



Irish Aubrac Cattle Breed Society Ltd.

Tel: 051 641106 Email: info@aubrac.ie

www.aubrac.ie

6th EDITION - 2025

Your No. 1 Provider of Superior Aubrac Genetics

AU1515 Ballyclough Theo P



- Exceptional young bull from a proven superior breeding cow.
- Theo is very correct with exceptional muscle development.
- Heterozygous polled.

AU2635 Deerpark Ultra



- No. 1 AU available on Dairy-Beef Index.
- No. 1 AU available on Replacement Index.
- Son of the renowned Deerpark Nevin.

AU4683 Turloughmore Magnificent



- Proven Superstar.
- No. 1 proven AU available on Replacement Index, €230 @91% Rel.
- No. 1 proven AU available on Terminal Index, €146 @ 95% Rel.

Data: ICBF May '25

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progressivegenetics.ie
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Contents

Chairman's Address	3
Connecting with Irish Aubrac Society Online	5
Schedule of Fees 2025	7
Irish Aubrac Cattle Breed Society Ltd.....	9
Preparing Aubrac Cattle For Summer Shows/Show & Sales	11
Standards of the Aubrac Cattle Breed	15
Aubrac - Delivering for Farmers, Butchers and Consumers	19
Pedigree Herd	21
Organic Herd Profiles.....	25-29
Dairy - Beef Profile.....	31
Suckler Herd Profile	35
Dairy Herd Profiles	37, 39
Myostatin in Aubrac Cattle	41
Sample Aubrac Kill-Out Results	44, 45
Irish Aubrac Society Membership Distribution	47
The Irish Aubrac Story.....	55
Aubrac Breed - ICBF Update.....	57
The Walsh Family Honoured with the 2025 Hall of Fame Award.....	65
What should we look for in an Aubrac cow?	67
Helpful Hints For New Breeders.....	69
Using Commercial Beef Value (CBV) when purchasing Aubrac cattle ...	73
Aubrac – Top of the class in Performance Evaluations!	77
Aubrac Bulls available in Irish AI 2025	81
Membership Forms	87

Thank You

The Aubrac Cattle Breed Society Ltd. wishes to thank all those who sponsor classes at the various shows, help prepare and staff the various stands and judge animals. The society wish to thank Union Aubrac for all their continued support and assistance with our breed development programme.

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Chairman's Address

It gives me great pleasure to be involved in the publication of this, the
SIXTH EDITION of the Irish Aubrac Cattle Breed Society Journal.

2025 has seen cattle achieving record prices, far exceeding most farmers' expectations. It has definitely increased interest in beef production, but has also caused some feeders to question the cost of buying back. In this climate, Aubracs have been selling very well, both for production and breeding.

Though contentious with some breed societies and breeders, ICBF figures provides an essential guide for beef and dairy farmers in their breeding decisions. The Eurostar figures show that Aubrac is top breed for Replacement Index, the top breed for Dairy Beef Index, and 4th breed for Terminal Index. All this shows that Aubrac should be the breed of choice for both beef and dairy farmers!

In this publication, we profile beef and dairy farmers that are using Aubrac. There are killout results shown also, that demonstrate the excellent performances of Aubrac. Some farmers nowadays, have their "head turned" by bonus schemes without taking sufficient note of final return, and the overall profit. This is where Aubracs excel, along with an ease of management!

Organic farming and farming for nature has become increasingly popular, and some Aubrac breeders have converted to organic, and organic farmers have started breeding Aubrac. Here in this Journal, we profile three breeders that have made that change.

Using an Aubrac stock bull, in a farmer's suckler or dairy herd, is a great aid for ease of management, and to produce top quality beef cattle. Sometimes AI is required, whether that is as an alternative to a stock bull, to produce replacement heifers, or to try out the breed for the first time. Thankfully, all AI companies have Aubrac bulls, and we highlight them here in this Journal.

Thank you to our Herdbook Secretary, Angela Lacey for the hard work she continually does on behalf of the Aubrac Society. Thanks to members of the Aubrac Council, and their families, for the time they give, voluntarily, promoting the breed and managing the Society. Thanks also to the PRO Committee who put in a lot of work compiling this Journal, and indeed to Richard Cave of Cavern Design, who is always so professional and helpful.

Whether you are an existing Breeder, or a farmer who is considering Aubracs, I hope you find this Journal both interesting and informative. And remember there are always ways of improving our farming, but you are on the right track with Aubrac!

James Donnellan

Johnstown Aubracs

Breeders of Champions

Est. 2004



Daughter of Tullamore Overall Champion 2019. Aubrac purchased in France by Francis' daughter, Jennifer, when she was aged 13.



Johnstown Prince 3520. AI: Bó Sires. Half brother to Tullamore reserve champion in October 2024.



Irish Aubrac Herds Competition 2023 Winner - Larger Herds



1st Prize and Overall Reserve Champion at Premier Sale in Tullamore in October 2024. Sold for €5,000

Starting with 24 top-quality pedigree in-calf heifers imported from France in 2004, the Johnstown Herd now comprises nearly 100 pedigrees.

From the very beginning, our focus has been on maintaining the integrity and exceptional qualities of the Aubrac breed, ensuring every animal in our herd meets the highest standards of health, fertility, and conformation. We continually introduce new bloodlines through carefully selected imports.

With 40 years of experience in suckler farming, I can say the Aubrac is the closest to a perfect suckler – economical to feed, highly fertile, with a short gestation period, ease of calving, and excellent milk production.

We supply pedigree breeding bulls to pedigree breeders, commercial suckler farmers, and dairy farmers, with consistently positive feedback.

Bulls sold to the Gene Ireland programme:

Johnstown Ian 1039
Johnstown Loyd 1039
Johnstown Keith 6014 ET

Bulls sold to AI stations:

Johnstown Loyd 1039 – Progressive Genetics
Johnstown Nelson 1039 – Dovea Genetics
Johnstown Pirate 1670 – Bova
Johnstown Prince 3530 – Bó Sires

Overall Champion at Tullamore Show:

2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2016, 2019

Reserve Champion at Tullamore Show:

2017 and 2018

Overall Aubrac Champion at Beef Expo 2010

Winners in the first herds competition, judged by French technicians in 2023 for 10 cows or over.

Francis Donohoe, Johnstown, Collinstown,
Mullingar, Co. Westmeath N91 NW53

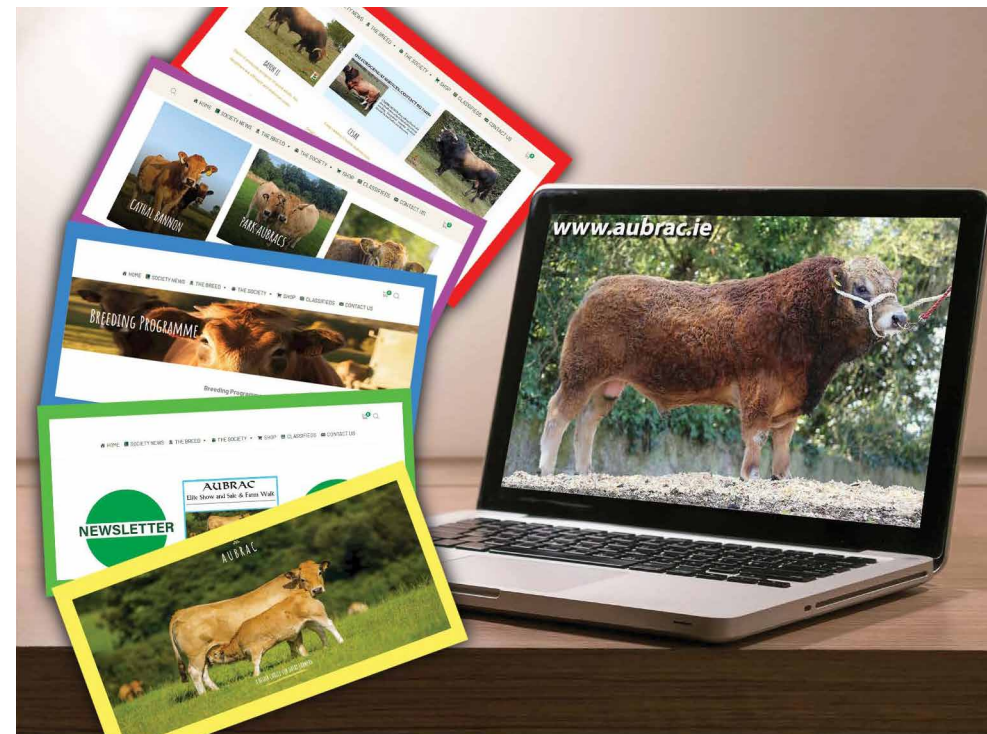
Tel (087) 2518332
or (044) 9664665

Connecting with Irish Aubrac Society Online

It has never been easier to continue to connect with Irish Aubrac Cattle Society online, through our website and several social media platforms.



info@aubrac.ie IrishAubracSociety @AubracSociety IrishAubracSociety @irishaubrac1093



WEBSITE

Our website **www.aubrac.ie** remains the number one source for all content.

Information about AI Bulls, publications and statistics, mart reports, show results, useful tips, numerous herd profiles, downloadable forms and the latest emerging news topics, are all to be found at the single click of a button.

Our PRO team continue to bring fresh content on a regular basis in order to keep our breeders up to date.

All submissions should be sent to

irishaubracpro@aubrac.ie


Full Symbol Organic since 2017

Cloonmore Aubracs

Est. 2011

★★★★★

Using the Best AI Genetics from Ireland and France
BULLS AND HEIFERS FOR SALE ANNUALLY



James Donnellan, Cloonmore, Dunmore, Co. Galway 086 8379057
VISITORS WELCOME Email: jamesdonnellan79@gmail.com

Irish Aubrac Society Ltd. Schedule of Fees 2025

	Members	Non-Members
Annual membership	€65	
New Membership/Prefix/ First Timer's Share Fee (Share Value €1)	€65	
Calf registration: - Female at birth (Requires genomic test before Sale)	€50	€100
Calf registration: - Male at birth (All males require full parentage verification)	€40	€100
Replacement certificate or certificate in new owner's name	€20	
Importation, female and male - needs parentage verification before it can be used on Pedigree herds	€100	€150
Registration of Embryo	€20	€40
Amended Embryo	€15	
Amend Certificate Details	€25	
Appeal Fee	€65	
Late Registration Fee for Males (effective 1st Jan 2024)	€80	
Late Registration Fee for Females (effective 1st Jan 2024)	€90	
Animals not paid within 5 months of registration will be treated as late registration	€100	

NOTES:

All heifers registered over 12 months of age have to be genomic tested for parentage.

Late penalty will apply to all animals not registered as pedigree at birth.

Direct Debit system available. Please request form if required.
 Females cost €45 via Direct Debit.

AI straws available from Society office. Call 051 641106 for application form.
 (Cost will depend on Straws ordered)

Please note that all membership will be due on the 1st of January each year.
2025 = V 2026 = W 2027 = A 2028 = B

Members' accounts not paid at the end of the year 31/12 will not be allowed to register stock the following year.



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Irish Aubrac Cattle Breed Society Ltd.

Registrations and correspondence:

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www.aubrac.ie

Tel: 051 641106

Email: info@aubrac.ie



AUBRAC COUNCIL COMMITTEE 2025

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	James Whelehan	087 7947569	dairwoodfurniture@gmail.com

Merville AUBRAC FARM

Herd Established in 2002



"It's all in the breeding!"

James & Deirbhíle Byrne, Merville, Colbinstown, Co. Kildare, W91 H9PK
 Mobile: 087 0567053 Email: mervilleaubracfarm@gmail.com
PEDIGREE HEIFERS ALWAYS AVAILABLE THROUGHOUT THE YEAR!

Burkes Aubracs

Breeding Quality Aubrac Cattle with a focus on Docility, Hardiness & Breed Character

Follow us on Social Media for more!!!



Burkes Aubracs
 Est. 2017

Pedigree and Commercial Stock Available For Sale
 Occasionally: Contact Daniel Burke 087-2643727

Preparing Aubrac Cattle For Summer Shows/Show & Sales

Basil Bothwell, ICBF Scorer, was asked by the Irish Aubrac Cattle Society to give his views on what he considers to be important factors in selecting and preparing animals for both show and sale.

In summary, there are 5 points which I consider to be important. These include selection, feeding, training, washing and grooming.

1. Selection of animals you want to bring to the show or sale:

The show and sale is your opportunity to present your animals and to promote your herd and your breed. Therefore, you should select animals of reasonable quality with no major defects. If you have an animal which you consider not to be of a reasonable quality or an animal which has a bad temperament, then this animal should not be sold to another breeder. This would only create bad publicity for your herd and for your breed.

