



President's Christmas Message

Another year passes and Christmas is fast approaching. I write this message with some trepidation as last year, I naively hoped that most of the Covid problems would be well behind us by the summer. Let's hope as the weather improves in the spring this year, even the Omicron variant will have burst its bubble so that some, if not all our summer activities, can go ahead.

In general, I am sure we are all enjoying the run of strong trade prices. At least most farms are better set up for the winter with the two advantages of large stocks of forage and many livestock able to be housed later in the Autumn. Any carry over of forage will be useful, especially with the spike in fertilizer prices. It seems slightly strange that the fertilizer factories had to reopen to produce the by-product carbon dioxide for the food industry, when a lot of our time is now spent thinking how to limit this production! At the moment cows seem to be getting a bad press due to their methane production. How can this remotely compare with any fossil fuel usage in modern life, as the carbon cycle is an efficient process, produces meat and locks up carbon, especially in an extensive forage system? The more quality information we can use, will all be of help for future debate.

Very many thanks to Sue for keeping the office running smoothly and to Bill and the Council for all their work in these difficult times. The zoom meetings definitely saved a lot of time and fuel. As this is my last Christmas Message I wanted to thank everyone for their support and I am sorry that I haven't had the chance to meet more of you due to circumstances. I hope that we can all have a good Christmas and that 2022 will prove to be an upgrade.

James Holdstock

2022 MEMBERSHIP PAYMENT

Renewal Forms will be sent out in January

If payment is not received by 31st March your membership may be cancelled

YOUTH MEMBERSHIP

This is for youngsters between the ages of 13 and 18 or in full time education.

YOUTH MEMBERSHIP IS FREE

CAPITATION 2022

This is how payment is made for the registration of female calves.

Payment is made for all cows/heifers due to calf in the year.

The discounted payment of £12 is due by 31st March.

Payment and forms returned late should pay the full Capitation Fee of £24.

Forms will be sent out in January if you need a form contact the Office

HERD BOOK Volume 125

Copies were sent out recently. If you are a breeder and did not get a copy and would like one please let the Office know. Herd Books are free for breeders.

BULL REGISTRATIONS

Don't forget to apply early if you are planning to sell or show a bull in 2022.

Our Inspectors do their best but it is only fair to give them time to plan journeys to look at bulls.

Also all young bull for registration must have a DNA sample taken and where possible the sire and dam also. We prefer you to have this done by the vet when he does the vet inspection for registration.

CHRISTMAS STOCK SHOWS

Not the biggest entries in the local shows this year.

The results received so far are:

Ashford Cattle Show

Sussex steers

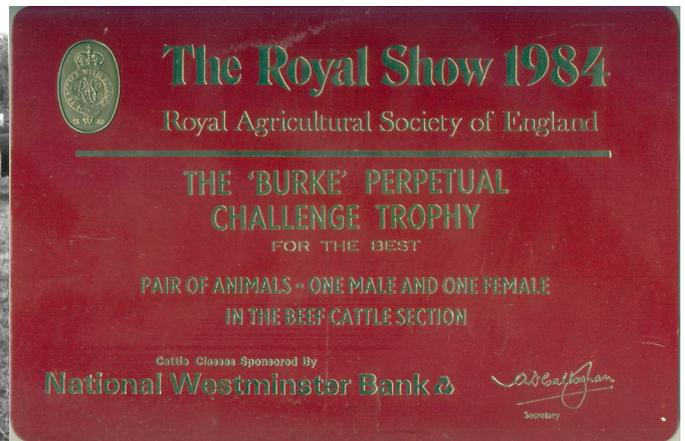
£1,513 (223p) from Sussex Herd Company Ltd.

£1,503 (245p) from Chandler & Dunn Ltd.

If you have any other results please let the Office know.

BURKE TROPHY

The Burke Trophy will be competed for at the South of England Show in 2022. Our Council asks that you support the show with entries if you can. It would be great for the Sussex to take this prestigious award at their home county show. We will be looking out for potential show cattle and will be happy to offer advice and help in the preparation of show cattle. We took the trophy in 1984 at the Royal Show and it would be great to have our name engraved on it again.



SUSSEX CATTLE SOCIETY RECORDING INITIATIVE OFF TO A FLYING START

In April 2021, Signet and the Sussex Cattle Society launched a new performance recording initiative. The Sussex Cattle Society agreed to fund the recording costs of any Society member that has paid their capitation fees; effectively removing the financial barrier that may have previously limited smaller herds from engaging in weight recording.

Data collection services and reporting was moved almost entirely online, with pedigree records from an additional 1,500 stock bulls added to the database to strengthen the genetic evaluation and enhance Signet's cutting edge, inbreeding software (free to breeders recording their herd).

Project update

We are delighted to say a number of new herds have got involved in recording. The number of records in the September analysis increased by 1,754, taking the total number of Sussex cattle records collected and evaluated since 1968 to 33,101.

