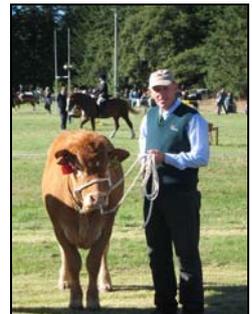




# LIMOUSIN

*Carcase, Yield, Efficiency.*



**Autumn 2013 Newsletter**  
[www.limousin.co.nz](http://www.limousin.co.nz)

## Welcome to Autumn!

The 2012/13 Summer proved to be one of drought for most parts of the country. Recent rain has provided some relief but the effects of the 'big dry' will no doubt be felt for some time to come.

It's the time of the year to determine the success of your breeding programme. Best of luck for a high % pregnancy scanning!

The **6 March** was an important date for this Society having been formed exactly 40 years ago. We recognise this important milestone with an article recalling those early years.

Our **40<sup>th</sup> anniversary** will be formally celebrated with an official dinner as part of the 2013 Conference and AGM in Nelson (25-28 April). Thank you to those who have already registered including four from Australia. There is still time to join us in Nelson if you are undecided. Details are reprinted on the last page.

There will also be a commemorative **40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Magazine** which will highlight some of the more significant events over those years. This special publication will be released at the AGM and posted out to other members in early May.

We congratulate **Rob & Jean Johnstone**, Glencairn Limousin, for a wonderful PGG Wrightson Stud Tour programme in February. This is now available for viewing through a link on the LBBNZ website or at:

<http://www.ruraltv.co.nz/glencairn-limousins-ep-33/>

Limousin has now been profiled twice over the last four months in this series. The publicity is invaluable and will be raising the profile of Limousin throughout the country.

We congratulate **Phoebe James** who has been selected as the NZ youth representative to attend the Australian National Limousin Junior Show in Albury, NSW, in late May. Phoebe is currently in her second year at Lincoln University and is actively involved with preparing and showing cattle with the Ben More team.



## 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary (1973–2013)

The Inaugural meeting of the NZ Limousin Cattle Breeders' Society Inc. was held in Palmerston North on Tuesday 6 March 1973 at 8pm in the Fitzherbert Motor Inn. Convenor and Chairman for the meeting was Richard Acton-Adams of Kaikoura.

After a general discussion it was moved that a steering committee of six with three representatives from each Island be elected for a term of twelve months and with provision to co-opt a further three members.

The committee's brief was to establish a constitution, rules and regulations and deal with the affairs of the new society.

The steering committee elected was:

South Island:

Richard Acton-Adams, Roger James and Frank Allan.

North Island:

A.R. McCullough, A.R. Reeves and J.F. Luxton.

The first meeting was held the next morning (7 March 1973) at the Fitzherbert Motor Inn.

The officers elected were:

President: R.J. Acton-Adams  
 Vice-President: A.R. Reeves  
 Secretary: J. Tavendale  
 Co-opted: Dr Doug Laing and Mr John Acland

At the following year's AGM the constitution and by-laws were adopted and the committee were re-elected unopposed.



## The First Female Cattle

In August 1973 the NZ Director of Agriculture (Dr Johns) invited European Cattle Breeds Societies of NZ to attend a meeting to discuss the importation of females direct from France.

Subsequently Limousin was allotted 10 of 34 places (Charolais 12 and Simmentals 12). This offer was accepted by the Limousin Council. These cattle were to be held at the quarantine Station at Somes Island in Wellington Harbour for five months after being shipped from French quarantine at Le Havre.



Roger James and Frank Allan after receiving instructions from Quarantine Officers on their requirements, travelled to France as the selectors.

A letter was sent to all NZ Limousin members asking them to declare their interest in purchasing these heifers. Eight parties responded and a ballot was held at a Council meeting in the White Heron Hotel in Wellington on 3–4 October 1974. This importation became very much part of the base in the NZ and Australian Limousin herd.