2. Feeding of animals for the show or sale:

After selecting the animals that you want to show or bring to a sale, you should start them on some meal immediately. For this reason, it is important to make your selections early, so that you have enough time to feed them and have the animals in prime condition before the date of the event. I would suggest that 3 months is needed to get your animals looking well. Some people may think that their cattle will thrive on grass alone. However, when you start to train them to lead, have the animals travelling on a trailer and have the animals standing at the show or sale for a few hours, they will empty out quickly and look poor. Therefore, I would recommend feeding bulls 4-5 kg of meal and heifers 3-4 kg of meal daily. This

will also help to socialise your animals and leave them easier to handle.

Approximately 10 days before the event, I would recommend putting your animals into a shed or onto a bare paddock and feeding them some hay along with the meal. This helps to dry out their manure up and will help to keep them much cleaner for when you bring them to the show or sale. Soft grass is not recommended because it passes through their bodies quickly and leaves their ends very dirty, especially after travelling.

3. Training animals for the show or sale:

Training an animal is not too difficult. Firstly, you should put the animal into a cattle crush and fasten a halter to it. Next, you should tie the animal to the front of the crush. It is not advisable to tie the animal to the back or to the middle of the crush because if the animal tries to move forward and attempts to break away from the rope, this may cause its neck to double back. Then if the animal falls, it may get seriously injured. Therefore, you should only tie the animal to the front of the crush. After tying the animal to the crush, you should leave it for an hour or two. However, you should frequently check on the animal while tied. You should repeat this process once a day for 2-3 days. Then when the animal is used to being tied up, you should take it out of the crush and tie it to the side of the cattle crush. Once again, you should leave the animal tied to the side of the crush for 1-2 hours and do this

TULLIG Aubrac Herd Est. 2004

VISITORS WELCOME ANYTIME

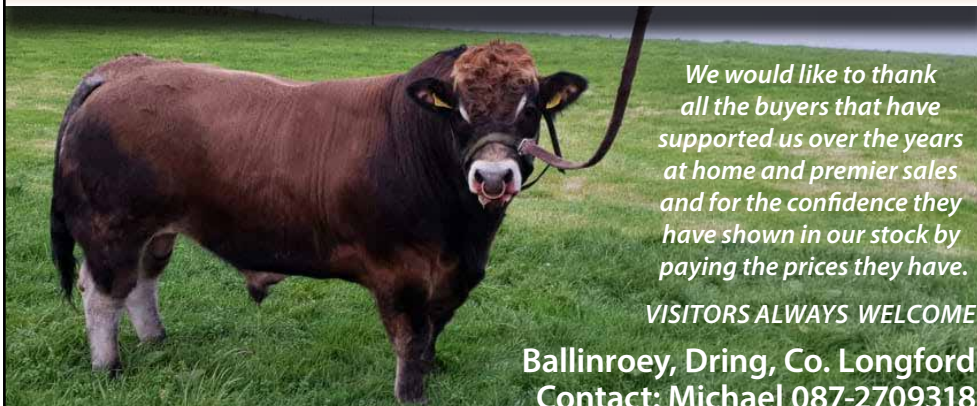


QUALITY CATTLE WITHOUT THE HASSLE
Selection of males and females for sale at all times

MIKE DELANEY
TULLIG, KENMARE, CO. KERRY

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Email: tulligagri@gmail.com

Ashbrook Pedigree Aubracs



*We would like to thank
all the buyers that have
supported us over the years
at home and premier sales
and for the confidence they
have shown in our stock by
paying the prices they have.*

VISITORS ALWAYS WELCOME

Ballinroey, Dring, Co. Longford
Contact: Michael 087-2709318



for 2 days. On the second day, you can take the animal out into a small enclosed yard and begin to lead it. Make sure to hold the rope tightly and if the animal tries to get away, pull hard on the rope against it. Then when the animal stops trying to escape, scratch it on the back or comb it and let it know that you mean it no harm. Try to walk holding the lead with someone to drive the animal after you. After approximately 2 days, you should have the animal walking. Training should be started at least 4 weeks before the date of the event.

4. Washing animals before the show or sale

The day before the event, you should wash the animal with a small power washer and some shampoo. Rub the shampoo well into the hair and coat, adding water and scrubbing well with your fingers. Then wash out the shampoo and rub the water out of the animal's coat with the back of a cattle comb. Afterwards, comb the animal's

hair up. If you have a blow dryer for cattle, this is a great way to dry the hair afterwards. Then, the day before the show or sale, do not give the animal any water. By doing this, you help to dry out the animal's dung and therefore the animal travels much cleaner the next day.

5. Grooming and presenting your animals on the day

On the day of the event, you should arrive early and get your animals off the trailer and into the pens in good time. Then, wash off any bits of dirt the animal may have picked up while travelling and dry it. Comb the animal's hair up and rub some cattle soap into the hair. The soap will help to keep the hair standing and makes a massive difference to the look and style of your animals. Also, if you are good at clipping, clip the animal's top line and underneath the belly. This is another thing which will improve the look of your animal. Remember, this is your opportunity to showcase and promote your herd and your breed.





GOLDEN VALE LIVESTOCK MART TULLAMORE

WEANLING SALES EVERY MONDAY EVENING

Cows, Calves, Bulls, Heifers. Sale commences 4pm

SHEEP SALES EVERY WEDNESDAY 11.00am

CATTLE SALE EVERY THURSDAY

Dry Cows, Bullocks, Heifers. Sale commences 10.00pm

Host to many of the Pedigree Cattle & Sheep Show & Sales

Enquiries: GVM, Tullamore, Co. Offaly
Tel: 057 9321196



Standards of the Aubrac Cattle Breed

(As set by French Herd - Book)

A wheat-coloured coat, a beautiful head, its expressive eyes are outlined in black as with make-up, the muzzle is short and wide, the extremities are black, lyre-shaped horns... The Aubrac is an unmistakable, rustic breed of beef cattle. Its attributes combine maternal qualities, ease of breeding and excellent beef traits.

AUBRAC, ATTRACTIVE AND PRODUCTIVE CATTLE

A LONG, WIDE BODY WITHOUT THE ROUNDNESS

A well-balanced, wide and flat pelvis
→ Easy calving

The topline is straight
→ Synonymous with longevity

Quality hind legs
A muscular rump
The hind legs are wide and thick without being heavy and are well-fleshed down to the hocks
→ Attractive beef traits

Underline close to the ground
The chest is deep and the ribs are well sprung
→ 1 Intake capacity
Stifle hangs relatively low
→ 1 Available volume for the digestive system
→ A valued asset for rough forage

Overall harmony: solid, robust animal
A somewhat short neck
The chest and loins are wide

COLOUR

Females: Fawn-coloured, solid but with varying shades, from wheat colour to pale grey. The shade of the coat is darker on the shoulders and on the rump.

Males: The forelegs and rump are almost black. The head is also nearly black, except for the wheat-coloured face and white halo surrounding the nose. The edge of the scrotum is black.



A BEAUTIFUL, EXPRESSIVE HEAD WITH PROTECTIVE BLACK MUCOUS MEMBRANES

Horns: (if animal is not de-horned)
Tips are black and the base is as white as possible
♀ : pointing obliquely and slightly toward the front, they then straighten out and then spiral back
♂ : a flatter shape

Eyes:
Lively, outlined in black (rim of the eyelids and eyelashes are black)
Surrounded by a white halo

Forehead: square

Ears:
Medium-sized, fine, edged with black hair

Face: flat and straight

Tongue:
At 2/3, slate colour to black

Muzzle:
Short and wide
→ Cuts wide swaths of grass
Mucous membranes surrounded by a white halo

LEGS WELL-ADAPTED TO REARING CONDITIONS, MAKING THE BREED A VALUABLE ASSET IN ALL ENVIRONMENTS

Excellent Quality Plumb Lines

Short, fine and strong legs - Hind legs with strong hocks but not swollen - Black and solid hooves

→ Excellent adaptability to indoor conditions in the winter
→ Easily roams far and wide during the other seasons
→ Weight gain capacity during fattening period

TAIL

Fine, long, not rising at the root, blends smoothly into the body and ends in a black tassel.

10 GOOD REASONS TO REAR AUBRAC CATTLE

Why the Aubrac? Because it is easy to manage with simple feed requirements, these qualities synonymous with good profitability.

1

EASY CALVING

RESULT:

- Ease of calving due to impressive pelvic size and calves averaging from 33 to 39kg at birth.
- Low mortality rate: at weaning we have one calf per cow.
- Reduced labour (less work for breeder) and veterinary costs.

WHAT WE LOOK FOR:

Excellent **calving conditions**: ease of calving.

3

- Short breeding cycle ensures one calf per cow each year.

THUS, WE BENEFIT FROM:

EXCELLENT FERTILITY

WHAT WE LOOK FOR:

A **calving interval** close to 365 days; closely linked to excellent **fertility**.

2

MAXIMUM GROWTH FOR SUCKLING CALVES

RESULT:

- Reduction in costs for concentrates for calf growth, meaning weaned calves have better economic value at sale.

WHAT WE LOOK FOR:

Suckling Aptitude

A neat tidy, udder with a plentiful supply of milk to ensure the growth of her calf with minimum feed supplements. Butterfat content of Aubrac milk is excellent (average 4.2%), in France they are used to produce cheese.

4

TERMINAL CROSSBREEDING CAPACITY

RESULT:

- Enhances sought-after carcass traits and weight for beef cattle and thus offers better profitability.
- Meat to bone ratio is very high with very little waste from the carcase, making it an attractive animal for butchering.

5

REPRODUCTION LONGEVITY

RESULT:

- Less need for replacement heifers for herd renewal, therefore a higher number of animals for sale.

WHAT WE LOOK FOR:

A structurally sound animal, hardy, deep bodied with strong legs that can breed for a long time with high average herd calvings per cow figure.

6

EASE OF REARING

RESULT:

- A considerable number of cows per unit of labour, therefore meets current demands for larger herd sizes and less labour.

WHAT WE LOOK FOR:

Docile animals to ensure safe working conditions for breeders.

7

SELF-SUFFICIENT BREED

RESULT:

- The breeder can have time for other professional (dual-production, other job) or personal activities (notably family life).

8

EXCELLENT ADAPTABILITY IN ALL ENVIRONMENTS

RESULT:

- Capacity to attain a self-sufficient herd in terms of diet.
- Capacity to rear grassfed cattle on extensive pastures; contributes to animal well-being and premium products.

WHAT WE LOOK FOR:

Hardiness

9

SIMPLE FEED REQUIREMENTS

winter: silage/hay -
the rest of the year: grass

RESULT:

- Reap value from the farm's rough forage areas including more marginal areas.
- Aubracs have excellent feed conversion rates meaning a low finishing cost and reduced maintenance costs.

WHAT WE LOOK FOR:

A **deep chest** for optimised intake capacity.
Strong legs to easily roam in search of food and water, especially over extensive pastures.

10

PRIDE

- The pride of a breeder and their family in sustaining an environmentally-friendly system that keeps landscapes open and free.
- The pride of a breeder in contributing to the nourishment of their fellow citizens with a healthy, tasty, high-quality product.



The tough climate of its native Aubrac region, a highland zone, forged the Aubrac breed we know today. Its qualities make it economically viable in all environments.



In most Aubrac breeding operations, calving cycles are aligned with those of grass growth. Increases in feed requirements linked to suckling calves coincide with the period when grass is abundant.

Aubrac cattle are reared in open spaces, in environmentally-friendly conditions that keep landscapes open and free. These breeding operations are based on grassland resources, such as grass and hay, which do not pose threats to food security for humans and are genuine carbon sinks.

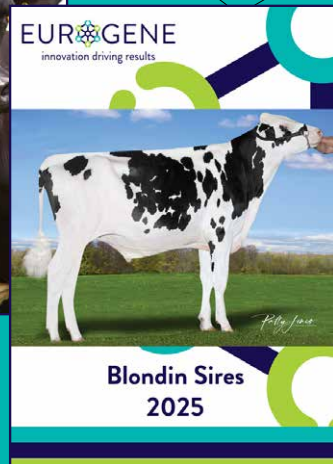
As a result, the Aubrac produces healthy, tasty meat that comes from animals that have been grassfed every day of their lives.

THE AUBRAC, IN LINE WITH TODAY'S FARMING

SYSTEMS FOR BREEDERS AND CONSUMERS



EUROGENE
innovation driving results



**For all your breeding needs
Eurogene has you covered**

**Now featuring the all-new Blondin Sires
exclusive to our line-up!**

**Scan the QR code to browse our
latest catalogues or contact your
local team member today**



**Contact us
052-744 2940**

**Visit our website
eurogene.ie**

Aubrac - Delivering for Farmers, Butchers and Consumers

Eddie Walsh and Sons Craft Butchers (EWS) is a multi-award winning butcher shop that has been operating since 1962. The butcher shop is well known by Aubrac breeders in Ireland due to their supply and nationwide delivery of Aubrac beef. In June 2024 Liam Walsh demonstrated how the Aubrac breed delivers for farmers, butchers and consumers using 4 Aubrac heifers as an example, bringing them from the farmyard through to the shop shelves. The heifers were Aubrac from Aubrac X Friesian cows. At 19 to 20 months old the heifers averaged 566kg liveweight with a dead weight of 341kg, this is an average kill out of 60.24%. This demonstrates the carcass quality of the breed that can add profit to finishing systems. Not only are the carcass weights and kill out % very impressive but the fact that this was achieved in stock that are 19 to 20 months means that in many calving systems only one winter is needed to finish cattle like these, reducing feed costs and increasing profits.



