



Autumn 2016 Newsletter

www.limousin.co.nz

Welcome!

It has certainly been a very busy few months. Hopefully mating went well and pregnancy testing has indicated pleasing hold rates.

The full impact of the forecasted severe El Nino pattern seems to have thankfully passed us by and there seems to be adequate feed in most areas albeit still dry.

It is encouraging to hear that more breeders are getting involved in AI and ET programmes. We need new bloodlines to take the breed forward although obviously only some of these joins will be success stories.

Fortunately the beef sector remains very buoyant and is one of the stars in the rural sector. Cattle from Limousin bloodlines are regularly achieving premium prices at store sales when available. For example Ben More sold some store heifers back in November at Coalgate and got an incredible \$4.70/kgLW! Other breeds were struggling to reach \$3/kg.LW However, the lack of stores and prime stock regularly offered at auction is certainly not helping promote the value of using Limousin genetics.

We lost a Limousin stalwart in Terry Chappell early January. His involvement with the breed dates back to the early 1970s when Limousin cattle were first introduced. He was always entrepreneurial in his approach with ventures both in NZ and Australia. Warrick James spoke at his funeral and his eulogy is included later in this newsletter.

By all accounts both bull trials are progressing well with their respective sales only a few months' away. The trials remain a wonderful way of comparing genetic progress and showcasing our great breed. Limousin is probably the only breed that is still running a evaluation trial of 8+ months duration. It is testament to the cooperation and goodwill of our breeders that our trials continue today.

Election time!

The only nomination for the NZ Region elected director of ALBS was Gary Kennett who has been duly elected for a two year term. His term will begin at the ALBS AGM held in Wodonga 28 April.

Our outgoing director, Daryl Bott, served for four years as ALBS Director and we are truly grateful for the time and commitment he put into this role. It required trips to Board meetings in Australia at least twice a year and numerous conference calls. Other members of the Board spoke very highly of his positive contribution at meetings. Daryl was Senior VP on his retirement. Thank you, Daryl, for representing us so well!

There are four members on the New Zealand Management Committee. Peta Lean and Daryl Bott will retire at the end of their two year term at the AGM in May. Two nominations for the two vacancies were received by the due date. We are pleased to inform members that the successful nominees were Peta Lean who is re-elected and we welcome Scott Clark (Loch Head) onto the Committee.

2016 NZ AGM and Conference

This year's AGM & Conference will be based in Palmerston North 14-16 May.

The programme includes a visit to the Mangatara stud near Dannevirke to see new bloodlines. Erik and Lyn have made a significant investment in imported genetics through an extensive ET programme.

There is also steer judging at Feilding, the Rugby Museum, Massey University, and Beef Expo.

Further information is provided later in this newsletter.

Riverheights Limousin

Don and Delma Robertson recently decided to disperse their Riverheights Stud after many successful years breeding and showing Limousin cattle. It is pleasing to hear that most of their animals have been purchased by existing breeders with some heifers sold to a prospective new member.

In 1984 Don and Delma moved to the West Coast and farmed for five years up the Arnold Valley, between Moana and Stillwater. While there they purchased their first Limousin cow (Ben More Olivia) in 1986. In keeping with the wild-west the purchase involved a rather unusual & unique transaction. Olivia 'cost' six yearling friesians, a wooden wool press, some wool shed grating and an angora rabbit. IRD scratched their head over the correct accounting treatment for that one!

On their return to Hinds in 1989 Don and Delma became very involved in showing over a seven year period particularly at the Canterbury A & P Shows. Their stud sire Ben More Leader was perhaps their most successful Limousin. Leader was purchased from a Ben More sale and once back home Don decided to halter train him. Leader went on to be awarded Supreme Champion Limousin over five consecutive years and at least twice going on to be 3rd in the prestigious Meat & Wool Cup.



On one trip back from the Show Don stopped at the Hinds Hotel for a celebratory drink with friends and took Leader into the bar with him! Don thought it only fair to include the 'star' in the celebrations. The floor in the older part of the Hotel was a little suspect and only the carpet prevented Leader going through the boards!



One of their show cows, Riverheights Nancy, was another over that time that enjoyed success and also featured in the Meat & Wool Cup with a 3rd placing. Riverheights Kay (a Ben More Olivia daughter) was also shown for a few years. Don became a registered judge over this time and the training he received improved his skills in selecting cattle.