Results were:

<b>Owner</b>	<b>Heifer's name</b>
R.J Acton–Adams	Isba
R.J Acton–Adams	Influence
A.D.B. Tod	Ivresse
R. James	Image
F.W and N.M. Allan	Iris
R. James	Iranda
K. Reed	Illusion
Tuarua Partnership	Irma
Tuarua Partnership	Ideale
D.F. and T.J. Bodle	Ismene

[This is taken from the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Magazine due to be released at the 2013 AGM.]

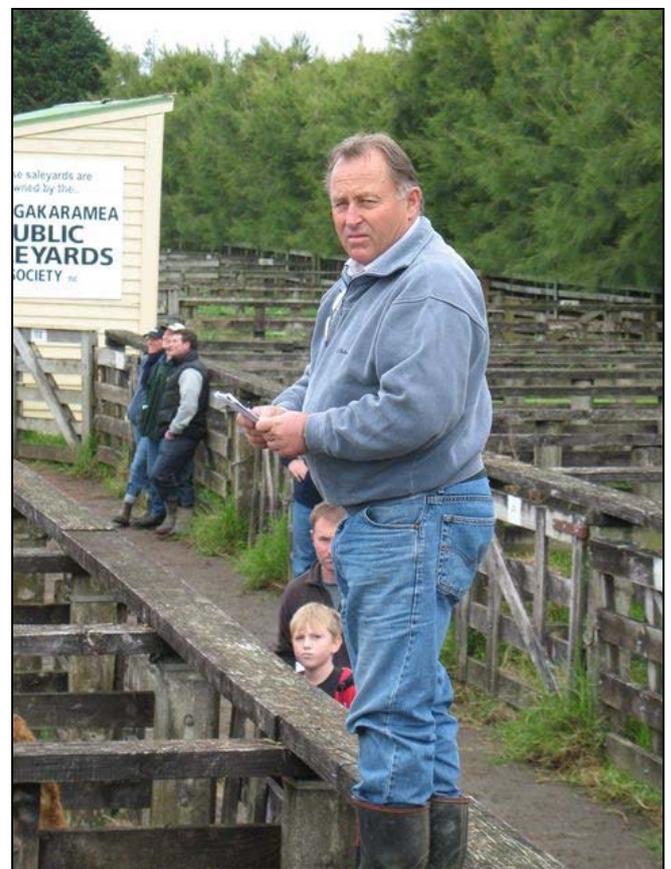
## From the Chair

At this time we reflect and celebrate 40 years of Limousin in NZ and recall the early days, the history, the people, the stories, written testimony and some of the many experiences. It goes without saying that gratitude and thanks must go to all previous councillors, committees, sub-committees, breeders and enthusiasts who had the foresight to introduce and nurture the Limousin breed in NZ that has allowed it to arrive at where it is today.

In my short 16 year involvement with Limousin, there have been a number of changes within the beef industry. For

example, dehorning has become an issue in some quarters which has created a shift towards more polled Limousin. Docility is the other big issue that promotional groups have focused and worked hard on. There has been a vast improvement in this trait. However, in the search for our market acceptance we must not lose the very qualities that have made Limousin such an outstanding carcass breed.

LBBNZ continues to work alongside the Australian Society where the transition to work as an active region and collective body has been mutually beneficial in many ways. We are very fortunate to be able to draw on their much larger genetic and resource base to support our NZ breeders. The recent importation of three top Australian-bred heifers, purchased at the 2012 Australian National Show and Sale by the Mangatara stud from Northland, illustrates this commitment and opportunity.



The bull trials and sales ventures of both the North Island and South Island Groups, as well as the Snake Gully private sale, continue to flag the way forward in the marketing of NZ seed stock. The bull trial and sale environment has been a great vehicle for groups of breeders to work together toward a common goal of producing docile, well-muscled, quality seed stock.

In 2011 we were reminded of the adverse effect that protoporphyria can have on a herd. It was a timely reminder to us all to have in place a testing regime to reduce the prevalence of this recessive gene in our herds. While protoporphyria can be managed, it is more desirable to eradicate the recessive gene from your herd through whole herd testing. It has been pleasing to see that during the last year I have processed in excess of 340 hair samples for DNA testing from many stud breeders. Those breeders have shown a genuine commitment to eliminate any potential proto problem from their genetic pool.