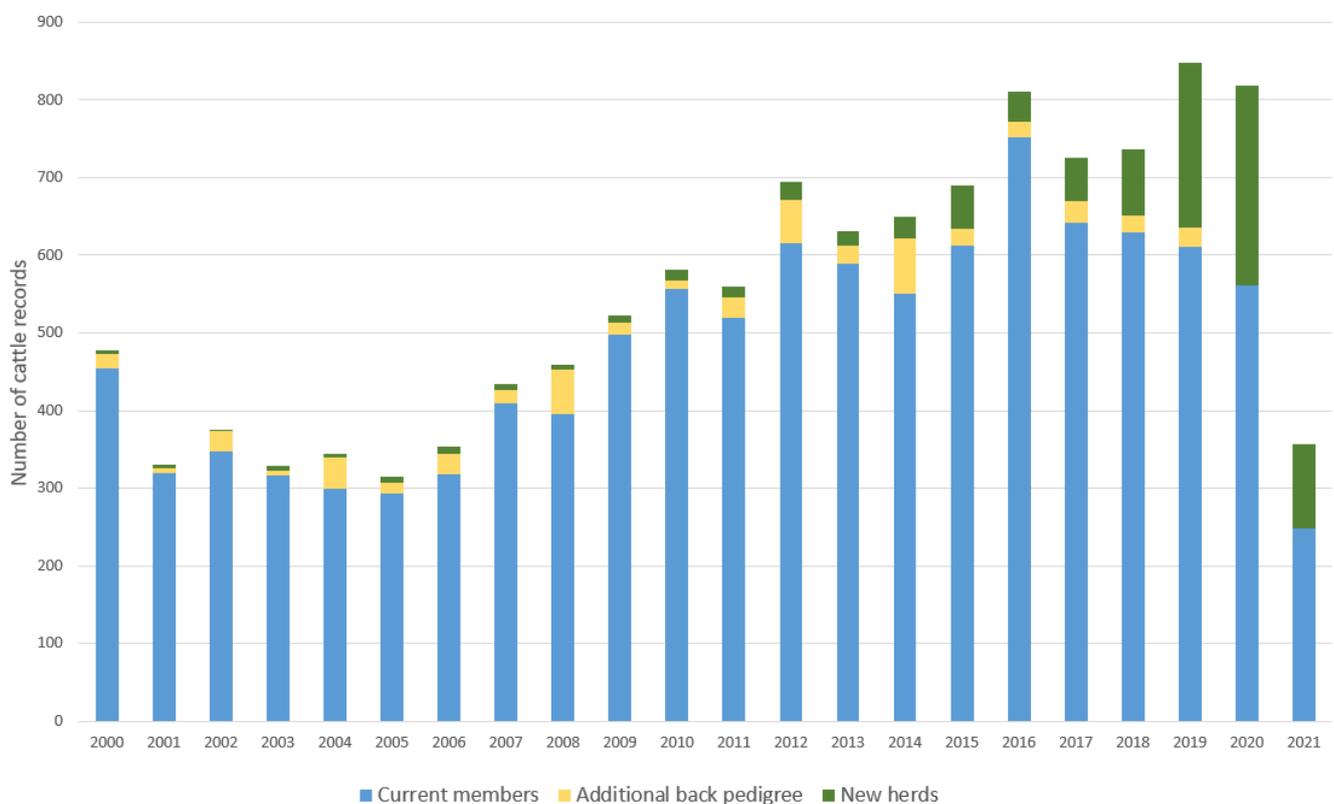
The biggest impact can be seen in the records added for new herds providing data for the last two seasons with a number of herds yet to submit information for the 2021 calf crop. This initiative has taken the number of cattle recorded with Signet each year up from around 600 in previous years to well over 800 individuals.

We are pleased to be working with the following herds that are now weight recording with us; Black Ven, Bowerland, Boxted, Darnley, Elbridge, Goldstone, Hardres, Hillhurst, Holm Place, Montreal, Offham, Paley, Plumpton, Rowley, Salehurst, Southview, Sproutes, Trottenden and Windsor.

If you would like to get involved please drop an email to signet@ahdb.org.uk and we can find out the easiest way to get you started.

Samuel Boon, Signet

Number of Sussex Cattle Recorded with Signet Breeding Services



BIRTH RETURNS – A Third Way!

We realise nobody likes entering data twice and so breeders may be interested to know there is now a third way to send birth returns to the Society.