They also competed successfully in the Canterbury carcase competition over a number of years. In one year they won three out of the three classes available! Soon after that clean sweep the organisers changed the rules by introducing separate classes for British and European breeds. The Angus & Hereford people couldn't compete with the muscling qualities of Limousin!

Their cattle also featured prominently in the South Island Bull Trials. In particular, progeny from Riverheights Berti bred on well with two of his progeny making top price in successive years (\$8000 and \$9000).

Don & Delma, thank you for your 30 years' involvement with Limousin and the considerable contribution you have made to the breed. We wish you a long and happy 'retirement'.

Vale Terry Chappell

One of our breed's genuine characters in Terry Chappell passed away peacefully on 4 January after a long illness. His service in Leeston was attended by over 600 people including a number of past and present Limousin breeders.

Warrick James gave a moving eulogy of Terry's involvement with the breed over 40 years.



Terry tried his hand at various forms of farming including sheep and crop (didn't like either), dairy (Jersey), pig (Landrace), cattle (Limousin, Murray Grey, Piedmontese and Hereford), and goats (Angora & Boer).

Terry was entrepreneurial and always prepared to try new ventures. In the early years of Limousin in NZ, he actively pursued these opportunities.

In 1973 the NZ Government allowed the live importation of 10 Limousin heifers from France. Terry & his wife Jenifer joined forces with John Tavendale and formed the Tuarua Partnership. They secured the right to purchase two heifers from this first shipment in 'Irma' and 'Ideale'.



Irma was successfully flushed resulting in 24 'A' grade embryos transferred surgically to recipients. The result was 16 calves which was a world record at the time for a single flush (see photo). Many of these calves were sold to Australian interests.

When the Tuarua Partnership ceased Terry and Jenifer started their own stud, Killkerry. His two favourite cows were his beloved Mitchfield Sally and Killkerry Dolly who he successfully showed. Having shown Landrace pigs for many years Terry knew what was expected and his cattle were always well-prepared. At one point he took 17 adult cows to the Canterbury A&P Show which was a remarkable achievement! At the 1988 Canterbury Show he won the Interbreed Cow & Calf and was then placed second in the Meat and Wool Cup with Sally and Dolly as calf-at-foot.



The Killkerry cattle pens were always a place of great hospitality. They were known for their beer and great company.

Returning home from one Show, Terry walked a young bull called "Barney" into the Dunsandel Hotel much to the surprise of the patrons!



When a visiting French Rugby Team was to play at Lancaster Park Terry lobbied the Rugby Union to lead the French team with Barney onto the field, but the politics within the organisation unfortunately wouldn't allow it.

In the mid-1980s Terry partnered with a company called "Agricola" and exported a number of heifers to Benalla in Victoria. These were used as donors in an ET programme to capture the inexhaustible Australian demand for full French genetics. After flushing, three of these donors sold for a staggering \$22,000 each and all progeny sold for top prices. It was a very successful venture.

Terry and Jenifer attended many National Conferences over the years. As the evening social events wore on Terry's love of music always came to the fore and out would come the Bongo Drums and spoons much to everyone's delight!

They attended many World Limousin Conferences together including New Zealand, Australia, USA, Canada, and Ireland. No prizes for guessing which was his favourite!

Terry received life membership of the Limousin Beef Breeders Society of New Zealand in 2011 after almost 40 years' involvement with Limousin cattle.

In 2015 the Chappell family received a Century Farm Award. The Chappell family settled on their Killinchy farm in 1914 and the property has remained in family hands since then.

Terry lived a full and exciting life. The Limousin World were fortunate and privileged to have been a part of it. Rest well old friend.



Limousin Beef Breeders of NZ

2016 AGM 14-16 May 2016

Please join your host's, North Island Limousin Breeders, at this year's LLBNZ Conference and AGM in Palmerston North/Feilding.

At last year's AGM, Karen Hedger argued that the way to increase the profile of Limousin in NZ was to sell Limousin to other breeds. Selling Limousin bulls to breeders of other cattle is the way to add value to the NZ beef industry. This year's AGM programme is inspired by Karen's sentiment.

Let's get in amongst them!

