



Irish Shorthorn Society Ltd. Newsletter:

JUNE 2026

Dear Members,

We are pleased to share our summer newsletter with you all! We hope calving season has been a safe and successful one, please continue to share your Shorthorn progeny with us on social media, it is a great way to showcase our wonderful breed.

NEW COUNCIL:

Congratulations to James Muldowney on his appointment as the new President of the Irish Shorthorn Society Ltd. We wish James all the best in his new role.

A heartfelt thank you to our outgoing President, Amelda Middleton Leonard, for her tremendous work, dedication, and commitment during her tenure. Her contribution to the Society has been truly invaluable.

The Executive Committee is:

President: James Muldowney, Co. Laois

Vice President: Pdraig Flanagan, Co Roscommon

Treasurer: Dan McKeon, Co. Sligo

PRO: Áine O'Donovan Nicholson, Co. Cork

The remaining council members are:

Amelda Middleton Leonard (Co. Westmeath), Anthony McNamara (Co. Clare), Michael Conway (Co. Clare), Mary Hallahan (Co. Cork), Adrian Flatley (Co. Mayo), Kevin Murphy (Co. Mayo), John McDermott (Co. Roscommon), (Pat Hehir) Co. Clare.

A MESSAGE FROM OUR NEW PRESIDENT:

It is a great honour to have been put forward by the current council to serve as President of the Irish Shorthorn Society. Great work has been done over the last couple of years and I want that positivity to continue. Many might not know me but over the coming weeks and months, I hope to get out to meet as many Shorthorn breeders as possible.



It is my honest belief that Shorthorn breeding has a place in the Irish market commercially, I don't expect all to use 100% Shorthorn genetics in their herd, but if we could get people to seriously consider using Shorthorn in their breeding programme, it would be a great success. For that revolution to take place, a lot of things need to be put in place to make it a success, I will need full support from the current council and all the breeders to make this happen.

Lets fill the country with Reds, Roans, Whites and all inbetween!!

New sexed and conventional Milking Shorthorn Sire (MS30)

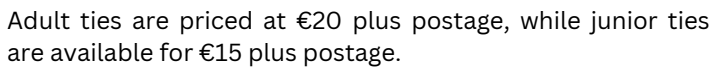
Dam – Cottonhall Comanche Duchess Ann EX92 305 9,298kg 5.70% fat 4.28% protein

GDam – Cottonhall Savard Duchess Ann EX91

Tremendous protein and milk with a proven sire stack behind

Available from Progressive Genetics

With show season now underway, it's the perfect time to get ring-ready. Don't forget to pick up your new Irish Shorthorn Society tie, available to purchase through the society website under the "Shop" section.



For more Irish Shorthorn Society merchandise such as jackets, hats, etc. visit:

Step out in style this show season!

A group of top quality SHX heifers recently (Spring '26) delivered an exceptional performance at slaughter, achieving prices of up to €7.72/kg.

The Shorthorn cross heifers, owned by Mr. James Muldowney, were born between March and May 2024 and demonstrated the strong performance and finish that the breed is renowned for. Below are their details:

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RECENT PRICES:

- SHX heifer calf, 90kg - €940 at Mid Kerry Co-Op Mart
- Monaboy Victor - April '24 born bull sold for €6300 at Croghan Shorthorn Breeders Club Sale
- Ballinlig Johnny - Jan '25 born bull sold for €4000 at Croghan Shorthorn Breeders Club Sale
- Tintrim Heidi - March '25 born heifer sold for €4000 at Croghan Shorthorn Breeders Club Sale
- Sligeach Ellie 550 - Nov '24 born heifer sold for €3040 at Moyside/Croghan Sale
- Ardnaskea Susan - Jan '25 born heifer sold for €3300 at Moyside/Croghan Sale
- Ardnaskea Scarlett Feb '25 born heifer sold for €3500 at Moyside/Croghan Sale

PARTNERSHIP WITH ZURICH INSURANCE:

We're excited to announce the ongoing partnership between the Irish Shorthorn Society and Zurich Insurance. Zurich has generously sponsored our Youth Development Programme for several years, supporting training, mentorship, and opportunities for young members to grow and thrive. We're deeply grateful for their commitment and invite members to consider Zurich for their farm insurance needs.

For more information, contact Kevin McDonagh at Scanlon Insurance and quote 'Irish Shorthorn'. Call: (071) 918 5770



YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME 2026:

The YDP All-Ireland will take place at Elphin Show, Co. Roscommon, on **Saturday, 29th August**. To qualify, participants must compete in one Young Handler class with an SH or SHX animal during the 2026 show season in any agricultural show. More details will be posted on the Irish Shorthorn Society website and social media pages.

