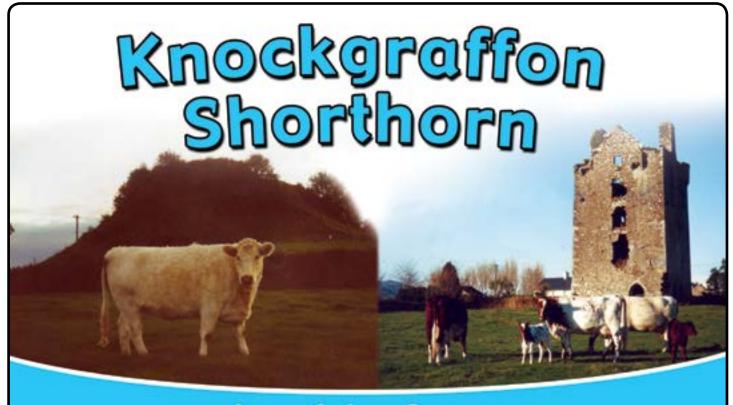




Home of the highest Replacement Index Shorthorn Cow in Ireland

Anyone interested in commercial Shorthorns is more than welcome to get in contact!

Peter Luttrell, Athy. Mobile: 086 2480934



Joan & Joe Ownes Knockgraffon, Cahir, Co Tippperary Tel. 087 2222010

# Lowtown Ireland

The Dorman family from Dungannon really had a remarkable year on the show circuit with their homebred bull Lowtown Ireland.

The list of awards received during 2015 include the Olwen Kerr Memorial Trophy for Champion Beef Shorthorn at Balmoral Show 2015, also the President's Trophy for the Beef Champion of Champions at Balmoral Show 2015.

This was a truly remarkable achievement. This was the first time that a Beef Shorthorn was awarded the Interbreed Championship Trophy in the history of Balmoral show. Lowtown Ireland was also awarded the Chairman's Trophy from the Rare Breeds Trust for the highest achiever in 2015.

Dominic and family also attended the Ploughing Championships in Stradbally and Lowtown Ireland was the star attraction on the Dunmasc Genetics stand(see advert on the right).

The team effort and all those early mornings really paid off.

Congrats to all!!



President Michael Conway & Secretary Mary Purcell with the Dorman Family at the Society Christmas Party 2015

### Dúnmasc genetics MAXIMISE YOUR HERD



### Lowtown Ireland

- Inter Breed Champion Balmoral
- Qualifies BDGP Scheme
- Excellent Muscle & Growth
- Short Gestation

## Straws Delivered to your AI Flask or AI Technician

Embryo Transfer • DIY AI • Scanning Courses
Professional Hoof Trimming Courses

Rockview, Dunamaise, Portlaoise, Co Laois T: 086 360 7641 www.dunmascgenetics.ie

# KNOCKAGARRY SHORTHORNS

EST. 1984.



Knockagarry Ace 869 – Sire Sprys Patents Ace G38 and Dam out of Buffalo Lake Blockbuster 11M

Below Knockagarry Improver 892 P -Sire Deerpark Improver 34th



Knockagarry Improver 868 Sire Deerpark Improver 34th Dam out of Deerpark Leader 4th



Dam out of Alta Cedar Lads Legacy 14p

Knockagarry Improver 868

100%
TRADITIONAL BULL
the heaviest calf in his year group.

#### Richard and Anne Lee

Knockagarry, Mitchelstown, Co. Cork.

Ph: 086 8126854

Email: annedroche@gmail.com

## **Premier Sale Report November 2014**

The Irish Shorthorn Society held its 5th Premier Sale in Roscommon Mart on Saturday November 15th.

There were 56 animals offered for sale on the day. On the day there was a very brisk trade, with a clearance of 95% of females and 55% of males. The number exported to Northern Ireland was up 100% on last year.

The top priced bull was a Sprys Patents son Caramba Hush bred by Tom Staunton, Kinvara, Co. Galway, Hush was purchased by James Porter, Co. Antrim owner of the Uppermill Beef Shorthorn herd for €1900. James also purchased a January 2014 born Paintearth Rama daughter Caramba Sweety Helena for €1650. She is the first female purchased by the Porter family since they acquired the Uppermill Beef Shorthorn herd in 2006. Females averaged €1600 and males averaged €1400.