Accommodation:

Coachman Inn Palmerston North, 140 Fitzherbert Ave. Ph 06 356 5065. [Studio Rooms for \$124 pn]

Saturday 14 May:

1pm Registration at Coachman Inn
Bring your photos of Limousin for a Photo Comp.
Steer Judging Manfield Park/Coach House Museum
North v's South Competition
Dinner (own cost)

Sunday 15 May:

Visit Mangatara Stud – inspect genetics unique in NZ
Topline Speakers
AGM and Conference Dinner

Monday 16 May:

Check out latest research at Massey University
Lunch (own cost) and shopping (own cost)
Visit to Rugby Museum

Jetstar flies into Palmerston North from February. If you give us your arrival time, we can pick you up from the airport. People may want to stay on for Expo Bull Sale on Tuesday 17th May 2016. People may also want to come on Friday 13 May as the Feilding Store Sale is NZ's largest of its type.

Cost \$130: includes Conference dinner and transport.
Please pay by 25 April 2016.

NILB Account:

Westpac Pukekohe 030 406 0607013 00

or cheque to NILB c/- Marion Wickens,

11 Armstrong Ave, Whangarei

Registration of Attendance:

Please confirm attendance to Peta Lean before 25/4.
(kivell.lean@xtra.co.nz, 07 824 0948 or 028 258 14890).

South Island Bull Trial Report

Sale Date 23 May 2016 (1pm)

Dunsandel (Canterbury)

This year's trial includes bulls from eight South Island breeders. They have run as a group since late August. It is the 8th year the trial has been run by the South Island Group.

There is a mix of types to suit all buyers. Several are from imported AI sires. There is a good mix of full French, polled, NZ Pure, and black. Some are genuine easy calving sires while others have impressive growth EBVs.

Their quiet temperament is obvious when you move amongst them. All have been independently assessed for structural correctness.

At the last weighing top weight was a staggering 754kg with an average 630kg.

Scan data and full sets of EBVs will be included in the catalogue and available late April. Twelve bulls will be catalogued for sale as well as a small offering of top females.

General inquiries and catalogues - Gary Kennett
03 329 6380.



North Island Bull Trial Report

Sale Date 7 June (1pm)

Buckland's Road, Matamata

This is the 22nd year for the North Island Bull Trial which brings bulls together from six North Island breeders.

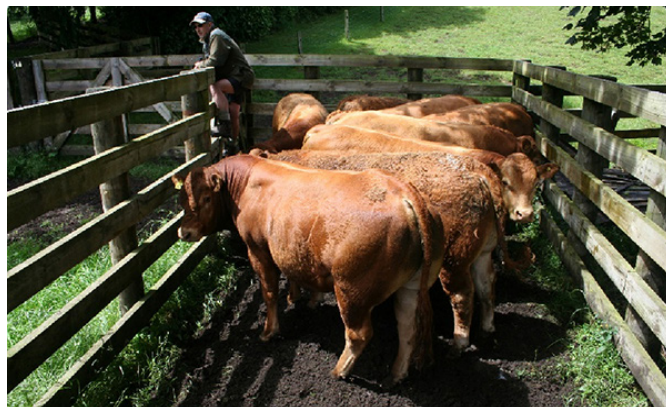
This year's draft includes a great range of new genetics and the trial is an opportunity to see how these different genetics perform on a level playing field.

Of interest is the high proportion of polled cattle in the trial (12/14) including a full French polled. Also in the mix are other full French, NZ Pure and black. Several are by AI.

The Open Day in December was well supported by the breeders and there were seven other interested parties in attendance which is very encouraging. Everyone appreciated the opportunity to see the bulls weighed and to meet with the breeders to chat over a lovely lunch.

Catalogues will be available from early May.

General inquiries and catalogues - Robert Hunt
021 624 302.



Snake Gully Sale

This year's Snake Gully Limousin Sale will be held Tuesday 14 June in Northland [493 Omana Road, Waiotira).

This will be the second year held in its new purpose built selling arena.

Inquiries to Natalie Roberts -
09 437 7944 or nroberts@farmside.co.nz



FUTURE YOUNG HANDLERS

Ollie (aged 10) & Scott (aged 6) Walker asked if they could do a calf each for the local school Calf Club and a couple of shows that followed. They committed to it and worked hard on their calves and were rewarded by receiving many ribbons, including a Champion each.