A special YDP & Information day will take place on **Saturday, 11th July**. With kind permission from Jim Dockery & Family, the event will take place at: Towra, Shinrone, Co. Offaly. Open to all Young Handlers, Shorthorn Breeders, & Enthusiasts. More details to follow, keep an eye on the Irish Shorthorn Society website & social media pages.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY 2026:

- Southwestern Shorthorn Breeders Club Sale: Saturday, 26th September, Macroom Mart, Co. Cork
- Shannonside Shorthorn Breeders Club Sale: Saturday, 3rd October, Ennis Mart, Co. Clare
- Moyside/Croghan Shorthorn Breeders Clubs Sale: Saturday, 17th October, Elphin Mart, Co. Roscommon. **Moyside AGM will take place on Thursday, 9th July @ 8pm**
- Mount Leinster Shorthorn Breeders Club Sale: Monday, 26th October. Blessington Mart, Co. Wicklow
- Irish Shorthorn Society Premier Sale: Saturday, 7th November. The Showgrounds, Carrick-on-Shannon. Co. Roscommon

We are thrilled to announce that we will also be attending the **National Ploughing Championships 2026**! Keep an eye on our social media for more info!

2026 BEEF SHORTHORN ALL-IRELAND CLASSES:



Mullingar Show – 12th July:

- All-Ireland Senior (2 year old) Heifer Champion 2026

Tullamore National Livestock Show – 9th August:

- All-Ireland Cow & Calf Champion 2026
- All-Ireland Senior Bull Champion 2026 (born before 31.10.2024)
- All-Ireland First-Calf Female Champion 2026 (under 36 months)



Mohill Show – 16th August:

- All-Ireland Junior Bull Champion 2026 (01.01.2025-01.08.2025)

Limerick Show – 23rd August:

- All-Ireland Senior Yearling Heifer 01.01.2025-31.03.2025 Champion 2026
- All-Ireland Junior Yearling Heifer 01.04.2025-31.08.2025 Champion 2026

Strokestown Show – 12th September:

- All-Ireland Senior Heifer Calf (01.09.2025 – 31.12.2025) Champion 2026
- All-Ireland Intermediate Heifer Calf (01.01.2026 – 31.03.2026) Champion 2026
- All-Ireland Junior Heifer Calf (01.04.2026 onwards) Champion 2026
- All-Ireland Senior Bull Calf (01.09.2025 – 31.12.2025) Champion 2026
- All-Ireland Intermediate Bull Calf (01.01.2026 – 31.03.2026) Champion 2026
- All-Ireland Junior Bull Calf (01.04.2026 onwards) Champion 2026

STROKESTOWN SHOW ALL-IRELAND CLASS RULES:

- **Weight Limits:** Male calf: max 1.6kg/day gain, birth weight 45kg. Female calf: max 1.4kg/day gain, birth weight 40kg.
- All calves must be: exhibitor bred, pedigree registered with the Irish Shorthorn Society Ltd., and participate in at least one show class in that year prior to competing in the All-Ireland classes.
- No weight discrepancies permitted. Animals weighed once only!

TULLAMORE SHOW RULES:

- All animals born after 01/09/2025 will be weighed, even if shown with their dams.
- **Weight Limits:** Male calf : max 1.6kg/day gain, birth weight 45kg. Female calf: max 1.4kg/day gain, birth weight 40kg.
- All animals must be pedigree registered with the Irish Shorthorn Society Ltd.
- No weight discrepancies permitted. Animals weighed once only!

ALL IRELAND CLASS RULES:

- Each animal must be pedigree registered with the Irish Shorthorn Society Ltd.
- Each animal entering an All-Ireland class must have participated in at least one show class in the 2026 show season prior to competing. Exceptions to this rule: Senior (2 year old) heifer at Mullingar, Senior Bull at Tullamore, and Junior Bull at Mohill.

Please contact the individual shows to enter these classes.

More details can be found on the Irish Shorthorn Society website under 'news'.

COMPLIANCE WITH ANIMAL IDENTIFICATION & REGISTRATION:

We would like to remind all members of the importance of remaining fully compliant with the Department of Agriculture identification and registration rules at all times. As a society, we take pride in maintaining the highest standards of herd management, traceability, and animal welfare. These standards are not only central to our breed's reputation but are also a legal requirement under the Department of Agriculture regulations.

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES INCLUDE:



Timely tagging of calves:

All calves must be tagged in accordance with current regulations which is within **20 days of birth**.



Prompt birth notification:

Births must be recorded with the Department of Agriculture within the required timeframe which is within **27 days of birth**.

Beyond compliance, accurate and timely recording of herd data is critical to the success of our breed, particularly in relation to ICBF evaluations and star rating. Key traits such as:

- Calving difficulty
- Gestation length
- Calving interval

All feed directly into genetic evaluations and star rating system. Timely compliance and accurate data recording ensures full traceability, more reliable genetic evaluations and helps our breed to progress. If you are unsure about any aspect of compliance or data recording, please consult relevant Department of Agriculture guidelines.

We urge all members to be mindful of this when posting online and to ensure that all animals are clearly identifiable and compliant. Maintaining these standards protects not only your own herd but also the integrity and reputation of the entire breed.

HALL OF FAME:

Congratulations to Amelda Middleton Leonard on being named the Irish Shorthorn Society Hall of Fame recipient for 2026. Amelda's contribution to the society has been truly immeasurable, and this recognition is a fitting tribute to her dedication and commitment.