Aubrac heifers from
Au x FR dams
slaughtered recently



Animal	Live Weight	Dead Weight	Kill Out %
Aubrac Heifers 19 to 20 months	550	328	59.64
	555	333	60
	570	345	60.53
	590	358	60.68

The Aubrac breed is also delivering benefits to butchers. It is not surprising that a multi-award winning butcher shop such as EWS Craft Butchers has chosen Aubrac beef as the breed of choice for their shelves. In addition to the kill out of 60.24% the four heifers gave a carcass yield of 74.30% at 1013kg which Liam estimates to be 8-10% better than British breeds. This is an extra 81kg to 101kg of beef from these four carcasses compared to British breeds. In a difficult industry during a difficult year this can make the difference between a profitable business and a business that is struggling to break even.



In France, Aubrac beef is very highly regarded, demanding a premium price and featuring on the menu of many of the top French restaurants. It is lean with light marbling which helps to maintain the juiciness of the meat. Aubrac beef has a rich flavour, hitting the taste buds with an unmistakable authentic quality.

For the environmentally conscious consumer Aubrac beef ticks many boxes. The feed efficiency of Aubrac cattle along with their good carcass yields results in a lower carbon footprint per kg of beef produced from Aubrac cattle. As they are a hardy breed, Aubracs require less antibiotics and veterinary medicine. This reduces the amount of pharmaceuticals entering the food chain and the environment which has the knock-on effect of protecting human health. As a breed that can thrive on rough grassland, you will often see a herd of Aubrac cattle grazing on high nature value grassland which is helping to protect and enhance biodiversity.

Ballyclough

Aubrac
EST. 2020

**A Performance Recorded Herd
with Top Class Genetics**

High Health Status

**5 Star Bulls and Heifers for Sale
by Top AI Sires**

A HIGH INDEX HERD
CARRYING 5 STAR STATUS



Ballyclough Theo Pp

AU1515



Ballyclough, Mallow, Co. Cork

Contact Jim 086 256 7473

PEDIGREE HERD - The Ballyclough Aubrac Herd

Aubrac “fulfils the criteria” Jim Woulfe set out to achieve when he began establishing the pedigree Ballyclough Herd, which he runs with his wife, Ann.



Establishing a small beef herd in “a hobby farming” style was always on Jim’s bucket list, but the opportunity could only be realised when he retired from a busy career in the Agricultural Industry. Today, Jim has many external business interests but with a passion for farming and the farming way of life, he along with his wife, Ann, established their Ballyclough Aubrac herd in 2020 at Ballyclough, Mallow, Co. Cork.

Jim explained: “In planning for life after a busy career I spent a bit of time researching which breed would best meet some essential criteria I had set out for a beef enterprise.

“Key traits that I sought in an ideal beef animal were - docility, fertility, shapeliness, milky, calving ease and longevity with an ability to convert grass to beef in an efficient manner.”

“Naturally, the end market for such beef animals was a most important consideration. Having had various conversations with beef specialists I narrowed down the choice to a few breeds.”

“The decision to go the Aubrac route was arrived at after visiting a few different herds, chatting to experienced breeders as well as looking at future beef trends,” Jim added.

FOUNDATION STOCK & BREEDING POLICY

In establishing the herd, Jim selected females from proven cow families that fitted his breeding criteria and sourced foundation stock from the Calverstown, Mountcain, Turloughmore and Ballinclea herds.

In a short period of time, they have built

Ballinclea Aubracs Est. 1999



We are aiming to breed cattle with good maternal qualities, ease of calving and good feet. Winners of Herd with Best Udders in 2023 Herds Competition.

Ballinclea Aubracs
Ernest: 087 6737341

Ballinclea House, Donard,
Co. Wicklow, W91 YT68

All stock are Genotyped & Myostatin Tested
Heifers and bulls usually for sale.



up a high index herd of quality Aubrac stock comprising 22 Cows, 22 Calves, 8 In calf Heifers and have bred the first polled Aubrac bull to enter Irish AI.

The breeding programme is based on 100% AI and a synchronisation/fixed-time AI breeding protocol, which he emphasises is a significant advantage in being able to use AI for genetic gain to the fullest extent. A vasectomised Bull is run with the herd during breeding season to assist with heat detection.

Stock on the ground have been bred from sires such as Dauphin, Heritier, Turloughmore Magnificent, Deerpark Rowe, Johnstown Lloyd, Johnstown Prince and Tyrol. For polled breeding stock: Otto, Spirou PP and Remia PP are the choice.

The herd operates a firm culling policy: females must be docile, fertile, milky and breed a good quality calf every 365 days.

“Our breeding programme is focused on traits that are important to our customers – pedigree breeders, dairy and suckler farmers.

“Dairy customers are looking for calving ease, short gestation and high beef-sub index bulls to produce calves from the dairy herd with a high **CBV Index (Commercial Beef Value)**.

“Our suckler and pedigree customers are looking for what the Aubrac is all about – a balance of maternal and terminal traits,” Jim added.

POLLED GENETICS

The Woulfes, who are progressive and science-focused, introduced polled genetics into the herd in 2021 and are “very pleased” with the performance of polled animals to date and continue to use polled bulls on certain cow families.

One of the herd’s leading cows had a polled bull calf in 2023, and the calf’s subsequent performance from birth exceeded all the required facets. The heterozygous polled **Ballyclough Theo Pp (AU1515)** now stands in the National Cattle Breeding Centre and AI straws are available through Munster Bovine and Progressive Genetics.

Theo Pp is the first polled Aubrac sire to enter Irish AI and is one of the highest replacement

index bulls on the current **ICBF’s Suckler Beef Gene Ireland Replacement Panel**.

USE OF TECHNOLOGY, SCIENCE AND DATA

The Ballyclough Herd has a high health status with a planned vaccination programme in place implementing protocols for IBR, salmonella, Leptospirosis, Pneumonia & Clostridial diseases.

In addition, they use the latest in technology and science to maximise performance and the Farm Ops App is an essential tool in the management and measurement of animals.

Calves are weighed at birth and frequently thereafter. In addition, soil, silage and grass are analysed on a regular basis, followed by appropriate fertiliser and minerals used for optimum performance.

Jim records all birth weights and has accurate gestation lengths from the ICBF through Munster Bovine’s technician service, with weaning weights recorded also.

“This level of information allows us to make the most appropriate breeding decisions, depending on which traits need improving,” Jim explained.

“We operate a rotational grazing system with animals getting fresh grass every week and a key feature applied is to frequently take out paddocks for baled silage.

“From a **Sustainability** perspective, 90% of fertiliser used on the farm is composed of protected urea/nitrogen and Low Emission Slurry Spreading has always been the preferred method.” Sustainability is very much in focus now as the enterprise has stabilised in terms of scale. “Heifers calve down at 24 months and any beef animals finished on the farm are slaughtered at less than 16 months in almost all cases.”

IN SUMMARY

“An Aubrac is a lovely animal to work with, very profitable, without hardship and unnecessary risk. Docility, calving ease, high fertility, milky, with excellent feed conversion and consistent kill-out results in the U3 Classification category. Aubracs fulfil all our beef farming goals and expectations – the criteria we set out six years ago is being fulfilled as every day goes by – absolutely no regrets,” says Jim.

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ORGANIC HERD PROFILES

Calverstown Aubracs - Committed to Sustainable Organic Farming



Having farmed organically for a number of years, we decided to join the organic scheme in 2023. The practical side of farming was little or no change from the previous years. It has opened up a market for our stock, especially the heifers.

The Aubrac breed is particularly well suited to the organic system. It is a deep animal, which means a larger gut capacity, allowing it to digest and convert rougher forage very efficiently, with little or no need for supplements. This is complimented by the Aubrac's excellent natural

finishing ability.

A deeper chest also gives more lung and heart capacity, producing a healthier animal. This helps to reduce vet bills, as does the breed's ease of calving, maternal qualities and overall hardiness.

The Aubrac is not a demanding breed, it gives a maximum output from minimum input and can be a great addition to any organic system.

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Low Input, High Output: Aubrac's edge for Organic and Part-Time Farmers

For Jim Stafford, a part-time farmer based in Ballytibbot, Co Cork, making the move to organic farming was more than just a lifestyle change—it was a decision rooted in sustainability, practicality and long-term vision.

Farming alongside his wife Carol, Jim runs a mixed organic enterprise that includes pedigree Aubracs, a commercial suckler herd and tillage, growing oats for Flahavan's.

With a full-time job off-farm, low maintenance was key, and that's where the Aubrac breed came in. "Low maintenance is what attracted me in the first place, especially as I work full-time off-farm. In making the transition to organic farming six years ago, we felt we needed to get a more sustainable cow - easy calving with milk and also good beef traits," Jim says.

Having previously finished Aubrac bulls, he was impressed by how well they performed on a grass-based system.

"They killed out exceptionally well for me—much better than expected," he says.

In 2019, Jim bought two pedigree Aubrac heifers from Seán O'Driscoll's Thornhill herd in Co. Cork and established his own pedigree herd under the Tibbstown prefix. Since then, he has built the herd up to 30 cows, half of which are now pedigree Aubracs and bred to Aubrac sires, while the remaining cross-bred cows run with a Limousin bull.

The herd's average for replacement is €130, with 180pc of the herd qualifying for the SCEP (Suckler Carbon Efficiency Programme).

Jim's pedigree herd calves in the autumn, while his commercial cows calve in spring. He produces pedigree breeding stock, many of which he sells to repeat dairy and beef customers.

Cross-bred progeny are finished on-farm as bullocks and heifers, typically at 20–24 months.

Last year, heifers from the certified organic farm had average carcass weights of 380kg at 24 months, while bullocks averaged around 400kg.

About 35 cattle go to Good Herdsmen every year.

Most animals consistently grade Us, with minimal meal input, as Jim focuses on producing top-quality red clover silage, achieving up to 30 bales per acre across four cuts each year. Jim has also slaughtered pedigree bulls in the past, with carcass weights hitting up to 470kgs.

"There was no real change in performance with cattle weight and grade going from conventional to organic and I attribute this to my choice of suckler cow," he says.

Along with being easily maintained, the breed has also proven itself in key areas that matter most to part-time and organic farmers.

"They calve down on their own — the only thing I have to do is to keep an eye on them. The calves are up and sucking straight away with the added bonuses of a short gestation, excellent growth rates and high kill out rates.

"They are great mothers. You get a buzz out of a weanling being nearly as big as its mother.

"Even from the amount of what they eat, you'd be talking about three-quarters of what another suckler cow might eat. From a dosing point of view, I don't dose regimentally. I take faecal egg samples, and I check for egg activity. Some years, I have to dose them, others, I don't.

"Their calm temperament and ease of handling, especially when it comes to tagging and dehorning—make them ideal for a part-time setup."

He says the Aubrac breed "really fits into my organic system and I haven't looked back since".





Calverstown Aubracs

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Having bred Aubrac for 30 years we have chosen to retain a cow that is similar to the original imports, benefit from generations of French farmer expertise and selection. No extremes, just an efficient, quiet, deep bodied cow with natural abilities and attributes that will calve unassisted, rear the calf and repeat the process with minimal work from the farmer. The natural beefing ability of the breed makes it very suitable for organic and grass based systems. Over the years, the Calverstown herd has been a regular supplier of bulls to dairy farmers/suckler farmers, pedigree breeders and has proven itself as a producer of dams of AI bulls. Its heifers, with excellent maternal qualities make perfect replacements.

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Why Aubrac is the breed of choice for this organic suckler system in Tipperary

When Pat and Catherine Maher from Co. Tipperary set out to find a breed best suited for organic farming, one name consistently stood out: the Aubrac.

As former dairy farmers exploring alternatives, the Mahers quickly discovered that Aubrac cattle were widely favoured among organic breeders.

"We came across the Aubrac being highly recommended for organic systems and wanted to learn more," Pat explains.

"I was genuinely surprised by how many organic farmers chose Aubracs because of their mild temperament, ease of calving, quality carcass, and their overall hardiness at grass. What really caught our eye was the physical length of the animals and their incredibly calm nature — they just ooze quality."

Pat's first direct experience with Aubrac cattle was at the Aubrac Bull Sale in Cashel in April 2024.

"I was blown away by the quality and value of the stock on the day. I had spent my money on the Angus only weeks before, but it lit a fire in me to learn more about the breed."

That opportunity came a few months later. As part of their nomination as a Farming for Nature Ambassador, the Mahers were visited by Brendan Dunford, Sara Coonan and pedigree Aubrac breeder, Kim McCall.