The two calves chosen for the boys to do the Calf Club's and Whangarei A & P Show did the Limousin breed proud and attracted much attention and positive comment.

Both Lucas and Lily pictured here in early December have developed very well since then.



Lily, the young heifer by Ampertaine Foreman, has matured nicely and is showing real promise. Ampertaine Foreman's progeny have all bred true to type and are all looking very promising at this stage.



Lucas is the only Dolcorsllwyn Fabio male resulting from our private import. He is also showing real promise with good muscle and length.

We are more than pleased with the 2015 progeny of our introduced imported sires and look forward to watching them mature and develop.

Natalie Roberts
Snake Gully Limousin



Ampertaine Foreman (UK)



Dolcorsllwyn Fabio (UK)



Greensons Howlett

AMBER'S SUCCESS CONTINUES

Amber Doggett of Ambee Stud is enjoying success with her show team. Starting in November Amber has so far attended shows from the Far North to South of Auckland.

Amber looks forward to another five shows in the coming weeks before heading to Lincoln University to commence her studies.

This season Amber has a Show Team of seven but due to transportation restraints cannot take them all to every show.

The Ambee Stud Show team is:

Ambee Lani (s: CF Jim Dandie)

Ambee Lilly (s: ROMN Tow Truck)

Ambee Lenny (s: CF Jim Dandie)

Ben More Kate (s: Ben More Gazza)

Ben More Kairo (s: Glencairn Gentle Giant)

Strongbridge Jana (s: Snake Gully Drummer)

Silverstream Erin (s: Sympa)



Results (only highest place shown):

Clevedon Show

Lenny 1st All Breeds

Kairo 3rd All Breeds (yearling)

Kate 2nd All Breeds (yearling)

Jana 2nd All Breeds (two year old)

Jana Reserve Champion Female

Erin 3rd All Breeds (cow & calf)

Young Handler 2nd

Bay of Islands Show

Lenny 2nd All Breeds

Kairo 1st All Breeds

Kairo Junior Reserve Champion

Young Handler 2nd

Wellsford Show

College Class

Lenny 1st Rearing, 2nd Beef Type, 3rd Leading

Kairo 1st Beef Type, 2nd Rearing, 3rd Leading Pairs 2nd

Reserve Champion Rearing

Reserve Champion Leading

Overall Champion

Beef Ring – All Breeds

Lenny 1st Bull Calf

Lani 2nd Heifer Calf

Lilly 4th Heifer Calf

Kate 3rd Yearling Heifer

Jana 1st Two Year Old Cow

Jana Reserve Champion Senior

Erin 2nd Cow 3 Years and Over

Lenny & Lani Best Two Calves

Kate & Kairo Best Two Yearlings

Group Class 2nd

Whangarei A & P Show

Calf Club

Lenny 1st Beef Type, 1st Rearing, 4th Leading

Youth Section

Lenny 4th

Beef Ring – All Breeds

Lenny 3rd Bull Calf

Kairo 2nd Yearling Bull

Lilly 2nd Heifer Calf

Kate 3rd Yearling Heifer

Jana 3rd Two Year Old Cow

Erin 4th Cow 3 Years and Over

Lani & Lilly 3rd two calves

Kate & Kairo 3rd two yearlings

Group Class 3rd

Jana 2nd Senior Young Handler

Canterbury A&P Show Success

The 153rd Canterbury A & P Show was held in Christchurch (NZ) mid-November. It remains the largest show of its type in New Zealand and attracts people from all over the country for the three day programme.

Entries in the beef cattle sections were slightly up on last year with good representation across all major breeds. Limousin had a strong presence with more animals being shown than in recent years. The inclusion of a led steer competition added interest (and animal numbers) to the occasion.

The James' Family (Ben More) are stalwarts of the show and have shown cattle there for almost 40 years. This year they exhibited nine animals. Gary Kennett and Marilyn Montgomery (Piwakawaka) have become regular attendees and exhibited six animals.

Roger James (past World President) attended the three days and enjoyed catching up with old friends.