The top priced female was Dromalty Niamh, she was bred by Aidan O'Donovan, Co. Limerick and exhibited by Alan Gibbons, Strokestown, Co. Roscommon and sold to a Northern Ireland breeder for €2700. The Female Champion Cookstown Elizabeth was bred by Eddie Dowling, Co. Wicklow and exhibited by the Kelly Family from Co. Carlow. Elizabeth an Alta Cedar Samurai daughter was sold to a Clare breeder for €2400. The Reserve Champion Female Rockville Dainty 305 bred by Anthony Dockery, Elphin. Dainty is a daughter of a homebred Stock bull Rockville Rowanberry and remained unsold.

The Male Champion Ricketstown Hercules, a Chapelton Wildfire son was bred by the Kelly Family and also remained unsold and the Reserve Champion Male was by a recently imported Canadian bull Kenlene Winston, Lavally Ronan was the first Winston son to be offered for sale in Ireland, he was bred by John Mullooly, Strokestown and was sold for €1700 to a Clare breeder. There is a constant increase in demand for top quality Beef Shorthorn genetics by suckler farmers looking for improved fertility, milk and temperament in their suckler cows.



Male Champion



Male Reserv Champion



Female Champion



The top priced female

# ROWANBERRY Pedigree Beef Shorthorns Est.2001



ROWANBERRY FINEST (semen available, licensed for export)



ROWANBERRY JEMIMA (2015 heifer calf by Rowanberry Finest)



ROWANBERRY JACKPOT (2015 bull calf by Rowanberry Finest)







# The fusion of form and function





ROWANBERRY GERALDINE (In-calf heifer)







**Group of Yearling Heifers 2015** 

STOCK USUALLY FOR SALE | VISITORS WELCOME

Contact: Shane & Frances Brigdale | www.rowanberryfarm.com 00353 (0)863861943 / (0)871216813 | francesibrowne@eircom.net

Or visit us on Facebook at Rowanberry Farm

# CLASHAGAD BEEF SHORTHORNS



Yearling heifer enjoying the sun



Some young calfs at the Clashagad herd



A hard working mother

Call: 0872567291 or 0861024660

Sheedy Brothers, Clashagad, Roscrea, Co. Tipperary.

# Lismacool Beef Shorthorns



STOCK FOR SALE AT SOCIETY SALES.

**CONTACT**: PADRAIG FLANAGAN, Lismacool, Elphin, Co. Roscommon

**PHONE: 087 9319885** 

EMAIL: padraigflanagan40@gmail.com

### **Tullamore Show**





# MOYSIDE SHORTHORN BREEDERS CLUB

Since our Club's formation in The Gateway Hotel, Swinford, Co.Mayo in September, 2004, and 11 years later, it's still going strong. Meetings are held regularly in Walshe's Lounge, Charlestown. Thanks to Pat & Ann Walsh, Proprietors, for their hospitality at meetings.

(See our ad in Breed Journal for contact numbers etc.)

Thanks to our Club Members from Galway, Roscommon, Sligo and Mayo for their attendance at Meetings, It takes time, effort and dedication. Lots of issues are raised and discussed at Meetings in relation to breeding etc. it's great to share information and plan on improving cattle quality in one's own herd in the future. It's also a social occasion, which is very important.

#### **New Members are always welcome**

Fintan Kennedy, FBD Insurance, Sligo was Guest Speaker at The Club AGM held in Walshe's Lounge on the 24th March 2015. Fintan gave a very informative presentation on the various aspects of insurance in relation to theft of livestock, taking cattle to shows, farm open days, employers liability, new construction etc.

With the launch of the new BDGP Scheme last year, now is a very important and crucial time to promote the Shorthorn Breed, many have 4 & 5 star ratings for replacement and terminal index, which is a requirement for the scheme by 2020.

#### **SHOWS**

Congratulations to our Club Members who had great success at the various shows throughout the country and who exhibited cattle at The Ploughing, a showcase for the shorthorn breed.