A sincere thank you as well to the Flanagan family for hosting this awards ceremony each year, your continued support is greatly appreciated.



Photo by Padraig Devaney

PREMIER SALE 2026:

The Irish Shorthorn Society Premier Sale will take place on **Saturday, 7th November**, at The Showgrounds, Carrick-on-Shannon, Co. Roscommon.

All animals must be **TESTED TH FREE!**

We ask that members please submit TH testing as *soon as possible*. Each year, entries are delayed due to awaiting results.

ENTRY FEE UPDATE: Please note, due to increasing running costs, the 2026 entry fees are as follows:

- Early bird entry: €40 (TH result must accompany entry form to avail of this rate, no exceptions made).
- Standard entry: €45

Testing for the TH Genetic Defect: Step-by-step Guide

1. Collect Hair Samples: Collect a hair sample from each animal you wish to test. Hairs must be pulled from the root, not cut.

2. Prepare the Samples: Place each sample in a separate zip-lock bag (freezer bag). Important: Do not use sample bags labelled with society branding. This is to avoid additional VAT costs billed to the society, which would increase expenses for the breeder. Breeders must pay Weatherbys directly for TH testing.

- Include a piece of paper inside each bag with the following details
- Animal Identification (tag) Number
- Owner's Herd Number
- Owner's Name, Address, and Phone Number
- Test Required: TH Test for This Animal

Note: If desired, you can request that results be sent to both the breeder and directly to the Society Office.

3. Packaging and Posting: Send the prepared samples to the address below:

TH Testing,

Weatherbys Scientific,

Unit F1 – M7 Business Park,

Newhall, Naas,

Co. Kildare.

4. Contact Information: If you have any questions or need assistance during the process, contact Weatherbys at: Phone: +353 (0)45 875521

5. Payment: Weatherbys will contact you directly to arrange payment for the testing service.

REGISTRATIONS:

Pedigree Registrations must be carried out by either paper form or via the society website (see photo).

Forms can also be downloaded from the society website.

Late fees will continue to be implemented.

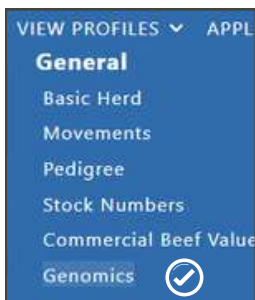


NEW POLLED DETAILS ON ICBF:

We are delighted to share that ICBF have recently added the Friesian polled gene to their genotype testing for Shorthorn cattle. This is great for identifying more polled animals in our breed. Prior to this, animals were only being tested for the Celtic gene.

For HerdPlus members, you can view your animal's polled status on ICBF by following the steps below. This is only available for animals tested with the IDBV6 chip type.

1. Log into ICBF herdplus account
2. View profiles
3. Click Genomics
4. Click Myostatin & Polled
5. View your animals



Two types of polled gene - same result:

GENE TYPE 1

Celtic (Pc) - Found in most beef breeds. Makes an animal naturally hornless. Tested by ICBF for many years.

GENE TYPE 2

Friesian (Pf) - Common in Shorthorns. Has exactly the same effect as Celtic. Now newly added to ICBF testing.

The polled gene is DOMINANT - one copy of either type (Celtic or Friesian) is enough to make an animal polled. Both genes have exactly the same effect on the animal. ICBF now tests for both, so more animals in the breed can be correctly identified.

What the numbers mean:

On your ICBF HerdPlus profile you will see two separate scores - one for Celtic and one for Friesian. Each score is simply 0, 1, or 2:

0	1	2
No copies of this gene (horned for this type)	One copy (heterozygous – ~50% polled calves)	Two copies (homozygous – 100% polled calves)

Add the two scores together.
A combined total of 2 or more = all calves will be polled.
A total of 1 = roughly half will be polled.
A total of 0 = horned.

ICBF scores	Status	What it means for your breeding
Celtic: 2 Friesian: 0	Homozygous polled	100% of calves will be polled when bred to a horned animal
Celtic: 0 Friesian: 2	Homozygous polled	100% of calves will be polled when bred to a horned animal
Celtic: 1 Friesian: 1	Homozygous polled	One Celtic + one Friesian = two polled copies total. 100% of calves will be polled
Celtic: 1 Friesian: 0	Heterozygous polled	~50% of calves will be polled when bred to a horned animal
Celtic: 0 Friesian: 1	Heterozygous polled	~50% of calves will be polled when bred to a horned animal
Celtic: 0 Friesian: 0	Horned	No polled gene present. Will not pass on polledness to calves

An example of what you might see on your herdplus account:

Animal Number	Animal Name	DOB	Sex	Chip Type	Polled Celtic	Polled Friesian
372	(RO) (P)	04-APR-26	F	IDBV6	1	0

- This animal carries 1 copy of the polled Celtic gene.
- This animal carries 0 copies of the polled Friesian gene.
- This animal is heterozygous polled.
- When bred to a horned animal, about 50% of it’s offspring will be polled.