"Kim and I struck up a conversation, and I discovered that Kim had pedigree Aubracs. He invited Catherine and I to visit. This we did early in 2025, and liked the stock so much that we bought two pedigree maiden heifers. I have since bought a stock bull from Paddy Dungan in Co. Kilkenny. We're eagerly anticipating our first crop of Angus-cross Aubracs next year."

Based near the iconic Rock of Cashel, the Mahers had previously built their suckler herd around British Friesian-cross-Angus heifers bred to an Angus bull.

For Pat and Catherine, the move

is very much an experiment, with hopes that the Aubrac will complement their existing stock. "We're hoping the Aubrac blood will inject length and quality."

"Aubracs tick all the boxes. Continental quality calf yet easy calving, high index when crossed with the dairy herd, long lifetime in herd coupled with docility, so a lot in one package. I can see a great future for the Aubrac."

For the Mahers, organic farming means embracing a low-input, sustainable system. "In that system, you need animals that convert grass into meat, cattle that last in the herd and produce a live calf every year. The Aubrac does this."

The Mahers are now in their second year of converting to organic production. Pat's farming background is primarily dairy, having managed a herd of pedigree British Friesians for most of his life. However, the abolition of milk quotas in 2015 was a turning point.

"With the ending of the quotas, the conventional wisdom was to go big or go out. But there was a third option—leave the unsustainable model behind and start farming with nature, not against it. We made a lifestyle change for our sanity, and we've never looked back."

"We decided to change to a more sustainable system; I did not want to stay milking. Also, the improvement to the organic payments made the decision to transition easier. We feel the Aubrac has a place in organic systems," Pat says.



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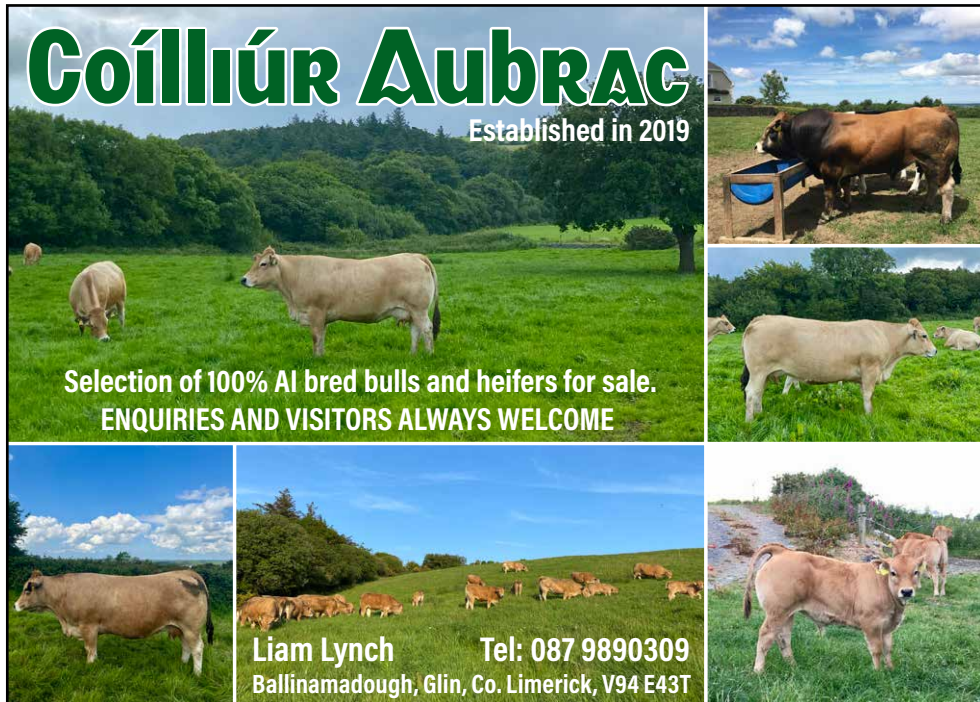
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DAIRY - BEEF PROFILE

**Up to €8.43/kg: Aubracs hitting the
sweet spot for Laois dairy farmer**

With all-in factory prices of up to €8.43/kg, Sean Miller doesn't need much convincing when it comes to the value of using Aubrac bulls in his dairy-beef system.

That's what some of his Aubrac-cross cattle—bred from a predominantly British Friesian herd—achieved when slaughtered in April 2025.

Sean runs a 200-cow dairy herd near Abbeyleix,

Co Laois, calving down 40 cows in October and November, with the remainder calving in February and March. Every calf born on the farm is reared and finished as either a heifer or steer, typically slaughtered between 22 and 28 months of age, all within a 90–100-day finishing window and under 30 months of age.

He first came across the Aubrac breed six years ago through the Twenty20 Beef Club, of which he is now a member. This fully integrated calf-to-beef programme—run in partnership by Tirlán and Kepak—aims to “sustainably produce and market Irish heifer, steer, and bull beef at a premium price”.

Sean currently runs two Aubrac stock bulls and has also added a pedigree Aubrac cow-heifer with a bull calf at foot to the herd.

Thanks to the breed's ability to consistently meet factory specifications—particularly on conformation and fat score—the animals qualified for Twenty20 Club bonuses of up to 40c/kg in some cases, pushing final prices as high as €8.43/kg.

The bonuses are structured as follows: A Club Bonus of 30c/kg is paid above the market price through the Twenty20 Beef Club, which includes a 10c/kg Tirlán input bonus. Under the Club's protocol bonus, an additional 20c/kg is paid for cattle grading O= or better, and 12c/kg for O- grades. A seasonality bonus also applies, with 10c/kg available in May, and 6c/kg in both June and July.

“You won't find many breeds that consistently grade R off dairy-bred cows—that's why I went with Aubrac. They have excellent weight-for-age, strong feed conversion, and thrive off grass.

“I find Aubrac calves are very vigorous and quick to stand and suckle after birth. Aubrac tick all the boxes for me from calving ease to short gestation, good growth from grass, early finishing and achieving good grades,” Sean says.

“As a dairy farmer, ease of calving and short





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gestation make life a lot easier. The cow calves down with less stress, she's back milking sooner, and goes back in-calf quicker too — so there's more milk in the tank. And with the Aubrac-cross calf, you're also left with a valuable animal at the end of the day that can not only weigh, but also grade and have the right fat scores in the factory.

"The Aubrac breed suits my system, and I am very happy to continue working with the breed into the future," Sean says.

In April 2025, a group of 14 Aubrac-cross cattle (13 steers and 1 heifer), bred from his dairy cows, were slaughtered in Kepak. Carcass weights ranged from 324.0 kg to 391.2kg

- 11 animals graded R, with 3 grading O+
- All graded 2+ to 3= on fat score
- Base price of €7.70-€7.80/kg, with final total price per kg from €8.08-€8.42/kg
- Prices ranged from €2,647/head to €3,270/head

AUBRAC-CROSS STEERS OUT OF DAIRY COWS

EAR TAG	CARCASS WEIGHT	GRADE	AGE	PRICE PER KG	PRICE (VALUE PER HEAD)
1295	372.60kg	R-2+	28 months	€8.36/kg	€3,114.94
1299	323.60kg	O+2+	28 months	€8.18/kg	€2,647.05
1312	324.0kg	R=2+	28 months	€8.36/kg	€2,708.64
1293	334.60kg	R-3-	28 months	€8.36/kg	€2,797.26
1546	367.30kg	R=3-	22 months	€8.36/kg	€3,070.63
1307	358.50kg	R-4-	28 months	€8.36/kg	€2,997.06
1306	357.10kg	R-3=	28 months	€8.36/kg	€2,985.36
1303	344.20kg	O+3-	28 months	€8.24/kg	€2,836.21
1301	356.10kg	R=3-	28 months	€8.36/kg	€2,977.00
1313	337.90kg	R-3-	28 months	€8.36/kg	€2,824.84
1311	355.70kg	R=3=	28 months	€8.36/kg	€2,973.65
1305	391.20kg	R=3-	28 months	€8.36/kg	€3,270.43
1297	374.80kg	R+3-	28 months	€8.42/kg	€3,155.82

AVERAGE CARCASS WEIGHT = 353KGS • AVERAGE AGE = 27.5 MONTHS • AVERAGE PRICE = €2,950

DAIRY-BRED AUBRAC-CROSS HEIFER

1536	324.20kgs	O+3-	22 months	€8.34/kg	€2,703.83
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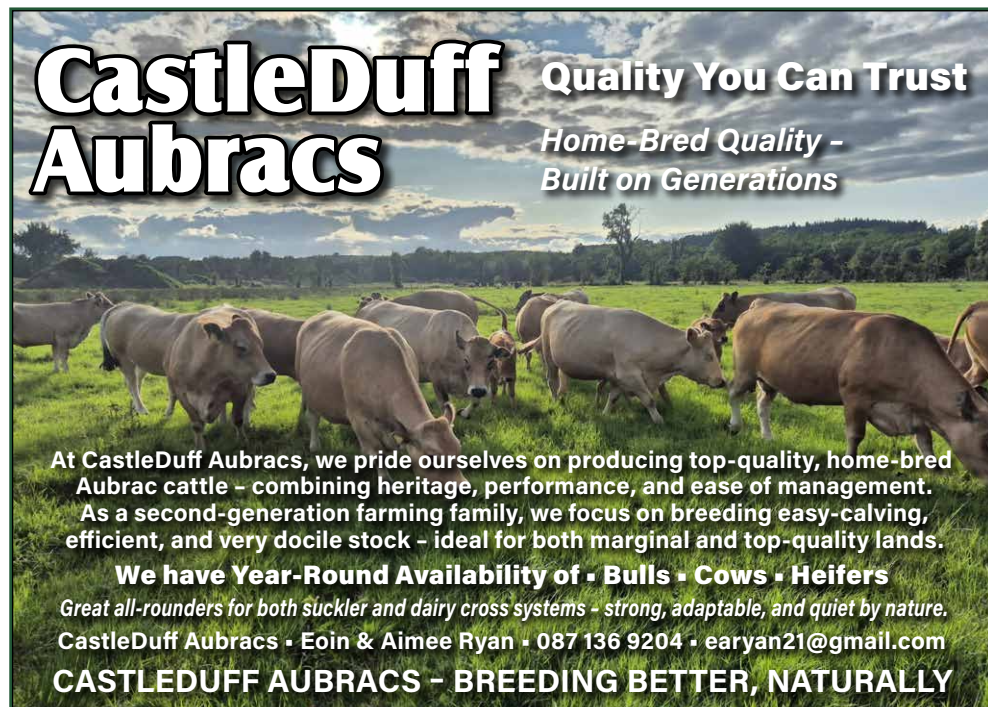
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SUCKLER HERD PROFILE

*Why these Kilkenny farmers swear
by Aubracs for faster finishing
and heavier weights*

Aubrac cattle are proving their worth on the Harper family's suckler farm outside Kilkenny city, delivering earlier finishing ages, extended grazing seasons, and heavier carcass weights. According to Victor Harper, bulls from the breed are averaging up to 40kg more than their herd counterparts.

Victor farms 100 suckler cows, with his brother, William just outside Kilkenny city, operating a split calving system with 60 cows calving in spring (March–April) and the remaining 40 in autumn (September–October). All progeny are brought through to beef on-farm.

Based in Co Kilkenny, Victor discovered the Aubrac breed nine years ago and has been crossing the breed on his 100-cow suckler herd ever since.

“We discovered the breed through a friend of my father's. He told us how good he thought they were and the weights he was getting, in addition to calving ease.

“We needed to change one of our bulls and were looking for a breed that would, firstly, calve easily, thrive on grass — which is a big part of our system — finish early, and deliver big kill-out weights, so we opted for Aubrac.”

Victor currently runs three stock bulls — Aubrac, Parthenaise, and Angus — and operates a split calving system between spring and autumn.

He calves 60 cows in spring, between March and April, and 40 cows in autumn, between September and October.

All progeny are finished on-farm, with males finished as bulls. They're generally finished between 20 and 24 months of age, with a target carcass weight of around 400kg deadweight. He says grades have been averaging U=. On the other hand, heifers have been averaging a carcass weight of 325kg, grading R+ to U-.

“I try to grow and finish the cattle as much as I can on grass and good silage, with as little meal as possible until they're ready to be finished.

“Aubrac-bred bulls are finishing at an average age of 21 months, while non-Aubracs are averaging at 23 months. The Aubrac carcass weights are around 40kg heavier than non-Aubracs. The Aubrac bulls are averaging U-, while non-Aubracs are grading U=.

“During the finishing period alone, I'd estimate the Aubrac-bred bulls are saving at least €150 per head on meal costs,” Victor says.





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DAIRY HERD PROFILE

Quiet, Easy-Calving, Reliable: Why this Kilkenny dairy farmer chooses Aubrac

Dairy farmer, James Murphy, first discovered the Aubrac breed not in a mart or on a farm, but on a hurling pitch in Kilkenny through society member, PJ Pollard.