Yet again, there was a great entry of shorthorn cattle at Bonniconlon Show, both Dairy and Beef. It's one of the biggest in the country, lots of crafts, sheep, goats, all breeds of cattle, horses, dog trials etc. Something for everyone, a great day out and well worth a visit. (See Show Results) Thanks to Kieran McAllister for his commitment and dedication over many years to the Shorthorn Section of the show, also Tommie Quinn and The Flatley Family, especially Rita who provided refreshments for members and visitors alike.

#### **SALES**

**Spring Sale** was held on Thursday, the 23rd April at Castlerea Mart. Footfall was scarce and cattle sold better the previous year.

**Autumn Show & Sale** was held on Saturday, the 17th October at same venue. There was almost a complete clearance of the 96 animals that were presented for sale. (Interestingly of the 96 offered for sale, 30 had 5 stars Index, 40 had 4 stars Index, and 15 had 3 stars Index)

Apart from locals, buyers came from the Midlands and Northern Ireland. The top price of €1980 was given for an In-calf Heifer bred by Seamus Barry, Boyle Co. Roscommon. The heifer, GREYFIELD ELLIE (RO), 5 star replacement index, Sired by LISSOY JUMBO. Dam was TULLAGOWER ALICE (R) The Show Champion, a Maiden Heifer, CLASHAGAD MERRYBELLS (RO), 5 star replacement index, Sired by UPPERMILL MADDISON(P). Dam was BELLEVUE MERRYBELLS (RO), bred by Phil Sheedy, Roscrea, Co.Tipperary sold for €1900.

The top priced Weanling Heifer, BETHLEHEM JOSIE (R) 3 star replacement index, Sired by BETHLEHEM BREEZE (DRO). Dam was BRACKLYN PARADISE WALK, bred by Tom Fox, Glasson, Athlone, Co. Westmeath. (See Show & Sale Results)

Special thanks to Brendan Egan, Mart Manager & Staff, Mary Purcell, Secretary, Irish Shorthorn Society, for all their help. Jude Benson, Ballymote who was judge on the day at short notice. Thanks to members who helped at the intake of cattle on the morning.

Also thanks to all Sellers & Buyers and Croghan Club Members who supported our sales.

Thanks to sponsors of classes, Ward Agri, Ballymote, Co.Sligo. Canon Michael Spelman, Shirley Redican, Joe Doherty, Michael Flatley, John Clarke. (Hopefully, I didn't leave anyone out)

On the Social scene, Our Christmas Party Night was held in The Gateway Hotel, Swinford on Friday, 4th December, a very bad stormy & wet night. (One to remember)

Thanks to Society President, Michael Conway who travelled from Clare & all our members for making the night a success. Also, the people who donated raffle prizes.

SALE DATES for 2016; Thursday, 28th April @ 7pm. Saturday, 22nd October @ 12 Noon. Venue; Castlerea Mart., Co. Roscommon.

**CLUB OUTING; Balmoral Show on the 11th May** 

To all our Members & Readers:

A Very Happy, Prosperous & Healthy 2016. Always remember, "Farm Safety".

Mary O'Boyle, Secretary

### A 10 Star Cow

This cow, owned by Desmond Hayden, Shroofe, Monasteraden, Co. Sligo was born in April 1993, and reared on a hill farm on Mullac A Tighe Mountain in South Sligo. She calved her first calf in the Summer of 1995. Producing a calf every year including twins in 2006, she calved her 22nd calf by Seafield Titan in Nov 15.



#### **BONNICONLON SHOW**

The first Monday in August
As ever you know
We drive through the gap
Heading for the big show
Down in Bonniconlon
Amongst the green groves
And where the hills breathe excitement
As the purple unfolds

Now the road to Killgarvan
Is a grand sight to see
With thousands of people
Heading outward with glee
And on by the graveyard
Where our ancestors rest
To our spacious new show grounds
The pride of the west

Where amongst Drumlin and Sycamore
T's a long day well spent
As you browse through exhibits
To your heart's content
All at your convenience
And with excellence at hand
Sure it's the finest example
You'll find in the land

So three cheers for the people
And the Committee that's in place
As they go about their business
With a smile on their face
And for the Chairman John O'Hara
A gentleman rare
Who tends to his duties
With energy and flair

Tom D. O'Hara

# **G€N€** Ireland® Maternal Beef breeding program

#### WHAT IS GENE IRELAND BEEF BREEDING PROGRAM?

Gene Ireland beef program was established in 2007 in order to deliver consistent genetic gain to the national suckler herd by testing high replacement index young beef bulls on an ongoing basis.