Signet recorded herds can go to the “Reports” sub-menu on the Signet website and export data for the cattle that have been born in their herd between specific dates. This electronic output will provide information on an animal’s Herdbook Number, UK Ministry Tag, Prefix, Name, Sex, Date of birth, Service type, Birth Weight, Sire UK Ministry Number, Sire Prefix, Sire Name, Dam UK Ministry Number, Dam Prefix, Dam Name, Birth type, Sex of Twin and if it is an Embryo transplant. We can even export poll/horn status of your calves if you tell us what it is and we have uploaded the data – with the four categories we record being Horned, Polled – Heterozygous, Polled – Homozygous and Polled – Unknown.

Try it for yourself at:- <https://www.signetdata.com/member-reports/herd-report/birth-notifications/>

If you have any problems running the report, please let Signet know



Did you know?

There are now carcase trait EBVs that will help you choose a bull based on the things you get paid for



These EBVs can only be generated if you record the ear tag number of the sire when registering a calf with BCMS

The more sires that are registered, the more accurate the EBVs will be

SIRES OF DAIRY BRED CALVES MATTER TOO!

45%

of all prime beef in England is a product of the dairy herd

CURRENTLY, ONLY

23%

OF SIRES ARE REGISTERED ON BCMS

Take our industry higher

#SHOUTABOUTTHESIRE

AHDB

BIRTH RETURNS - Ways to send in your Birth Returns

Complete the handwritten forms that are supplied as part of a self carbonating book.

Send in a print out from Farmplan or similar. Several of you already do this and please continue to do so.

Request a list your breeding females in a Birth Return format [tick box on Capitation Form] which will simply require you to enter details of calves and sire/s.

Birth Returns must have the complete information. Date of Birth. Full ear tag number. Sex. Polled or not polled. Details of Sire and Dam.

2021 BIRTH RETURNS ARE DUE NOW

REGISTRATION CERTIFICATES

PLEASE NOTE NO CERTIFICATES WILL BE SENT OUT

UNTIL EITHER

CAPITATION FEES OR REGISTRATION FEES HAVE BEEN PAID

**THE NEW SOCIETY DATABASE
AND ON LINE BIRTH RETURNS
SHOULD BE GOING LIVE
IN EARLY MARCH**

WE WILL KEEP YOU UPDATED WITH PROGRESS

For those of you with knowledge of these things currently there are currently over 24,000 rows and 234 columns in the EXCEL sheet that are being checked and completed to give detailed information to produce a database that is as informative as possible.

POLLED ?

**Will all calves sired be polled?
GENETIC TESTING FOR THE POLLED GENE**

We are now able to offer genetic testing for the polled gene.
Do you need or want to know if an animal is
homozygous polled?

For more information and test kits please contact the Society's Office.

REGISTERING BULLS

This must be done between 300 and 570 days.

Bulls should be weighed between **300 and 570 days old.**

Got a good bull calf?

Consider selling or sending him, at weaning, to an experienced bull producer to prepare for registration. If breeders work together there is a greater opportunity to expand the bloodlines available.

DNA PARENTAGE TESTING

From 1st January 2021 all young bull will be required to have DNA sampling taken, we advise that this be done by the vet when the veterinary inspection is being undertaken, if not samples will be taken by the Bull Inspectors, whenever possible a DNA sample will also be taken from the Sire and Dam. The purpose of this is to establish the parentage of all bulls. This is a progressive plan and will eventually result in all bulls having their parentage proven. The Society will be paying for the Sire and Dam DNA sampling but it will be the breeder/owner of the young bull who will pay for that DNA sample and sire verification.

Note: it is becoming a requirement for all bulls that are selected for semen collection to have their parentage proven through DNA testing.

REGISTERING FEMALES

Female registrations should be paid for through the Capitation Fees each year. Birth Returns listing all calves eligible for registration male and female [including castrates] should be sent to the Office. When a breeder wishes to register a calf that has not been notified to the Society on a Birth Return Form penalty fees will be applied.

Up to 12 months old	£35.00
Up to 18 months	£70.00
Up to 24 months	£105.00
Over 24 months	£140.00

Council felt that this system of penalties is required as there have been too many occasions where breeders have requested late registrations rather than following the Society's requirement for Capitation Fees to be paid.

Please note that many breed societies impose substantial penalties for late registrations and in some cases do not accept any late registrations.

If you have any articles or photographs you would like to see in our Newsletters and possibly on Facebook and our Website, please send them in to the office.

DIARY DATES 2022

JANUARY	MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTION DUE
MARCH	CAPITATION FORMS DUE
April	Annual General Meeting [by Zoom]
28th May	NBA Beef Expo Darlington
28th May	Heathfield Show
June	South of England Show
29/30th June	Royal Norfolk Show
8/9/10th July	Kent County Show
28/29th August	Edenbridge & Oxted Show
September	Society Farm Walk

As yet some events have no date available yet.

FOR SALE

There are bulls and females listed on the website

If you would like a paper list please let the Office know.

Remember to let us know if your advertised animals have sold.

*Wishing you all a
Very Merry Christmas
and a
Happy New Year*

Sue Kennedy