That conversation prompted James, who milks 120 spring-calving 60:40 Holstein-type cows near Ballycallan, to do more research.

"PJ told me about the breed, and I went home and googled the breed. I liked the look of the Aubrac animals — the style, shape, and size. I like the fact that Aubracs make good beef animals, and are a manageable, medium-sized size. I spoke to a few people who had tried Aubrac and then decided to give the breed a go myself. I bought a bull from PJ five years ago, and he is still the main stock sire here now. I'm very happy with how the calves have turned out."

"Before venturing into Aubracs, I had calving issues — massive calves and c-sections — but that's no longer the case with Aubrac. In five years, I've only had to assist two heifers with a calving jack," James explains.

A quiet temperament, ease of calving, short gestation, and a quality animal are the four traits James highlights most strongly after five years of working with the breed.

Using the same bull since day one, James rears up to 60 Aubrac-sired calves each year. All progeny go to a repeat customer who finishes both bulls and heifers for beef. The bull covers heifers for six weeks before running with the cows for another six.

"The Aubrac bull covers both heifers and cows on this farm, so I don't need a second bull. He mops up the herd. He's easy to manage and produces exactly what I want, so I haven't had to buy a bull every year. With prices at the moment absolutely crazy, I'm glad to hold onto this one. When you're getting five years out of a bull, you're doing well. He's very active, easy to winter, and gets no special treatment in winter — just the top of the silage pit."

Ease of management is another key benefit. "The bull is docile, good on his feet, can very easily keep up with cows, is easy to pick out among them, and has size. It is nice crossing the heifers with a continental bull the first year. He has maintained his size — you don't want to have a bull that is overly heavy when running with cows."

He says gestation length is another practical advantage for dairy farmers. "The gestation length is around 283 days, so the Aubrac calves are arriving around the same time as the Friesian. You do have to wait ten days or more, like others."

James says he has no plans to move away from Aubrac.

"I am very happy with the Aubrac breed. There are a few reasons why other dairy farmers should consider the breed. They are quiet, easy calving and short gestation, and that's what we're after. I'm seeing more dairy farmers who are catching on, using Aubrac bulls."

"When the time comes, I'll be buying another Aubrac bull. I'll be holding this one on for at least another year," James says.



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ENQUIRIES AND VISITORS ALWAYS WELCOME.

DAIRY HERD PROFILE

Aubracs doing 'exactly what they say on the tin' for Cork dairy farmer

Five years in with the Aubrac breed, and Donal Cronin, from Freemount, County Cork, says the breed "does what it says on the tin."

Running a mostly Holstein herd, Donal has been using Aubrac bulls on both cows and heifers, and the results have been "consistent and trouble-free".

He first saw the breed at the National Ploughing Championships and bought his first Aubrac bull five years ago from James Nealon.

"The thing that really stood out was the short gestation and calving ease," he recalls, "plus they were producing an animal that was good for the beef farmer."

He bought his first Aubrac stock bull from James Nealon five years ago and returned the following year to buy two more, keeping one for a second season.

"The bulls are quiet and easy to manage. We haven't had any problems calving them, and we have never had to call a vet to deliver an Aubrac calf. We calved them all ourselves and have been very happy with the calving difficulty."

Calves are sold every year, mostly on-farm to two main repeat beef farmer customers, and some are sold at the mart.

"They're easy to manage, they are easily calved, and they give you calves that have value for beef farmers, whether sold as bulls or kept as heifers. For me, that combination makes them a very practical and reliable choice for a dairy herd."

"One of the beef farmers kept some of the heifer calves for suckling. He twin-suckled some of them and has been extremely pleased with them."

For dairy farmers, Donal says the advantages of the Aubrac breed are clear. "Short gestation and ease of calving are imperative."

When you're milking cows, you don't want difficult calvings because that impacts lactation. A tough calving makes it harder to get a cow back in-calf and takes more out of her.

"Many beef breeds have longer gestations, and every day or week you lose pushes out your next calving date for the next lactation, but with the short gestation of the Aubrac breed, you don't have that problem."



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ENQUIRIES AND VISITORS ALWAYS WELCOME.

Myostatin in Aubrac Cattle

WHAT IS MYOSTATIN?

The Myostatin gene in cattle influences the production of muscle in the animal. Myostatin acts like a “brake pedal” on muscle development. When the gene functions correctly, muscle growth is controlled, resulting in normal-sized animals. However, when mutations or breaks occur in the myostatin gene, muscle growth accelerates, producing more muscled animals,

often referred to as “double-muscled” animals. These mutations or changes in the gene may be partial as in the case of the F94L variant or may be disruptive as with the NT821 and Q204X variants. The characteristics of the myostatin variants present in Irish Aubrac cattle is shown below and the frequency with which they occur within the breed.

Myostatin Variant	Characteristics	Incidence within Irish Aubrac Breed
F94L	Increased conformation scores. Reduced level of fat. Increased carcass weight. No major changes in calving difficulty.	98%
NT821	Larger increase in conformation scores. Reduced level of fat. Increased carcass weight. Increased incidence of calving difficulty.	9%
Q204X	Increased conformation scores. Reduced level of fat. Large increase in carcass weight. Increased incidence of calving difficulty.	1%

WHERE DO I FIND THE MYOSTATIN STATUS OF MY CATTLE?

ICBF now has a genomics profile on Herdplus which has a “Myostatin & Polled” tab. Once an animal has been recently genotyped, in this tab you can see each myostatin variant and the number of copies of each variant that each animal in your herd contains. In a small number of cases where the original genomic sample quality was not good enough to determine the result, there will be a ‘no result’ showing. In these cases, if you contact Weatherby’s laboratory on 045-8755521 you may be able to arrange for a further sample to be tested.

ICBF Login » View Profiles » Genomics » Myostatin & Polled

HOW IS MYOSTATIN INHERITED?

Each animal will have two copies of the myostatin gene- 1 inherited from the Dam and 1 from the Sire. An animal could have 2 copies of the normal functioning myostatin gene (+/+) which would give rise to a normal muscle growth. If the animal had 1 copy of a myostatin variant (e.g. nt821) along with a functioning gene (+/nt821) then this would result in an animal with an increased amount of muscle as compared to our animal with normal myostatin function. If, however, the animal inherits 2 copies of the myostatin variants (nt821/nt821) which would be 1 copy inherited from each parent this will result in a double muscled animal.

For Aubrac cattle in Ireland, myostatin non-

South Island Aubracs

From Transhumance in France to Winterages on the Aran Islands, the Aubrac breed has come full circle, thriving once more on natural grasses and rich summer pastures.

With centuries of hardiness Aubracs are perfectly suited to this environment, low-input, rugged, and in harmony with nature.

Please contact Micheál Ó Flatharta at 087 9745848 if you have any queries.



Winetavern Aubracs



Alfie and Marcus Hanbidge
Stratford-on-Slaney,
Co. Wicklow

087-7531422

087-7832068



carriers and those that carry the F94L variant can be bred with no difficulty. The presence of a disruptive myostatin variant, however, should be considered when making breeding decisions on your farm. As shown in Figure 1, a Dam with 1 copy of the nt821 variant as in the diagram if bred with a bull also carrying 1 copy of the nt821 variant will 25% of the time give rise to a calf with double muscled nt821/nt821 myostatin which is not something desirable in the breed. Indeed, in France, animals with 2 copies of these disruptive genes may not be registered with the Aubrac society.

Aubrac cattle are balanced animals - they will

produce a good quality beef animal with good carcass traits but also retain their ability to calve easily, rear their offspring and do so on minimal inputs. The non-disruptive F94L myostatin variant also known as the 'profit gene' is present in 98% of Aubracs in Ireland and produces animals that align with the goal of producing a balanced Aubrac animal. While acknowledging the presence of the disruptive myostatin variants within the breed in Ireland, we should as breeders try to minimise the presence of these variants within the breed to retain the core characteristics of the breed.

F94L / nt821 mated with F94L / nt821

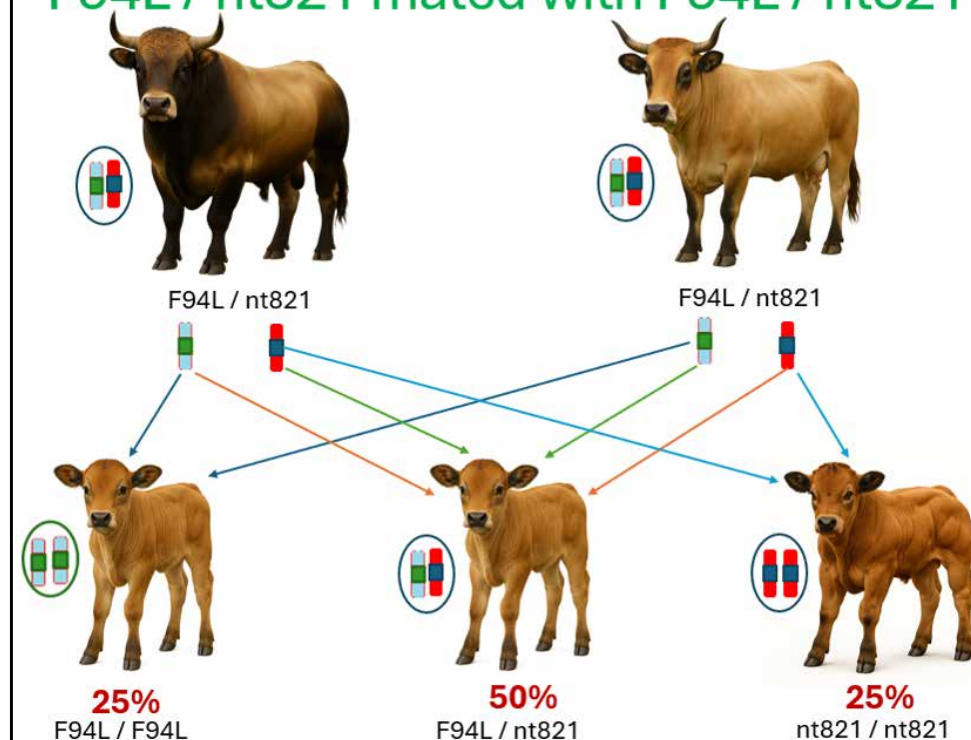


Figure 1. Mating of a F94L/nt821 Bull with an F94L/nt821 Cow

Sample Aubrac Kill-Out Results

Longford Farmer

2025 Slaughtered Aubrac Bulls

Animal No.	Age	Breed	Weight	Grade	Price
1443	19	AUX	463.74	U+3+	€3,709.89
1433	19	AUX	415.52	U-3=	€3,324.16
1458	18	AUX	376.71	R=3=	€3,013.70
1454	19	AUX	420.62	U=3+	€3,364.93
1459	18	AUX	379.85	R=3+	€3,038.78
1427	19	AUX	437.67	U-3=	€3,501.34
1412	19	AUX	469.22	U=3-	€3,753.79
1421	19	AUX	436.69	U+2+	€3,493.50
1414	19	AUX	489.22	U-4-	€3,913.73
1444	19	AUX	405.33	R+3=	€3,242.62
1422	19	AUX	470.79	U+3-	€3,766.34
1418	19	AUX	416.30	U=3-	€3,330.43
1426	19	AUX	417.48	U=3-	€3,339.84
1437	19	AUX	451.58	U-3=	€3,612.67
1450	19	AUX	438.26	R+3+	€3,506.05
1456	18	AUX	493.92	U=4-	€3,951.36
Average	19	AUX	436.43	U-3=	€3,491.45
Total for 16 Animals					€55,863.14



Sample Aubrac Kill-Out Results

Kerry Farmer

2024 Slaughtered Aubrac Bulls

Animal No.	Age	Breed	Weight	Grade
251	16	AU	410	U=3-
246	16	AU	445	U=3+
255	15	AU	369	U=3-
235	16	AU	427	U+2+
249	16	AUX	321	R=3-
237	16	AUX	383	U=2+
241	16	AU	322	U=2+
240	16	AUX	409	U+2+
254	15	AU	455	U=3-
258	15	AU	434	U=3-
259	15	AUX	374	U=2=
262	15	AUX	408	U=3-
243	15	AUX	473	U=3=
244	15	AUX	441	U=3=
261	15	AUX	427	U=3+
256	15	AUX	463	U=3=
253	15	AUX	358	R+3-
263	15	AU	346	R+3+

2025 Slaughtered Aubrac Bulls

Animal No.	Age	Breed	Weight	Grade	Price
471	15	AU	326	U-3+	2592
472	15	AU	329	R+3+	2592
474	15	AU	368	U=3-	2940
478	15	AU	369	U+3-	2889
479	14	AU	377	U=3+	2973
264	15	AU/LMX	401	U=3-	3204
265	15	AU	407	U=3-	3205
271	15	AU/LMX	375	U=2+	2959
273	14	AU/LMX	389	U=2+	3039
274	14	AU	420	U=2+	3309
275	14	AU/AUX	371	U-3-	2920
276	14	AU/AUX	412	U=3-	3246
286	14	AU/SIX	394	U-3-	3080