#### **AIM OF THE PROGRAM**

To improve the maternal traits in the national herd; namely milk, fertility and calving ability. It is a joint initiative between ICBF, the AI companies (Dovea Genetics & NCBC) and the Irish beef breed societies.

#### 2014- A NEW DIRECTION

Bulls now being tested are high replacement index bulls which are purchased directly by the gene Ireland beef program. Al Company owned bulls will still be tested alongside the bulls purchased directly by Gene Ireland, provided they meet certain criteria.

#### **NEW GENE IRELAND BEEF PROGRAM**

There are two programs which come under Gene Ireland Beef:

- 1. The Maternal Bull Breeder Program for *Pedigree Herds*
- 2. The Gene Ireland Progeny Test Program for Commercial Herds



#### The Maternal Bull Breeder Program for Pedigree Herds

The Maternal Bull Breeder program was launched in autumn 2012 for Pedigree Beef herds. There is an annual fee of €250 for herds that sign up.

#### WHAT IS REQUIRED?

- The breeder needs to record high levels of accurate data on their animals e.g. Birth weights, weaning weights, etc.
- Place more emphasis on maternal traits when selecting bulls to mate with their cows.

#### **HDQI: HERD DATA QUALITY INDEX**

The quality of data collected from these herds is assessed under the Herd Data Quality Index. The HDQI is and overall % score assigned to each herd and takes into account the completeness and timeliness of data recorded. HLO's; Herd Liaison Officers will visit these herds on an annual basis, advising and working closely with breeders in terms of data recording, breeding and bull management.

#### **GENE IRELAND BULL BREEDER STAMP**

Herds in the program whose HDQI is at a satisfactory level will be assigned a GENE Ireland stamp. The stamp allows a potential purchaser the comfort of buying an animal that has been bred in a participating herd in the Gene Ireland Program whose recorded data is comprehensive and accurate. The stamp will be visible on the online bull search and sales catalogues.

#### **SOURCING BULLS FOR AI**

Identifying elite young bulls for progeny testing is one of the main functions of the Gene Ireland beef Program. One of the big benefits of the program is the potential to have a bull purchased by the program for AI.

Pictured above is Doon Erasmus (EMS). He was purchased from the Doon shorthorn herd. EMS was tested through the Gene Ireland Program because he has a five-star replacement index. Through the program a total of 500 straws were ordered, the bull was then purchased by NCBC. To date there are 150 calves born by EMS.

#### THE PROCESS-THE SEVEN SIMPLE STEPS

- 1. Participating herds are monitored for the presence of high replacement index bulls.
- **2.** A shortlist of bulls, ranked on replacement index is put together.
- 3. These bulls will be inspected by linear scorers.
- **4.** When a number of bulls pass the visual inspection, the breed committees consider each bull individually.



Shorthorn bull Doon Erasmus (EMS)

- 5. Each breed has its own committee made up of representatives from ICBF, AI companies, breed societies, and commercial farmers.
- 6. Bulls selected by each committee are purchased by Gene Ireland and enter Al.
- 7. 1000 straws are taken from each bull, with 500 made available for progeny testing and the other 500 will be made available only to pedigree breeders in the program.

The Gene Ireland Program purchased two Shorthorn bulls for 2016 Spring/Autumn Program.





#### The Gene Ireland Progeny Test Program for Commercial Herds

The maternal progeny test program is the second part to the Gene Ireland Maternal beef program. Commercial herds that order straws from young test bulls in the program can benefit greatly.

- At a cost of just €5 a straw you have access to top maternal genetics.
- Farmers have a *choice* of different bull and breeds.
- Progeny are weighed for Free by our weighing technician.
- We buy your weanlings from test bulls for progeny testing at our research centre in Tully, Co. Kildare.