For the future, I look forward to the realisation of yield payments for our quality Limousin carcasses which many dedicated members regularly promote and battle for when sending their cattle for processing. The technology is available now to pay on yield but the political will to do so is not. Perseverance is the key!

I wish to thank the current council members Stephen Clearwater, Peta Lean (Treasurer) and Gary Kennett (Secretary) for their dedicated support through the year. I make special mention of Gary who with flair, skill and outstanding enthusiasm has researched, edited and published a 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary LBBNZ magazine, publishes a quarterly national newsletter, participates in Limousin New Zealand Newsletter (Mar 2013)

the management of the South Island Bull Trial, and on top of all of that, has been at the helm of organising this year's 40<sup>th</sup> LBBNZ AGM and festivities in Nelson.

The LBBNZ council continues to assist and enhance the breed in NZ, encouraging all breeders with the promotion of their stud stock, registering and recording their herds, making use of the genetic opportunities available and sharing the knowledge of success for the greater Limousin family.

Daryl Bott  
Chariperson

## **LBBNZ election results**

Three nominations were received for the three vacant positions on your Management Committee.

The following were duly elected with their term commencing at this year's AGM:

Natalie Roberts (Snake Gully)

Daryl Bott (Phoenix)

Gary Kennett (Piwakawaka)

They join current elected member Peta Lean. Daryl Bott also continues as the elected ALBS Director on the Committee.

Our sincere thanks go to Stephen Clearwater for his many years of service to this Committee including four years as its Chair. During his term as Chair he oversaw the post-transition period to ALBS.

## Proto testing & DNA typing

Having your next season's sires proto tested early is a sound management practice. Please send hair samples in a suitably labelled envelope to Daryl Bott, Waiau Pa Road, RD 4, Pukekohe 2679. Ph (09) 232 1468.

It also makes sense to collect at the same time a second hair sample from potential sires and send it away to Australia for DNA typing. The lab can also test for the F94L gene at the same time for no extra cost. Contact the ALBS office if you require a 'kit' or need further details of this process.

## Fees Charged by ALBS

A member has asked to have the costs of membership included in this newsletter. All amounts are in AUD\$.

### Annual Membership

\$170 (invoiced in December)

### Herd Inventory Fees

\$21/active cow over two years of age (invoiced May and reduced to \$19 cow if paid by end July)

### Reinstatement Fee

\$25 (to reinstate an inactive female)

### Transfer Fees

\$15 when animals transferred from your herd to another herd

### Reissue Certificate

\$10

### Embryo recording fee

\$5 per implanted embryo

## BREEDPLAN membership (optional)

1-20 cows \$85

21-50 cows \$110,

51+ cows, \$135 plus \$4/active cow (invoiced July)

## Sale Catalogues

Web only \$3 per lot and web plus bromide \$5 (provided information is provided on an Excel spreadsheet)

## DNA typing/parentage test

\$26 [Note that the test for F94L can be done at the same time as typing at no extra cost.]

There are other DNA tests available for colour, horn/poll proto etc.

Late fees can be quite significant so please be prompt with your calf registrations this season!

To avoid late fees the calves need to be registered prior to nine months of age. If the calf is between 9 and 12 months the penalty is \$11 and if the calf is over 12 months the penalty is \$22!

## Malvern A & P Show

The Malvern Show was held at Sheffield, North Canterbury, on Saturday 23 March. Although many of the regional shows now lack strong cattle sections, this show continues to be well supported by local breeders.

The Ben More team (James' family) showed two very nice and super quiet yearling heifers. One of these, Gina, and led by Bridget James was judged best Limousin heifer. Their other heifer, Gemma, led by Duncan James had come 3<sup>rd</sup> in the All Breeds at Christchurch Show last November



The Piwakawaka team (Gary Kennett & Marilyn Montgomery) also showed two heifers; one yearling and one two year old. The older Florence came 2<sup>nd</sup> in the European class and the Judge commented that there would have been nothing between her and the first placed Charolais if she had had a calf-at-foot.

The three yearlings were a very even line and proved a challenge for the judge to separate them out. [All three have been PTIC to a Guardian bull so their progeny are eagerly awaited!]

