

# Aubrac Cattle Society Newsletter

## September 2024



### Upcoming Farm Walks

There are two upcoming farm walks planned for late September and October.

Our first farm walk will take place on **Saturday 28th September at 1pm** on the farm of Jim & Ann Woulfe, Ballyclough, Mallow, Co. Cork P51W9A0. Like many of our members Jim and Ann are relatively new breeders having established their herd in 2020. In this short period of time Jim and Ann have built up a herd of quality Aubrac stock and have bred the first ever polled Aubrac bull to enter Irish AI, Ballyclough Theo Pp (AU1515). As Jim and Ann are progressive and science focused breeders there are sure to be many topics of interest to be discussed on the day. **This event is especially for breeders. Refreshments will be provided and anyone planning to attend is asked to contact the society office on (051) 641106 or by email [info@aubrac.ie](mailto:info@aubrac.ie)**

Speakers to include:

- Guest speaker from ICBF
- Martin Kavanagh, CEO Munster Bovine
- Dr. Niamh Larkin MVD Buttevant Veterinary Clinic
- Francis Donohoe- discussion on the ideal Aubrac animal

\* Also present will be a number of Dairy Farmers who use Aubrac Bulls as a preferred choice in their breeding programme and who will share their views on same.

The second farm walk will take place on the farm of Cathal & William Bannon, Lea, Portarlinton Co. Laois R32 A276 on **Saturday 12th October**. Cathal & William run the Wilcot Herd as well as having commercial stock and a dairy enterprise on the farm. The dairy cows are crossed with Aubrac bulls and there will be Aubrac X Dairy stock of various ages on display.

The Wilcot herd received the first-place prize for small pedigree herds in the most recent herds competition which is a testament to the quality of stock in the herd.

Further details will be circulated when available.

### 2024 Show Newsletter

A special show newsletter is being prepared for 2024, if any breeders have pictures of Aubrac stock from shows around the country please email them to [info@aubrac.ie](mailto:info@aubrac.ie)

## **Elite Show and Sale Tullamore Livestock Mart Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> October**

The Aubrac Society Elite Show and Sale will take place in Tullamore Livestock Mart on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> October. All stock will be 4 or 5 stars, pre-inspected before the sale and all stock will be export tested. The minimum price for bulls on the day is €2500. **This should be an annual day out for all Aubrac breeders, to meet your fellow breeders, and maybe even purchase to upgrade your own herd.**

To receive a copy of the catalogue please contact the society office on (051) 641106 or by email [info@aubrac.ie](mailto:info@aubrac.ie)

## **The Stock Bull is Half the Herd**

With the upcoming elite show and sale just around the corner it is worth reminding ourselves that the stock bull is half the herd. Without going down the route of AI, the most cost-effective way of improving the genetics of our herds is to buy a top-quality Stock Bull. As the saying goes “An ounce of breeding is worth a tonne of feeding”, this is especially true for pedigree breeders as we are all interested in our animals’ genetics.

Furthermore, a top-quality stock bull will hold his value as when the time comes to sell him you are selling a proven top-quality bull rather than a lesser bull which will not demand the same high price or may only be suitable for the factory.

## **Time to Cull?**

The decision to cull can be very easy or a difficult decision, but there is nothing like the thought of the winter months ahead to focus the mind and look at the stock we are carrying over this expensive period.

On spring calving herds now is a good time to offload empty cows, while the temptation can sometimes be there to try them again next year, the right thing to do for your pocket and your herd is to cull. It is also a good time to walk through the herd and assess the quality of your cows and their calves with a view as to what should be culled next year.

On Autumn calving herds it is the ideal time to identify cows for culling before the next breeding season. It is a great opportunity to identify cows that are giving problems at calving time and mark them for culling.

For any breeders who do decide to cull cows the upcoming society sale presents the option to purchase a top-quality heifer or in-calf heifer to replace cull cows.

## **Aubrac Bulls in Irish AI Stations**

There have never been as many Aubrac bulls available in AI in Ireland. Each of the main AI companies have Aubrac bulls available. Check out the list in the next page:

Progressive Genetics/Munster bovine: **Turloughmore Magnificent, Mountcain Ondee, Turloughmore Nelson, Ballyclough Theo Pp, Duches**

Dovea Genetics: **Johnstown Nelson 1039, Deerpark Rowe**

Eurogene: **Cesar, Whitestown Leyland ET, Turloughmore Majestic**

Bova AI: **Deerpark Nevin, Johnstown Pirate 1670**

World Wide Sires: **Harmonieux**

Dunmasc Genetics: **Imperial GD, Napoleon GD**

Northern Ireland AI Services: **Genet, Marquis**

Aubrac Society: **Johnstown Prince 3530**

The Aubrac Society also provide straws from a range of Bulls from France.

Please encourage your neighbouring farmers to try out the breed, by using one of the above.

### **Ballyclough Theo Pp (AU1515)**

Ballyclough Theo is one of the most recent Aubrac bulls to enter Irish AI. He is the first polled Aubrac bull to enter Irish AI and is also the first Irish Aubrac bull from which AI straws have been exported to France which is a great achievement.

Theo semen is available through Progressive Genetics and Munster Bovine



# Synchronization Regimes for Beef Cows and Heifers

## Why should you consider synchronizing beef heifers or cows?

- Can be used to facilitate AI and the use of genetically superior bulls or to introduce bulls with high breeding values for maternal traits to produce replacement heifers
- Can be used to shorten the breeding season and allow for more compact calving
- Can be used to advance the breeding season for later calvers
- With fixed-time AI most cows can be bred on a particular day
- Can be used to induce heat in anoestrus cows. The conception rate achieved at the induced heat in these cows is generally low (30-50%). However, fertility at the next repeat heat is normal (55-70%)

Dairy cows usually resume cyclicity by day 42 post calving. In beef cows, suckling inhibition delays the resumption of cyclicity. In some herds, 30-40% of cows will still be in anoestrus 60 days after calving. When using these synchronization protocols, it is vital that you adhere to the Voluntary Waiting Period (VWP). This is the time between calving and when you choose to rebreed that cow. In beef cows, the recommended VWP is approximately 50 days. If you have observed heat in these cows already, your conception rate will be higher.

Day 0 (e.g Monday morning)	Day 1-6	Day 7 (Monday 8am)	Day 8 (Tuesday 8am)	Day 10 (Thursday 4pm)
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>GnRH (Receptal, Ovarelin) 2ml into muscle</li> <li>Insert CIDR or PRID</li> </ol>		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>PGF2a (Estramate, Lutalyse) 2ml into muscle</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>PGF2a (Estramate, Lutalyse) 2ml into muscle 24 hours after the first injection</li> <li>Remove CIDR/PRID</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>FTAI 56 hours after removal of the coil</li> <li>GnRH (Receptal, Ovarelin) 2ml into muscle</li> </ol>

The cost associated with FTAI protocols is about 32-35 euro per cow plus vet call out fees. Average conception rates are about 55-70%. However, with optimal BCS of an average of 3.0 and adequate levels of mineral supplementation (especially copper, iodine and selenium,) conception rates have been reported up to 85%.