### WANT TO FIND OUT MORE? Please contact ICBF Gene Ireland on **045 521573** or **045 520796**

BREEDER	HERD NAME	ADDRESS	COUNTY	PHONE NO.
Shane & Frances Brigdale	Rowanberry	Creggaun, Ennis	Clare	086 386 1943
John Clarke	Doon	Strokestown	Roscommon	086 8896829
Yvonne & Michael Conway	Clonina	Cree, Kilrush	Clare	087 2218160
Garrett Dee	Carrigisland	Ballylongford	Kerry	087 7432146
Anthony Dockery	Rockville	Elphin	Roscommon	086 8264868
Ivan Driscoll	Windingvalley	Ballyvaughan	Clare	089 4252330
Thomas Fox	Bethlehem	Glasson, Athlone	Westmeath	087 9066727
Brendan Kirke	Woodtown	Castlebellingham	Louth	086 8540996
Richard Lee	Knockagarry	Mitchelstown	Cork	086 8126854
Peter Luttrell	Raheenadeeragh	Athy	Kildare	086 2480934
Andy O'Donoghue	Lickeen	Miltown Malbay	Clare	0866219121
Padraig Flanagan	Lismacool	Elphin	Roscommon	087 9319885
Albert Oldfield	Glenside	Calry	Sligo	

The above Beef Shorthorn herds have all joined the Gene Ireland Maternal Beef Program since its establishment in 2013. These herds have made a substantial investment by joining this Program which we hope will reap rewards for their farming enterprises. These herds have a high level of data recording and Linear Scoring by an ICBF Scorer also takes place. Elite bulls from the Maternal Bull Breeding herds are offered for Sale at our Society Sales and also on farm. The Shorthorn Society would like to thank these Breeders who show such commitment to the Shorthorn breed through their participation in the Gene Ireland Program. The bulls selected through this Program will be of huge benefit to Commercial breeders and Pedigree breeders alike over the coming years.

### **Limerick Show**







### **Out and About**



In 2015 the O'Callaghan Family very kindly sponsored a New Perpetual Trophy at Limerick Show for a Junior Championship. The first winner of this new trophy was Johnny Keane, Kilfenora, Co. Clare with Bushypark Cherry.



The Beef Shorthorn breed performed very well in this New Replacement Index Class sponsored by Munster A.I.. Over 120 animals entered at the Show qualified for entry in this class. In the final line up of 10 animals there were 5 Beef Shorthorns. Tom Staunton with Caramba Rothes Hottie was awarded 2nd place.

### **Out and About**



Moyside Club Sale 2015 Jim Kilcullen receiving the Canon Spelman Cup from Canon Spelman with Brendan Egan Manager of Castlrea Mart and Tony Roper



Moyside Club Sale Charlie Farrell recieving the new Flatley Shield for the best Commercial Cross heifer from Michael Flatley with Brendan Egan and Tony Roper





### **Some of Our Young Members**



The Dockery Team and Laura Murphy at Strokestown 2015



Dylan Dockery receiving the Flatley Trophy from Adrian & Kieran Flatley at Limerick Show 2015

# **Grooming Day**May 9th 2015

The Society held a Grooming Day on the farm of Noel & Patrick Brady, Grousehall, Co. Cavan on May 9th. The day was a tremendous success, with a very good turnout. On the day James McEnroe gave a live Clipping Demonstration on two animals. The animals on the day were very kindly provided by the Flatley Family. Basil Bothwell from ICBF gave a Linear Scoring Demonstration. We had a Stock Judging Competition. Emma Hynes, Baylin, Athone won the Junior Stock Judging Competition and Tom Staunton, Kinvara won the Senior Competition. Michelle McCauleys son guessed the weight of the Beef Shorthorn cow to within 4kgs of her actual weight. So he is a young man to watch in the future. The Society would like to thank the Brady family for facilitating such an event and for the fantastic hospitality shown to all on the day, it was a most enjoyable event. See the gallery of photos fr