Duncan James went on to win the senior handler competition against much older competitors.

It was wonderful to hear the very positive comments about the Limousin line-up at the Malvern Show.



## South Island Bull Trial Update

**SALE DATE: Monday 20 May, 1 pm  
Dunsandel**

The 5<sup>th</sup> South Island Limousin Bull Trial is progressing very well. They were weighed again at the beginning of March and their average weight was 607kg.

Whilst three bulls stand out in terms of size, the group is probably the most even line-up in five years. Their temperament as a group is outstanding.

Two bulls weighed in excess of 700kg (744kg and 722kg) which is impressive given their age.

The sale will again include a number of quality heifers and PTIC cows.

Catalogues will be posted out late April.

Warrick James (03) 318 2352

## North Island Bull Trial Update

**SALE DATE: Tuesday 4 June, 1 pm  
Morrinsville**

The 19<sup>th</sup> North Island Limousin Bull Trial is also going well with 18 bulls remaining on trial. They were weighed again late February with a pleasing average weight of 554kg. Top weight was an impressive 696kg.

As expected the North Island drought has certainly placed pressure on the trial farm.

The group remains a more even line than last year with more consistency in type.

Catalogues will be posted out early June.

Daryl Bott (09) 232 1468

## 19th SNAKE GULLY ANNUAL BULL SALE

**SALE DATE: Tuesday 11 June, 1pm**  
**Maungakarama Sale Yards**

Approximately 16 bulls will be presented for sale on 11 June from AI joins including Goldenview Krugerrand, Urban Cowboy, Tow Truck, Senator, and Sauvignon.



Snake Gully Expensive, a black bull by Premier Temptress Z16/Premier Dodge Ram and imported from Australia, will also be sold having been used as a Snake Gully stud sire for the past two years.

Snake Gully Galaxy, a black bull from an embryo imported from Australia out of Premier Temptress Z16/Wulfs Shop Talk, will also be up for sale.

Natalie Roberts reports, "The bulls are holding their own in the conditions with only a very limited amount of feed and half a bale of silage a day between 24. Luckily a neighbour had old silage from last year which we have purchased as usually the bulls are totally grass fed. Last weigh they averaged just over 600 kilos."

"With only 15mm of rain since January things are starting to get desperate. We have even resorted to grazing the cows and calves most days on the road!"

Natalie Roberts (09) 437 7944

## Early Weaning Benefits

*An Australian animal nutritionist, David Ginter, advocates **early weaning** as a beneficial management tool. He has advised a number of NZ commercial and stud breeders over recent years with pleasing results.*

### **Capturing the genetic potential for growth, reproduction and feed conversion efficiency through early weaning.**

Post weaning growth rate and feed conversion efficiency are fundamentally determined by both the bodyweight and level of rumen development achieved by the point of weaning.

Bodyweight is important because it determines feed intake and therefore, potential growth. In practice however, once calves achieve a bodyweight of 150 -160 kg they're able to consume sufficient high quality pasture to maintain excellent weight gains.

Rumen development is equally critical to both short and long term performance. Physically small and sterile at birth the Rumen does not become functional until about 4 weeks of age. Development over the next 4 to 8 weeks is rapid and includes a substantial increase in size, microbial population and most importantly the absorptive ability of the internal lining of the Rumen Wall (Epithelium). The network of blood vessels surrounding the Rumen designed to carry nutrient absorbed through the Epithelium to the rest of the body is also developing rapidly.

Full Rumen functionality is achieved at about 10 -12 weeks of age. In essence this means that the calf has now achieved the status of an 'adult' ruminant capable of deriving the largest proportion of its energy requirement from the by-products of fermentation of feedstuffs in the Rumen. These by-products or Volatile Fatty Acids are absorbed into the Epithelium, metabolised to new compounds, and then transported via the bloodstream for use as energy substrates around the body.

### **Efficiency of Nutrient Uptake & Distribution.**

Other than having access to a supply of feedstuffs that promote a continuing and stable

fermentation process, fully functional ruminants also rely heavily on the efficiency with which Volatile Fatty Acids are both absorbed and distributed from the Rumen.