DEERPARK AUBRAC

STOCK FOR SALE VISITORS WELCOME

- Established 2014
- Gene Ireland Accredited
- Top Quality bloodlines
- DEERPARK HERD WON 2ND PLACE FOR LARGE HERDS IN THE 2023 HERD COMPETITION
- High Star Rated Purebred Aubracs
- Whole Herd Performance accredited
- Myostatin & Genomic Tested
- Hardy, docile, maternal cattle with good milking ability
- Suitable for dairy and beef
- Kill-Out weights and grades very impressive



Aubrac Bull in Dovea

DEERPARK ROWE

Breed: AU (100%)

AU8953 Sex: MALE Birth Date: 22-NOV-2021
EBI Replacement €213 Terminal €124 Dairy Beef €172



Aubrac Bull in Progressive Genetics

DEERPARK ULTRA

Breed: AU (100%)

AU2635 Sex: MALE Birth Date: 31-JAN-2024
EBI Replacement €234 Terminal €146 Dairy Beef €181



Aubrac Bull in Bova

DEERPARK NEVIN

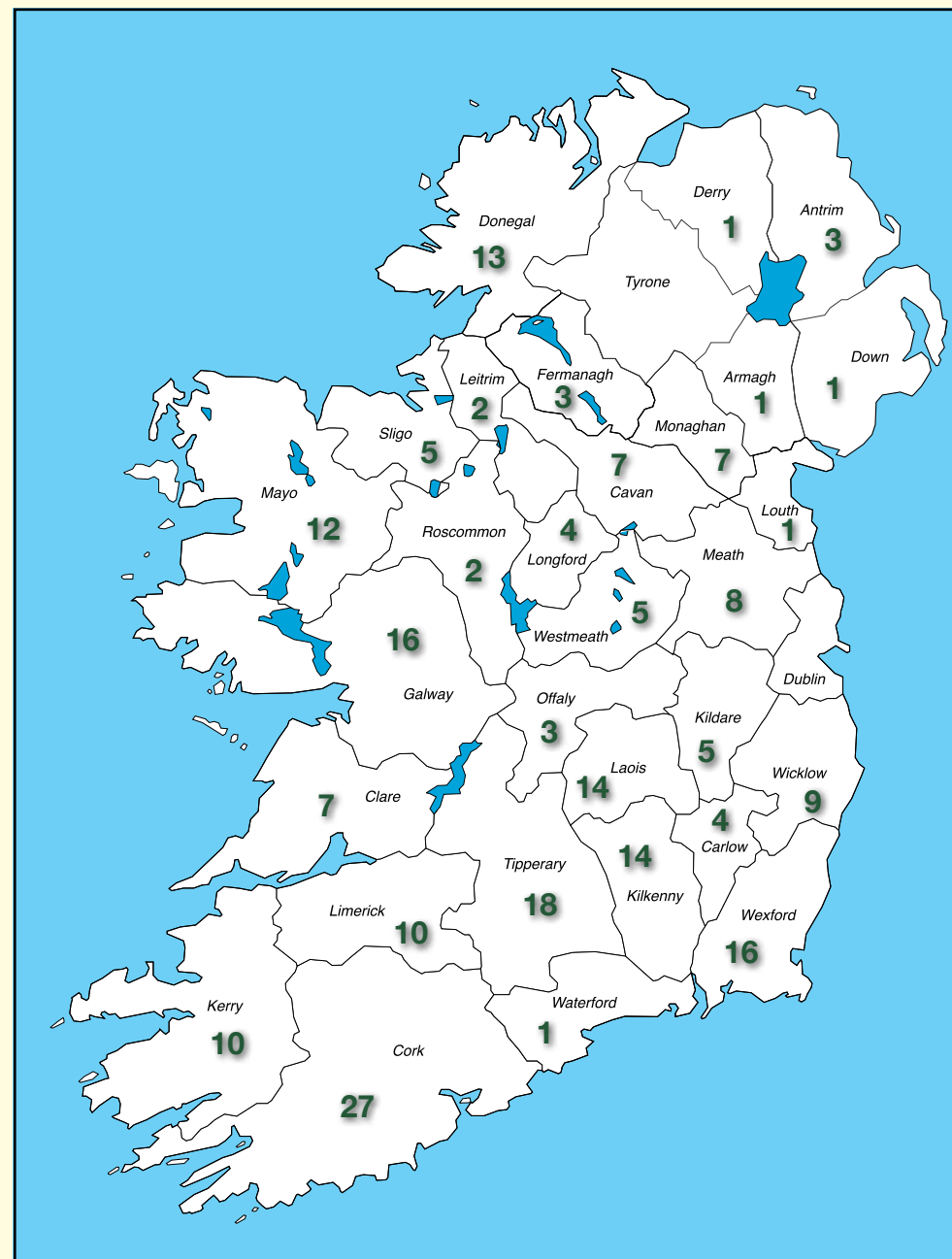
AU1170 Sex: MALE Birth Date: 22-MAY-2018
EBI Replacement €176 Terminal €139 Dairy Beef €175



James & Tomas Lacey, Deerpark Farm, Carrick-on-Suir, Co-Tipperary E32 D660

James - 087 2559325 Email: angela.lacey@deerparkfarmservices.com Tomas - 087 7707372

Irish Aubrac Society Membership Distribution



Irish Aubrac Society

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Knockacragg Aubracs

Pedigree male and females suitable
for suckler or dairy herds.
VISITORS ALWAYS WELCOME.



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The Irish Aubrac Story

The Aubrac breed originates from the mountains of southern central France. It is the remoteness and harsh conditions of the region that have fashioned the breed to what it is today giving it its unique characteristics and strong personality. Resilience, efficiency and consistency are key attributes of the Aubrac.

The first Aubrac were introduced to Cork in 1992, soon followed by imports from France to Kildare, Donegal, Longford and Laois. To give the breed the structure it deserved, in 1998 the original breeders got together to form the Irish Aubrac Cattle Breed Society and open the Irish Herdbook.

Built on solid foundations and carefully monitored from the start, the Irish Aubrac herd has gone from strength to strength, retaining its original qualities. Over the years the French Society has helped with buying trips and offered technical support.

Exhibitions at the Ploughing Match and various shows have allowed other farmers to discover the exceptional attributes of the breed. The number of active breeders has gradually increased to now over 200, and herds in every county in Ireland.

The Aubrac is unusual in the fact that for a pedigree animal, they do not need pampering. This means that breeders can have large numbers and manage the herds as they would with commercial stock. The pedigree side adds the security and consistency of monitored blood

lines, at little extra cost. The testing of bulls in Tully and official recording of figures by ICBF has helped to prove the worth of the Aubrac.

With the rapid increase in numbers of passionate breeders and expansion of the Irish Aubrac herd, it wasn't long before AI stations showed an interest. There is now semen widely available, and dairy farmers are paying the Aubrac particular attention with its ease of calving, short gestation and consistency. Trials and research have proven satisfactory and are ongoing. Dairy and commercial breeders who have used Aubrac bulls are now also convinced about the breed and the calves have proven themselves, commanding premium prices.

The feed efficiency, kill out and meat to bone ratio of the Aubrac is excellent, resulting in higher returns. Because the Aubrac comes from mountainous pastures, it is capable of thriving on grass. This makes it well adapted to grass fed beef and organic systems. The meat is lean but has a light grain of marbling, maintains its juiciness and it is full of flavour. It is highly sought after in France and is served in top restaurants in Paris. Aubrac meat here has been available for many years through craft butchers mainly in Donegal and West Cork and along with the breed, sees its popularity increasing rapidly nationwide.



Kiltaggart Aubracs



Year-Round Availability:
• Bulls • Cows
• Heifers

At Kiltaggart Aubracs, we've been breeding top-quality Aubrac cattle for over 25 years, starting from a single Donegal heifer to the strong, home-bred herd we're proud of today.

Our focus? Easy calving, efficient, and docile cattle that thrive on both marginal and top-quality land – the perfect all-rounder breed for modern farming.

Built on experience. Bred for performance.

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DoveaGENETICS

Maximising Your Herd's Genetic Potential

AU8953 DEERPARK ROWE

- Rowe Displays Massive Indices Across All Traits
 - Replacement Index of €213
 - Terminal Index of €143
 - DBI €187
- Proven Easy Calving Choice with Balanced Indices
- Available in Spermvital



AU6286 JOHNSTOWN NELSON 1039

- High Replacement Index Proven Aubrac Sire
 - €181 Replacement Index
 - +4.9Kgs Daughter Milk
- Nelson Transmits Serious Power, Performance, Width & Weight for Age



Address: E41 FH28, Thurles, Co. Tipperary, Ireland
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www.doveagenetics.ie

icbf Aubrac Breed - ICBF Update

1. BREED OVERVIEW & CONTEXT

The Aubrac is a French beef cattle breed native to the Massif Central. First introduced into Ireland in 1992, a comprehensive background to the breed is available at <https://aubrac.ie/breed-history/>. The Irish Cattle Breeding Federation (ICBF) and the Irish Aubrac Cattle Breed Society have long had a strong working relationship in terms of close engagement in the Gene Ireland breeding programme and the National Genotyping programme.

As of July 2025, some 15 different Aubrac AI sires have been progeny tested via Gene Ireland. These sires have almost 30,000 progeny recorded in the ICBF database of which 1071 are pedigree Aubrac. These figures display the significant impact AI sires can have on the national herd and the importance of having a robust and fit for service breeding programme in place to progeny test these new high index sires as soon as they become available to herdowners.

2. ICBF BREED-AVERAGE FIGURES (MAY 2025)

Based on the May 2025 evaluation as published by ICBF, Table 1 below trends some statistics in relation to the pedigree Aubrac calf crop that was born over each of the last 3 years.

	2022	2023	2024
Number of Animals	1273	1184	1072
Avg. Pedigree Calves per Herd	6.4	6.4	6.5
Avg. Replacement Index	€171	€172	€174
Avg. Terminal Index	€119	€117	€117
Avg. Dairy Beef Index	€155	€152	€152
Average Beef Sub Index	€145	€143	€144
Average Calving Sub Index	€13	€11	€11

Table 1. Pedigree Aubrac Registration Trends per year

Table 2 below compares the current pedigree Aubrac population to all other beef breeds in the database. The percentiles are based on pedigree animals born in each breed within 5 years from 1st January each year. They are moved up a year on the first run of every year (i.e. the current figures are based on animals born between 2020 and 2025).

Breed	Index/Trait	Records	Average	Top 10%
All Breeds	REPLACEMENT INDEX	3206485	€98	€144
Aubrac	REPLACEMENT INDEX	6477	€172	€206
All Breeds	TERMINAL INDEX	214531	€91	€140
Aubrac	TERMINAL INDEX	6477	€116	€139
All Breeds	DBI	3207048	€93	€125
Aubrac	DBI	6477	€152	€173
All Breeds	DBI Beef Sub Index	3219537	€133	€164
Aubrac	DBI Beef Sub Index	6477	€143	€160
All Breeds	DBI Calving Sub Index	3207097	-€30	€13
Aubrac	DBI Calving Sub Index	6477	€13	€28

Table 2. Pedigree Aubrac Breed Averages vs All Other Breeds

Adamstown Aubrac

HERD ESTABLISHED IN 2005



Adamstown Eros

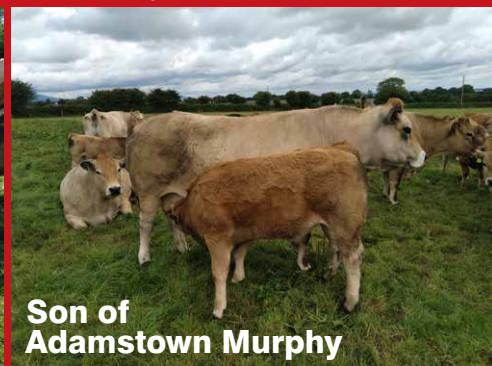


SELECTION OF BULLS & HEIFERS FOR SALE

Contact John Barron, The Leap, Adamstown, Enniscorthy, Co. Wexford on 086 3898161



Daughter of Adamstown Eros



Son of Adamstown Murphy

"If Carlsberg bred cattle, they would breed Aubrac - probably the best cattle in the world"

The data in Tables 3 and 3a track the changes in some key metrics in relation to commercial Aubrac animals. Table 3 displays figures on the progeny of an Aubrac sire crossed with a dairy breed dam. Table 3a displays figures on the progeny of an Aubrac sire crossed with a beef breed dam.

