



Irish Shorthorn Society Ltd. Newsletter:

February 2024

Dear Members,

Wishing you all a very happy new year. We are excited to celebrate our 20th anniversary this year!

After our first council meeting of 2024, we are pleased to introduce our council members & executive committee:

President: Amelda Middleton Leonard - Co. Westmeath

Vice President: James Muldowney - Co. Laois

Treasurer: Padraig Flanagan - Co. Roscommon

PRO: Áine O'Donovan Nicholson - Co. Cork

Anthony McNamara - Co. Clare, Jude Benson - Co. Sligo,

Tony Roper - Co. Mayo, Noel Bohan - Co. Leitrim,

Adrian Flatley - Co. Mayo, Michael Conway - Co. Clare,

Mary Hallahan - Co. Cork, Phil Sheedy - Co. Tipperary.

The following sub-committees have been formed:

Finance, Breed Development, YDP, Events, & Breed Journal.

If any members would like to get involved in a sub committee please contact the office or a member of council.

Office Phone Hours:

Monday - Friday:

10am - 3:00pm

For Urgent Queries:

Call Amelda:

085-7109847

Irish Shorthorn Society Ltd.

Unit 13, Business Development Centre, Parnell Square, Athlone. Co.

Westmeath

Phone: 086-0461442

Email: secretary@irishshorthorn.com

www.irishshorthorn.com



A Message from New President:

I am honoured to be elected as President of the Irish Shorthorn Society. I have a strong passion for Beef Shorthorn cattle and endeavour to drive the society forward in the interest of the breed. It is an honour to be the first lady president and to mark it on the 20th anniversary of the society is remarkable too. I hope as a society, we can make this a memorable year with great positivity in the interest of the breed and our members. I hope in years to come that this society will be here for my children, so they can continue to breed, register, and develop the Shorthorn breed in Ireland.

Amelda Middleton Leonard

Dates for your Diary:

- The Croghan Shorthorn Breeders Club Sale in conjunction with Midland & Western Livestock Improvement Society. Saturday 6th April, Carrick Showgrounds. Co. Roscommon (**Haltered Sale**)
- Moyside & Croghan Shorthorn Breeders Clubs - Spring Sale. Monday 15th April, Elphin Mart. Co. Roscommon (**Unhaltered Sale**)

New Website:

We are pleased to inform you that the Irish Shorthorn Society website has had a makeover and is now regularly updated with news, events and information. We are aware that our online animal registration had not been working effectively. This has now been rectified and we apologise for any inconvenience caused. We would encourage all members to avail of this facility where possible. Registrations will only be accepted by online or postal form. Over the phone registrations are not permitted. Forms can be downloaded from the website and are also available from the society office.

We hope to create a new Breeders Directory for the website. We will have more details on this soon.

www.irishshorthorn.com

Registrations:

Please note **all** calves must be genotyped from January 1st 2024, prior to registration.

Please do this as soon as possible to obtain a pedigree certificate. This can be carried out by contacting ICBF on +353 (0)23 8820452 or via Herdplus and requesting a hair sample kit. Results generally take 4-6 weeks.

Please note: Pedigree certificates will **not** be issued for calves until the genotype has been completed, and correct results have been returned.

TH Testing: Please contact Weatherbys for all TH testing on +353 (0)45 875521.

Fees can be paid via our new online payment facility (details will be included on invoices), cheque (made out to Irish Shorthorn Society), card over the phone or bank transfer to the details below. Certificates will **not** be issued until the correct payment has been made.

Bank Details:

IBAN: IE69 AIBK 9374 0104 8260 77

BIC: AIBKIE2D

Payment Ref: Use Herd Prefix or Invoice Number

Account Name: Irish Shorthorn Society

Communication:

As part of our environmental impact programme, we aim to reduce the amount of paper used in the office. Our newsletters are posted on Facebook and the society website.

If you are happy to receive correspondence by email/text please fill out the letter attached and return it to the office as soon as possible. We would encourage members to support this programme if possible.



Irish Shorthorn



Irish Shorthorn Society

Abelsminde Jelzin:

As part of our 20th anniversary celebrations, we are excited to offer semen from Abelsminde Jelzin S3794 at a special discounted rate for a limited amount of time. For one month only, these straws are available at the following rates:

5 x straws for €150

10 x straws for €280



***A minimum purchase of 5 straws is required to avail of this discount*.**

Please contact the Irish Shorthorn Society office on 0860461442 to place your order today.

Supplies are limited so don't delay. Offer ends Friday 29th March 2024.

DAFM Correspondence:

As you are likely aware, the threat of Bluetongue disease to the Irish livestock sector has been of significant ongoing concern for many years. However, since September 2023 the risk and likely impact has increased because the virus is causing significant disease in the Netherlands and neighbouring countries, has reached England and could now reach Ireland. We need to be even more vigilant as the circulating Bluetongue virus in western Europe and England is 'serotype 3' and as of yet there is no vaccine available for it. Serotypes (1, 4, 8) continue to circulate in other parts of Europe.

Bluetongue virus is spread by midges. Whilst animals being brought into Ireland may fulfill testing and animal health legislative requirements, the disease could spread to Ireland through the introduction of infected but as of yet undetected ruminant animals. These animals could then infect midges in Ireland and start a disease outbreak. Reducing the numbers of cattle and sheep from areas where Bluetongue is present will reduce the risk of introducing this disease and this is a message I would like to convey to your membership. The Department does carry out post-entry testing on ruminants but these tests are not an absolute guarantee that disease is not present. Therefore, I strongly urge that you advise your members to be extremely vigilant around introducing live ruminant animals whilst this risk pertains. More information on Bluetongue can be found on the DAFM website: www.gov.ie/bluetongue

Dr. Martin Blake - Chief Veterinary Officer

Irish Pedigree Cattle Breeders Awards:

The Irish Pedigree Cattle Breeders Awards took place in Portlaoise in February 2024.

The Irish Shorthorn Society selected James (Jimmy) O'Donovan & Family from Gortnamona Herd in Schull, West Cork to receive the award. Congratulations to the O'Donovan family for their contribution to the Shorthorn breed. A full write up is available under the 'news' section of our website.



L-R Shauna Mulhall, Siobhán O'Donovan, Linda O'Donovan, Jimmy O'Donovan, Amelda Middleton Leonard, & Michael Conway. Photo by Alf Harvey

All Ireland Classes:

All Ireland classes will be held at local shows for 2024. A full list of details will be published in our next newsletter.

Future Stars of the Show Ring:

There will be a number of calf classes held in Roscrea Mart on 27th April 2024. We would appreciate if members could support this event.

Breed Journal 2024:

The Breed Journal sub committee are working on putting a new journal together. If any member would like to place an advert please contact Áine on 087-2668334. **Deadline:** 31st May 2024

Email: irishshorthornbreedjournal@gmail.com

Quarter page €70, Half page €100, Full page €150.