To this extent, the efficiency of conversion of feed to meat or milk in all ruminants is conditional on the level of development of both the Rumen Epithelium and the richness of the surrounding blood supply.

Young animals that suffer from a lack of development of the Epithelium, and in particular poor formation of those small protrusions in the rumen wall designed to increase the internal surface area called Papillae, are at a significant risk of reduced growth and vigour in the post weaning period. Under these circumstances genetic potential for feed conversion efficiency, weight gain, and adult size are often compromised.

There's also reasonable evidence to suggest that lifetime feed conversion efficiency is influenced by early physiological development of the rumen.

### **Key Factors in Rumen Development**

Extensive work in the dairy industry has shown that exposure to diets containing both roughages and fermentable carbohydrates early in the calf's life significantly advances the development of both the Rumen Epithelium & it's associated blood supply. Calves fed like this also begin exhibiting the rumen muscle contractions required to stir contents for efficient digestion, at an earlier age.

Calves exposed to milk only diets on the other hand show retarded development of the Rumen Epithelium, reduced Rumen blood supply and may go for extended periods without exhibiting muscle contractions.

Importantly, advanced Rumen physiological development is shown to significantly reduce potential weaning age, and increase post weaning growth and development.

Post weaning trials comparing the feed conversion efficiency of early weaned versus late weaned animals also show that early weaned animals can be up to twice as efficient at converting feed to meat as their late weaned siblings.

Research & trial literature commonly suggests that early weaned calves can be expected to achieve feed conversion efficiencies as low as 4-4.5 : 1 or 4 -4.5 kilograms of feed consumed for every kilogram of weight gained.

### **Weaning age, herd fertility and stocking rate**

There is significant evidence to show that removal of the suckling calf causes hormonal changes in the cow that stimulate oestrus.

Trial work at Oklahoma State University has shown that first calving heifers whose calves were weaned early had their first cycle 20% earlier than those whose calves were weaned at the normal age. In the same study mature cows whose calves were weaned early had their first cycle 43% earlier than those whose calves were weaned at the normal age.

Conception rates were also 39% higher in heifers with early weaned calves compared with those whose calves were weaned at the normal age and 17% higher in mature cows with early weaned calves.

Fertility responses to early weaning also reflect the influence of nutrition and most particular energy balance on the reproductive efficiency of the breeding unit. Lactation nearly doubles the energy & protein requirements of a beef cow and this forces a requirement for access to increased quality & quantity of pasture. The longer the interval between calving and weaning the greater the consumption of high value pasture resources in the inefficient process of conversion of feed to milk in the cow and then to meat again in the calf.

Early weaning reduces the length of time cows are at risk of poor energy balance increasing the likelihood of a more rapid return to oestrus. It also substantially reduces the individual demand for pasture or feed resources and therefore delivers the potential for higher stocking rates.

### **Old Systems and New Protocols**

Traditional weaning practices are mismatched with the need for increased production efficiency because they inherently reduce rather than enhance the genetic potential for growth and feed conversion efficiency in developing progeny.

Unfortunately, current weaning management systems disregard much of our fundamental technical understanding of the nutritional factors influencing physiological development in the young calf. At best, producers who continue to wean as they have always done run the risk of limiting their return on investment from high performance genetics. At worst they contribute to the perpetuation of low efficiency animal production systems.

Like many animal production management issues, weaning should not be viewed in isolation, but rather as part of a continuum of good production and nutritional management.

To that end, good weaning starts with correct pre-calving preparation of the cow using simple techniques designed to increase early lactational performance. This underpins rapid growth in the newborn calf in turn producing greater bodyweights at earlier age.

Higher bodyweights at an earlier age coupled with the correct pre-weaning and weaning management system significantly enhance the opportunity to increase rumen physiological development, minimise stress and in turn prepare the calf for high post weaning growth.

There are a number of simple management and nutritional techniques that need to be employed in this process. And producers who have used them report outstanding results in post weaning growth and performance.

Above all, these techniques form part an advanced package of management protocols designed to promote fundamental change in the total productivity of beef enterprises and include newer and better systems for managing animals at all critical stages of the production cycle.