James McEnroe about to get starting on the Live Clipping Demo

.after clipping

# **Beef Shorthorn High Replacement Index Open Day September 19th 2015**

The Irish Shorthorn Society held a very successful Open Day on the farm of Peter & Martina Luttrell, at Killaglush, Ballybrittas, Co. Laois on Saturday 19th September. This herd is in the top 15% in the country in key performance indicators, with a calving interval of 368 days, a mortality rate of 0% in calves and .97 calves per cow per year. The Luttrells participated in a Grange Synchronised Breeding Program in 2014 with calves from the program on view on the day. Mervyn Parr from Teagasc Grange gave a very informative talk on the whole Synchronised breeding program. Alan Rigney an ICBF Linear Scorer gave an excellent talk on the day. Alan noted the docility of the herd and was a pains to emphasise the growing importance of this trait from a farm safety point of view with a marked increase in the number of attacks on farms by cows and bulls.

This was a great opportunity to see first-hand a very impressive 120 cow High Replacement Index herd operating with low inputs (no meal feeding). Also on the day there was a selection of High Replacement Index In-calf heifers, with a number of these sired by a Beef Shorthorn bull from a dairy herd. The Society would like to thank the Luttrell family for facilitating such an event and all the hard work in preparation for the event must be acknowledged and is very much appreciated.







Alan Rigney ICBF Linear Scorer giving his presentation

Key Performance Indicator	National Average	Luttrells Herd
Calving Interval	412 days	368 days
Mortality at birth	4.5%	0%
Mortality at 28days	5.6%	0%
Calves per cow per year	.79	.97
% heifers calved at 22-26 mths	17%	15%
Birth with Known Sire	63%	94%
Birth with calving survey	63%	99%

## DOON PEDIGREE BEEF SHORTHORNS



**Visitors Welcome** 

**Stock Usually For Sale** 



**DOON GEMSTONE** 

**DOON GLADIATOR** 



**DOON GIGI** 



**DOON ERASMUS** 

**DOON GIORGIO** 

John Clarke, Doon, Strokestown, Co. Roscommon T: 086 8896829 • E: doonshorthorns@gmail.com

## **The Ultimate Shorthorn Quiz**

Name:		
Pho	ne No:	
Add	lress:	
1	What are the A.I. code letters for Creaga Dice?	
2	Who bred Deerpark Leader?	
3	The Perth bull sales are now held in	
4	Who bred Kilfrush Vantage?	
5	What is the name of P.J., Carmel & Martin Kelly's herd?	
6	What was the name given to the Shorthorn type traditionally bred in North Roscommon?	
7	Who bred Ballingarrane Belgold?	
8	Who judged the Beef Shorthorn classes at Tullamore Show in August 2015?	
9	Who bred Doon Erasmus?	
10	Who owns the Glenisla herd in Scotland?	
11	What is the name given to the Australian Dairy Shorthorn type?	
12		
13	Who bred the heifer that made €4000 at the Roscommon Sale in Nov 2015?	

14	What two breeds were crossed to get the original Scottish Blue-Grey?
15	Who owns the Ransboro Dairy Shorthorn herd?
16	What is the name of Canon Spelman's Shorthorn Herd?
<b>17</b>	Who owns the Kilbride Herd?
18	Who bred Sliabhbhui Prince 2nd (SBU)?
19	Who bred the two bulls A.I. Shorthorn bulls of the 1970's Cloughduv Baron and Cloughduv Leader?
20	What family owns the Chapelton herd in Scotland?
21	What is the name of Philip Salter's herd?
22	What auctioneering family sells the cattle at Carrick on Shannon?
23	Who judged the Premier Sale in Roscommon on Nov 14th 2015?
24	Did Robert Bakewell, the father of scientific cattle breeding, raise Shorthorns or Longhorns?
25	A Beef Shorthorn bull won the Supreme Interbreed Championship at Balmoral Show May 2015.
	Who bred him?

Give it a go, cause you never know and someone has to win!!!

Please complete and tear along the dotted line and return to the Society Office.

Closing date Friday April 30th. Two vouchers for €100 and €50 for Dovea Genetics

very kindly organised by our Quiz Master – Pat Sheedy, Roscrea.