Records ex Dairy Cows	2022	2023	2024
Number ex Dairy Cows	16,735	17,369	17,863
% Sire Recorded	71%	72%	75%
% Genotyped	8%	8%	39%
Average Replacement Index	€162	€166	€172
Average CBV	€135	€136	€138

Table 3. Commercial Aubracs ex Dairy Cows Trends by birth year

Records ex Beef Cows	2022	2023	2024
Number ex Beef Cows	9098	8,741	8,504
% Sire Recorded	82%	83%	84%
% Genotyped	31%	38%	48%
Average Replacement Index	€143	€146	€150
Average CBV	€246	€246	€247

Table 3a. Commercial Aubracs ex Beef Cows Trends by birth year

The data in Table 4 below, displays data on the Aubrac bulls that received an AI code over each of the last 3 years.

	2022	2023	2024
Total Number	6	5	6
Number Irish Bred	1	2	2
Avg. Replacement Index	€138	€163	€151
Avg. Terminal Index	€96	€99	€93
Avg. Dairy Beef Index	€134	€146	€135
Average Beef Sub Index	€136	€125	€132
Average Calving Sub Index	€2	€23	€5

Table 4. Aubrac Bulls AI Coded per Year

REPLACEMENT INDEX

AI Code	Name	GI*	Replacement Index (€)	Rel. (%)	Beef Calv Rec	Dairy Calv Rec	Prog in Tully
AU2635	DEERPARK ULTRA	No	234	45	0	0	0
AU4683	TURLOUGHMORE MAGNIFICENT	Yes	230	91	1805	7009	19
AU8953	DEERPARK ROWE	Yes	213	52	35	684	0
AU6286	JOHNSTOWN NELSON 1039	No	181	77	244	1848	3
AU1170	DEERPARK NEVIN	No	176	62	48	116	14
AU4460	DAUPHIN	No	173	84	234	417	0
AU4836	TURLOUGHMORE MAJESTIC	Yes	169	83	264	1763	8
DPZ	DESPAGNOU	No	167	90	272	344	0
AU6685	MOUNTCAIN ONDEE	Yes	144	76	139	877	25
AU5506	WHITETOWN LEYLAND ET	Yes	143	78	140	1394	9

*5 out of the Top 10 have been tested via Gene Ireland

Table 5. The Top 10 Active Bull List Aubrac Bulls on Replacement Index

Tomakeany Aubracs

Sean O'Neill and Breena Cass Tel: 087 6202918 Email: seanoneill170@gmail.com

**TOMAKEANY
CASTLECOMER
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Ballycarroll Aubracs

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Pedigree Aubracs for sale throughout the year.

LOW MAINTENANCE CATTLE WITH A HIGH RETURN FROM GRASS ALONE

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Phone 087 6622873 or Email johnwhelehan892@gmail.com

The Replacement Index predicts how suitable females will be for calving ability, milk & fertility and ultimately being profitable suckler cows. Each trait carries a different weighting in the index depending on how economically important it is. The index allows the industry to rank animals based on the expected profitability of their daughters as breeding females in suckler herds. The construction of the index is a combination of traits including milk, fertility, beef traits, feed intake, docility and calving. The table above ranks the Top 10 Aubrac AI bulls when ranked on Replacement Index. The full ICBF evaluation on these bulls is available by typing their AI code into the following link <https://webapp.icbf.com/v2/app/bull-search/>

TERMINAL INDEX

The Terminal Index predicts how profitable an animal's progeny will be for liveweight, carcass conformation and ultimately being finished for beef themselves. The construction of the index is a combination of traits including growth rate, carcass conformation, feed intake, age at finish, docility and calving. The table below ranks the Top 10 Aubrac AI bulls when ranked on Terminal Index. The full ICBF evaluation on these bulls is available by typing their AI code into the following link <https://webapp.icbf.com/v2/app/bull-search/>

AI Code	Name	GI*	Terminal Index (€)	Term Rel. (%)	Beef Calv Rec	Dairy Calv Rec	Prog in Tully
AU2635	DEERPARK ULTRA	No	146	48	0	0	0
AU4683	TURLOUGHMORE MAGNIFICENT	Yes	146	95	1805	7009	19
AU8517	JOHNSTOWN PRINCE 3530	Yes	141	58	47	400	0
DPZ	DESPAGNOU	No	140	89	272	344	0
AU1170	DEERPARK NEVIN	No	139	70	48	116	0
AU2470	CESAR	No	139	88	77	288	3
AU5262	BISON	No	125	90	246	344	5
AU8953	DEERPARK ROWE	Yes	124	60	35	684	4
AU4460	DAUPHIN	No	115	89	234	417	0
AU6286	JOHNSTOWN NELSON 1039	No	109	90	244	1848	3

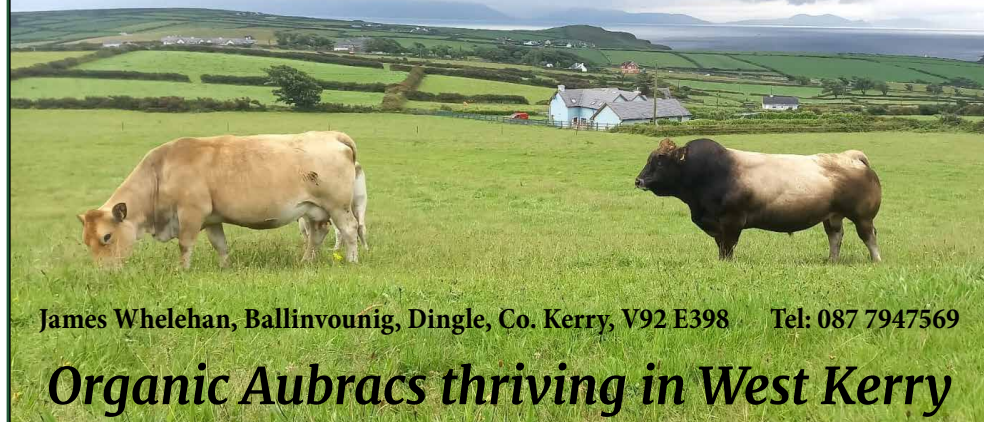
*3 out of Top 10 have been tested via Gene Ireland

Table 6. The Top 10 Active Bull List AI Aubrac Bulls on Terminal Index

DAIRY BEEF INDEX (DBI)

The DBI is a breeding index for Irish dairy and beef farmers to promote the production of profitable beef cattle bred from the dairy herd. The index is constructed to balance traits relating to easing calving and short gestation whilst seeking to also produce beef calves that have the genetic potential to deliver profitable animals for the beef finisher. The table below ranks the Top 10 Aubrac AI bulls when ranked on DBI. The full ICBF evaluation on these bulls is available by typing their AI code into the following link <https://webapp.icbf.com/v2/app/bull-search/>

Ballinvounig Aubracs



James Whelehan, Ballinvounig, Dingle, Co. Kerry, V92 E398 Tel: 087 7947569

Organic Aubracs thriving in West Kerry



Garryheather Aubracs



Eamonn Rigney, Brocca, Clonaslee, Co.Laois
Email: rigbrocca@gmail.com Tel: 087 2687946

AI Code	Name	GI*	DBI (€)	DBI Rel. (%)	Beef Calv Rec	Dairy Calv Rec	Calv SI (€)	Beef SI (€)	Tully
AU2635	DEERPARK ULTRA	No	181	47	0	0	21	164	0
AU4460	DAUPHIN	No	178	89	234	417	50	129	0
AU4683	TURLOUGHMORE MAGNIFICENT	Yes	177	95	1805	7009	15	165	19
AU1170	DEERPARK NEVIN	No	175	73	48	116	9	169	0
DPZ	DESPAGNOU	No	175	89	272	344	13	167	0
AU8517	JOHNSTOWN PRINCE 3530	Yes	173	63	47	400	-1	181	0
AU8953	DEERPARK ROWE	Yes	172	66	35	684	33	139	4
AU5262	BISON	No	167	90	246	344	17	150	5
AU2470	CESAR	No	162	88	77	288	4	161	3
AU4627	MADISON	No	155	87	70	277	29	126	3

*3 out of Top 10 have been tested via Gene Ireland

Table 7. The Top 10 Active Bull List AI Aubrac Bulls on Dairy Beef Index

GENE IRELAND BREEDING PROGRAMME

G€N€ IRELAND® is the name of the national breeding programme in Ireland and it forms an extremely important part of the cattle breeding industry. The aim of the programme is to provide herd owners with the best genetics through a coordinated progeny test programme.

A national breeding programme is essential to ensure there is a supply of high index new young sires for herdowners to choose from each year. The most successful of these sires have a significant impact on the national herd and ensure that the industry is making progress in terms of genetic gain. We now have the capacity to test approximately 50 new young beef bulls each year. The straws of these bulls are distributed in packs to herdowners in every county in Ireland. In 2024 there were approximately 600 dairy farmers and 300 suckler farmers who ordered a pack of the straws. The success of the programme is built on the national cattle breeding data which stores information across many traits for millions of animals as well as the collaboration of many industry stakeholders. The programme collects data efficiently by having a direct link between the farmer and the national database. Since the formation of the programme in 2005, it has contributed significantly to the increased rate of genetic gain in the national herd. A cohort of the progeny of each bull tested through the programme are brought to the Tully Test Centre each year where they are assessed for hard to capture traits such as feed intake, methane production, water intake and even meat eating quality. Several Aubrac bulls have been tested via Gene Ireland over the years and the five Aubrac sires with the most progeny tested in Tully are listed in Table 8 below.

Code	Name	Number Records	Feed Intake Rank Across Breed
AU6685	MOUNTCAIN ONDEE	25	Top 5%
AU4683	TURLOUGHMORE MAGNIFICENT	19	Top 1%
AU2155	SLANEYMILL JACK 687	16	Top 1%
AU4309	DEERPARK KEVIN	14	Top 38%
AU4563	JOHNSTOWN LOYD 1039	12	Top 4%

Table 8. The 5 AU Sires with the most progeny in Tully

If any herdowner wants to get involved in Gene Ireland please contact ICBF on 023 8820452.

ROCKHILL PEDIGREES

*We don't breed Aubracs for Showing –
We show Aubracs for Breeding...*



Aubrac:
Rockhill Fawn

Herd Established 2000
Breeding Show Champions Consistently

Aubrac: Venice



Aubrac:
D'espanjou



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CO. DONEGAL**

John - 087 6786466

Liam - 087 9525800

Home - 074 9734239

rockhillpedigrees@eircom.net

or ewsbutchers@live.ie

The Walsh Family Honoured with the 2025 Hall of Fame Award

The Walsh Family from Ballintra, Co. Donegal were nominated by the Irish Aubrac Cattle Society to receive the 2025 Hall of Fame award in recognition of the contribution that they have made to the Aubrac breed in Ireland.

The Walshs first imported Aubrac cattle from France in 2000, and have imported many different bloodlines over the last quarter of a century. They have had many successful days out showing cattle at agricultural shows and have achieved an impressive record of awards and prices at the Aubrac Society Show and Sales in Tullamore. They have also previously had two bulls standing in AI. Rockhill Urbano (RLU), a homebred bull, and Despagnou (DPZ), a bull imported from the test station in France. Despagnou had a very successful career, breeding many top-quality pedigrees, including current AI bull Turloughmore Magnificent (AU4683). In keeping with their form of keeping a top-quality stock bull, their French imported bull Marquis was awarded first prize in the 2023 herds competition stock bull category.

Aside from breeding and showing livestock, the Walsh Family are also well known for their business, EWS Butchers (Eddie Walsh and Sons), with shops in Ballintra and Donegal Town and **providing nationwide delivery of Aubrac beef**. The business was started by Eddie Walsh in 1962 and is now run by his sons Liam, John and Edmund, and John's son Keith. They have been the recipients of many National and International butchery awards. Their speciality, "Aubrac Beef", can be found among the beautiful displays in their shop for which they also provide nationwide delivery.

When explaining why they decided to breed Aubrac cattle and stock Aubrac beef in their butcher shop, Liam said, "When we first saw the Aubrac Breed, we found them to be an exceptional butcher's animal. Aubrac beef possesses a perfect covering of light fat, and some marbling. The carcass has the correct amount of muscle also, and a meat to bone and bone-out percentage which is second to none". Liam came to this conclusion based on trials carried out by the Walshs in their own business where they boned out and weighed the cuts of carcasses of different breeds.

Liam and John served for many years on the council of the Irish Aubrac Cattle Society, with Liam also having served as chairman. In recent years Edmund's sons, Evan and Kyle do most of the presentation and showing of livestock.

The Walshs have always been great supporters of the breed and the society. In recognition of their commitment to the Aubrac breed, in particular their promotion of Aubrac beef, the society was proud to nominate the Walsh Family for the 2025 Hall of Fame award which was very well deserved.