### **A prescription for weaning**

The fundamental principles of this protocol are as follows:

1. Yard weaning including a minimum 48 hrs stay in the yards for freshly weaned progeny.
2. Effective management of the cow & calf on the day prior to weaning including the use of specifically formulated electrolytes on hay or in water.

3. Managing dehydration/rehydration (again using the right electrolytes) in the yarded weaners for the duration of their stay as well as for at least 48 hours after they've been returned to the paddock.
4. Managing the cow in the 24 hours immediately after weaning.
5. Recognising and treating for the impact of weaning stress on immune response and growth rate in both the cow and calf by using additional treatments, particularly of Zinc, Vitamin A, Vitamin B12 & Vitamin E.
6. Supporting the critical micro and macro nutrient requirements of the calf in the 4 -6 weeks post weaning.

This article was written by David Ginter (DRD Management, South Australia) and first appeared 26 Feb 2003

<http://www.livestockezy.com/postings/10844/news/News7366.html>: 26 Feb 2003

## **NZ Website**

The NZ website ([www.limousin.co.nz](http://www.limousin.co.nz)) is being regularly updated. Please remember that you are welcome to advertise stock in the "for sale" section.

If you have any articles, photos or experiences of interest please contact Gary at [gmkennett@paradise.net.nz](mailto:gmkennett@paradise.net.nz) or phone (03) 329 6380.

### **LBBNZ Management Committee**

**Daryl Bott** (Chairperson) ph (09) 232 1468

**Gary Kennett** (Secretary) ph (03) 329 6380

**Peta Lean** (Treasurer) ph (07) 824 0948

**Stephen Clearwater** ph (03) 201 6282

**Daryl Bott** (ALBS Director) ph (09) 232 1468



## 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration!

The inaugural meeting of the NZ Limousin Cattle Breeders' Society Inc. was held in Palmerston North on Tuesday 6 March 1973 so 2013 represents the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our breed society.

We will be celebrating this important milestone as part of the 2013 AGM & Conference in Nelson (25–27 April).

Registrations are very encouraging. There is still time to register for this historical few days.

## What do you need to do?

1. Book your accommodation – we have negotiated a fantastic room rate of \$119ppn at the Trailways Hotel, 66 Trafalgar Street, Nelson. Ph 0800872459 or email [enquiries@trailwayshotel.co.nz](mailto:enquiries@trailwayshotel.co.nz) to reserve your room. A full breakfast is available in the restaurant @ \$22. Please book as soon as possible.
2. Register your interest in attending with Gary Kennett – ph (03) 329 6380 or email [gmkennett@paradise.net.nz](mailto:gmkennett@paradise.net.nz)
3. Post your registration fee of \$80 pp to South Island Limousin Breeder's Group, 579 Old Tai Tapu Road, RD 2, Christchurch 7672. This covers the van hire, provision of Limousin meat at the BBQ and dinner, and administration costs. Please contact Gary if you have special requirements (e.g. will be using your own vehicle, wheel chair access required).

## Itinerary

Thursday 25 April (Anzac Day) – travel day to get to Nelson with an evening 'natter and noggin'.

Please advise Gary if you need to be collected from the Airport (after 1pm).

Friday 26 April – Leaving Nelson at 8.30am travel to Kaiteriteri by minibus and cruise the Abel Tasman National Park by launch up to Totaranui (cost \$85 pp).

Stop at Bark Bay on our return and enjoy a Limousin BBQ on the beach. This boat can accommodate wheelchairs.

On our way back to Nelson visit the World of Wearable Arts and Classic Cars Museum (entry \$16pp).

Informal evening meal.

Saturday 27 April – Leaving Nelson at 9am to visit the stunning Marlborough Sounds and a Limousin Stud in the Rai Valley.

Enjoy a relaxing lunch at a local winery.

Technical Session.

LBBNZ AGM at Trailways Hotel.

Drinks from 6pm with 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebratory dinner (about \$65pp) at the Tides Restaurant, Trailways Hotel (7pm).

Sunday 28 April – leave Nelson and return home. A van will be available until lunchtime to take you to the airport.

We hope you can join us to help celebrate this wonderful occasion!