Phoebe James was awarded "Personality of the Breed" and won a magnum to take home. The South Island Breeders' Group gathered on the Wednesday evening for a BBQ. Due to rain they decided to commandeer the Angus tent! It was a fitting occasion to farewell Don & Delma Robertson who have dispersed their Riverheights herd after many successful years of breeding and showing.



The Cow with calf-at-foot section was perhaps the most keenly contested with four entries.

Piwakawaka Erin came out on top. Ben More Harri was a close second and had a striking CF Jim Dandie heifer calf-at-foot.



The Supreme Champion Limousin was awarded to Piwakawaka Kagan, an impressive yearling son of Mandayen Vision Y329 and out of ROMN Justice daughter. Kagan went on to be placed 5th in the hotly contested Interbreed class.

Results:

Supreme Champion Limousin Piwakawaka Kagan
Champion Senior Limousin Piwakawaka Erin
Reserve Champion Senior Limousin Ben More Harri
Champion Junior Limousin Piwakawaka Kagan
Champion Yearling Bull Piwakawaka Kagan
Reserve Champion Yearling Bull Ben More Kowhai
Champion Yearling Heifer Ben More Keira
Reserve Champion Yearling Heifer Ben More Ku

Best Steer on Hoof (1st) Duncan James
Best Turned Out and handled Steer 18-30yrs (3rd) Phoebe James
Best Turned Out and handled Steer 18-30yrs (4rd) Duncan James
Best Turned Out and handled Steer 10-17yrs (3rd) Emma Subtil

Limousin Feature Breed

This year the feature beef breed at the Christchurch Show will be Limousin. Let's support this with more breeders and animals involved.

We congratulate Warrick James on being elected the President of the Canterbury A&P Show.

Is Birth Weight the key to calving ease?

When buying a bull, a prudent buyer will consider his birth weight (BW) EBV. Obviously, a sire with a lower BW should be easier calving. Conversely a bull with a high BW is more likely to increase calving problems.

However, BW is not the whole story. There are sires around with above average BW which have excellent calving ease, and vice versa.

Birth Weight should be considered in conjunction with at least two other statistics. They are **Calving Ease Direct** and **Calving Ease Daughter**.

The EBV for Direct Calving Ease indicates the influence of the sire on calving ease in females calving at two years of age.

The EBV for Daughters' Calving Ease indicates how easily that sire's daughters will calve at two years of age.

Here are three examples of AI sires with interesting EBVs. The bottom row is the breed average for comparison.

Example One:

Calving Ease	Calving Ease	Birth Weight
Direct	Daughters	
+4.8	+6.2	+1.7
86%	80%	97%
+0.2	+0.7	+1.6

This AI sire has an above average birth weight but is showing excellent calving ease. It is likely the shape of the calf is safe and the daughters have reasonable pelvic width and shape. Certainly one to consider.

Example Two:

Calving Ease	Calving Ease	Birth Weight
Direct	Daughters	
-0.8	+0.4	+0.6
46%	40%	68%
+0.2	+0.7	+1.6

This AI sire is showing a low birth weight (top 20%) which should indicate good calving ease. However, an inspection of the Calving Ease Direct shows that it is well below average (bottom 40%). Possibly the shape of the calf, and probably its hip width, are causing calving issues. Some caution on which females to use this sire over would be advised.

However, note that the accuracy % are very low because this sire has few progeny recorded. These will change as more progeny are registered.

Example Three:

Calving Ease	Calving Ease	Birth Weight
Direct	Daughters	
-1.9	-0.9	+3.9
94%	93%	98%
+0.2	+0.7	+1.6

This AI sire is in the bottom 10% for BW and bottom 20% for calving ease, yet he was one of the most widely used and influential AI sires in NZ. High accuracy % indicates large numbers of recorded progeny. On the surface this would be one to avoid. However, this sire had other traits which were keenly sought after by breeders (e.g. docility). Obviously breeders were comfortable to balance potential calving issues against improvements in other traits.

The other consideration is **gestation length**. Generally, a shorter gestation corresponds with lower BW and therefore easier calving. The ideal for many is a shorter gestation with easy calving traits, without compromising growth rates. The gap between birth weight and 200-day weight (weaning) is a critical statistic in this consideration.

Finally, a wise breeder once said that he always tries to breed back to the middle and avoid extremes.

A balanced approach to calving ease seems the sensible option.