Turloughmore Aubracs

Est. 2010





Turloughmore Sensational

Aubrac Autumn Show and Sale : €5,000



Turloughmore Magnificent

Semen available from Progressive Genetics



Turloughmore T-Bone

Aubrac Spring Sale : €5,000



Kevin O'Brien and Colin Jackson pictured with the top-priced bull, Turloughmore Supreme that sold for €4,500



Turloughmore Majestic

Semen available from Eurogene AI

Turloughmore Nelson

Semen available from Progressive Genetics

Find Turloughmore Aubracs on Facebook

f

Tel: Kevin O'Brien 087 6550198 Email: kevinob71@gmail.com

What should we look for in an Aubrac cow?

*Probably, the best description would be:
BALANCE - no extremes.*

One of the first descriptions of the breed was published in 1888, and those traits are still the same ones followed by the French Herdbook today:

- The legs should be short in comparison to the length and the depth of the animal.
- Chest and back should be wide but with no excess.
- The hindquarters should be wide and the thigh long rather than round.
- The legs should be strong and correct.

It is only too easy to chase the highest figures. For example, in the scoring chart, the hindquarter development score goes from 1 to 15 and describes the “roundness” of the hindquarter. 15 is the highest figure, but is not what is best for an Aubrac cow. In this situation, 8 or 9 maximum is best. Higher muscular development can be associated with lesser milk production and lesser ease of calving, which is not what this breed is about. On the other hand, the width behind the withers, loin development and depth of chest, should be in the higher figures for a quality animal. The width of the pelvis also needs to be in the higher scores to ensure ease of calving. Some bulls are advertised as easy calving but are narrow. For producing a breeding cow, you need to look at the calving ability figures, not only the calving ease. Another attribute of the Aubrac breed is its ability to do well on grass, with less or

no need for grain. For this the Aubrac has a deep gut. This goes with a deep chest, which means larger lung and heart capacity.

Chasing high skeletal growth figures can also lead to taller, harder fed animals, and possibly “leggy”. A short legged, short backed animal is no better. Again, “balance” is the key. A good udder, locomotion, a pretty head, are all also important and need to be studied. A cow is made of a combination of traits, no animal should be selected for only one trait. Last but not least, temperament. The Aubrac should be a beautiful, proud animal but docile. There is no place in a herd for an animal that is not, no matter how “good” she is meant to be.

One extra word of caution: As their food conversion is excellent, the worst thing you can do to an Aubrac cow is to constantly over feed her. This can lead to ovaries and udder clogged in fat and affect reproduction and milk ability. She needs to lose that extra fat at some stage during the year if you want her to carry on breeding for many years to come.

There are a lot of other important traits to look into. Described here is only a very short summary of some of the more essential ones. For more information, please refer to the “Official Standards of the Breed” on page 15 in this booklet.

Altamont Aubrac Pedigree Herd

EST. 2006



TURLOUGHMORE SENSATIONAL -
Purchased at Elite Aubrac Sale Tullamore 2024.
Powerful Docile Bull 5 Star Replacement, 5 Star Terminal.

**Altamont Sunset
at the Iverk Show**



**Back-to-Back Aubrac
Champion 2023, 2024**

A selection of stock for sale annually. Visitors welcome.
Contact Leo or Bridget on 087 2730243
Craan Lodge, Craan, Clonegal, Co. Carlow

Helpful Hints For New Breeders

BEFORE YOU BUY

Make sure you know enough about the breed before choosing your animals. Read through the Official Standards of the Aubrac Cattle Breed (on page 44 of this Journal).

One of the main traits of the Aubrac breed is docility. This should be obvious in any animal, especially in their eye attitude. If possible inspect the sire and the dam before purchase, as temperament is inherited not trained.

Always remember that you are buying an animal that you will have to work with for the next few years, so buy an animal that suits you and your system.

The ICBF "Whole Herd Performance Recording Service" provides reliable information about each individual animal as they are scored and assessed by the ICBF inspector. This report covers conformation, docility, calving interval and growth rate. Obviously the vendor would have to be a participant in the scheme.

The Aubrac is a breed that has evolved in the plateau region of the Massif Central in France. The cattle go to the high pastures in the summer and are able to thrive on grass that would be considered inferior in Ireland. The high plane of nutrition found in today's farming can cause too much condition in the Aubracs which can lead

to reduced fertility and calving difficulties. In the new ICBF system the cows are weighed and if the cows are over 700 kg, they are downgraded on a sliding scale upwards, so keeping control on a cow's weight can pay dividends.

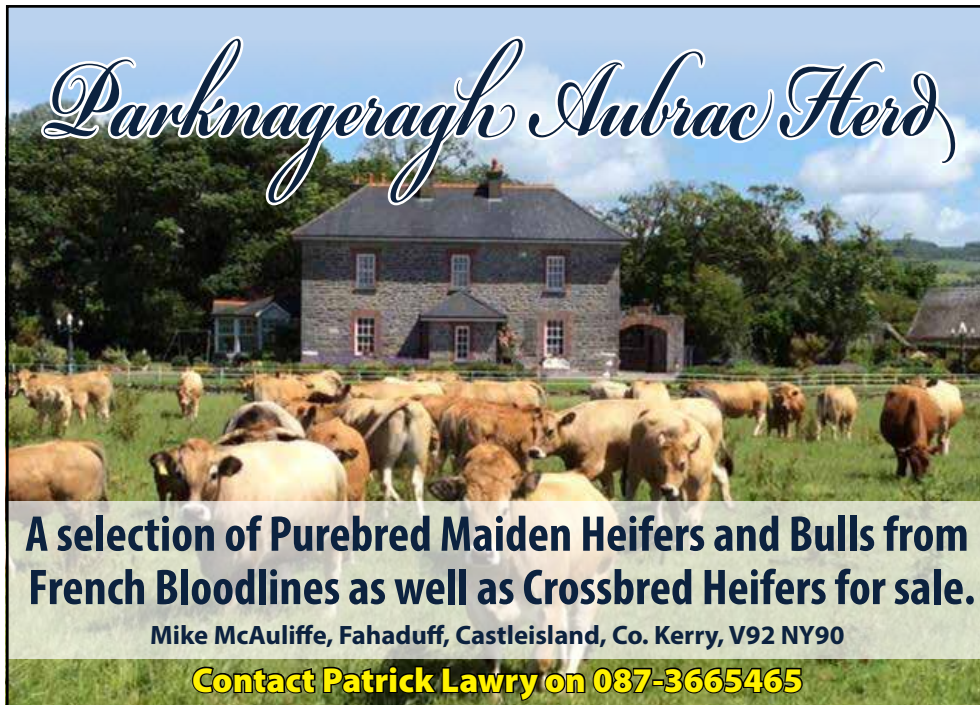
If you are buying stock in France, make sure that they are properly registered and in the case of bulls, a genomic test is required for the bull, and the sire and dam of the animal should also be genomic tested. It is advisable to make sure to get details of disease status especially bluetongue.

At the moment, the disadvantage of buying an imported animal is that they have little background in figures that are compatible with the ICBF system, although to be fair the French have a very good grading system themselves. When these animals arrive in Ireland, they have to prove themselves with time. It may be possible to check if the French figures be transferred to ICBF.

In order for the Aubrac Society to enter an imported animal in the herd book all the paper work has to be in order.

Imported cattle are now proving very difficult to dispose of in Irish factories due to SRM regulations. This can mean quite a considerable drop in the price per kilo, if you are lucky enough to get into the factory at all. However, shop around.



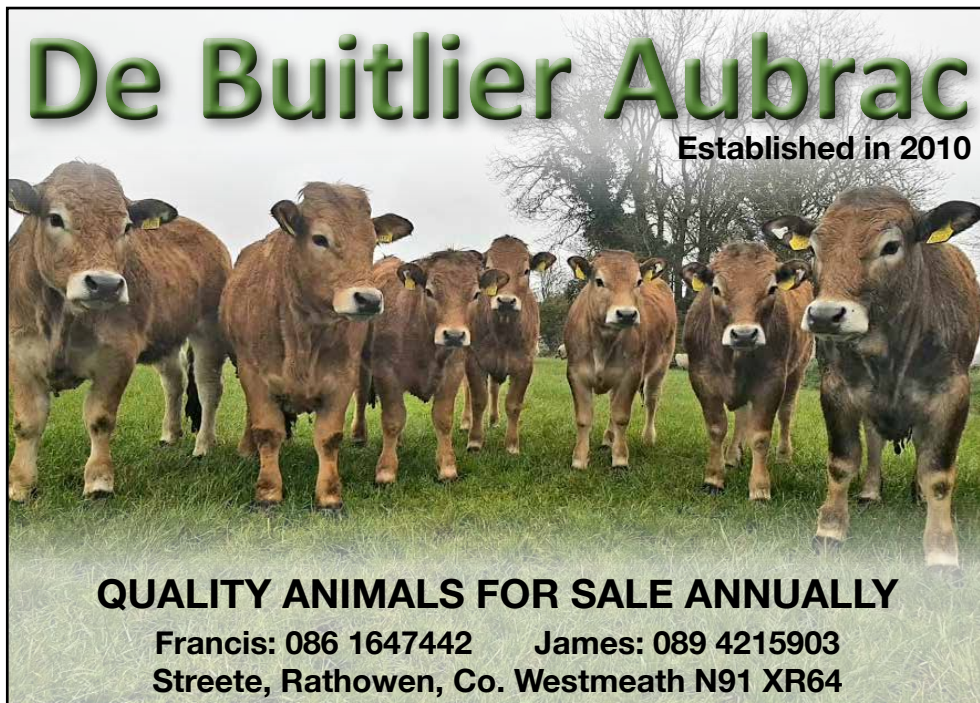


Parknageragh Aubrac Herd

A selection of Purebred Maiden Heifers and Bulls from French Bloodlines as well as Crossbred Heifers for sale.

Mike McAuliffe, Fahaduff, Castleisland, Co. Kerry, V92 NY90

Contact Patrick Lawry on 087-3665465



De Buitlier Aubrac
Established in 2010

QUALITY ANIMALS FOR SALE ANNUALLY

Francis: 086 1647442 James: 089 4215903
Streete, Rathowen, Co. Westmeath N91 XR64

Read the following registration conditions to make sure you have all the relevant documentation to transfer your new animals in your name with the Society and register their progeny without problems.

JOINING THE SOCIETY

You will find two forms at the end of this journal which can be removed and completed.

One is your membership application form. Your Herd-Book name is the prefix you will give to your calves' names for example: "Calverstown" Arrow.

The other is an ICBF (Irish Cattle Breeding Federation) form to join Animal Events (compulsory) through which your registrations will be processed.

Fill in these two forms and return to the Society along with a cheque for €65 in payment of your membership. Please note, to encourage breeders to join before the beginning of the year (so everything is in place before spring calving starts) all new memberships paid from the 1st of September also include the following year.

Your membership application will be presented at the next Council meeting and on acceptance, you will receive a set of Herd Book rules.

All calves, pedigree or not, will be registered through the ICBF. Giving a name to a calf will trigger its registration as a pedigree animal. Please do not name an animal which you do not wish to register as a cost of naming will automatically be incurred to the Society. Both parents of the calf must be registered with the Society before the calf can be registered and transfer of the animals into your herd has to be done. AI dockets must be forwarded to Deerpark Farm Services. If the sire is a stock bull he **MUST** be Genomic/parentage tested (by the Breeder), preferably before he serves. Genomic kits are available from ICBF. A sire has to be pedigree registered and requires a Genomic test before it can be used in your herd.

BOUGHT IN ANIMALS

If the animals have been brought in from France send in the French pedigree certificates of the animals you want to register. The onus is on the breeder to provide a covering cert for

in-calf animals, all animals imported have to have a Pedigree certificate. It is advisable to have the animal genomic tested. Import animals will have a name when imported; if in some cases the animal has no name the animal will be named by the Society.

If the animals have been bought in Ireland, make sure they have already been fully registered with the Society and return their pedigree cert to the office for transfer to your name. All animals purchased have to be parentage verified before sale. For in-calf animals you will have to provide a covering cert signed by the previous owner to certify what bull covered the cow or an AI docket if she has been inseminated. Also make sure the stock bull used has been genomic tested otherwise your calves will not be eligible for registration. As for imported animals, send in the certs for transfer into your own name. If the animal is not registered Pedigree by the breeder the new owner cannot register the animal. If a buyer has any queries when purchasing Aubrac animals call the office for help. The pedigree of the animals IS the responsibility of the breeder so to avoid problems later be careful to record correct information. This has become a serious problem since the introduction of the Genomic testing; if a member is in doubt of back pedigree it is best to genomic test.

2025=V 2026=W 2027=A 2028=B

REGISTRATIONS

Bought in animals have to be registered as explained above, and calves through animals events. Invoices will be sent to you when the registrations have come through. Pedigree certificates will be issued by Deerpark Farm Services when all documentation is in order and account is paid.

The Irish Aubrac Herd Book is kept by Deerpark Farm Services. All paperwork and enquiries concerning registration should be addressed to:

Angela Lacey,
Deerpark Farm Services,
Carrick-on-Suir, Co. Tipperary.
Tel: 051 641106
Email: info@aubrac.ie

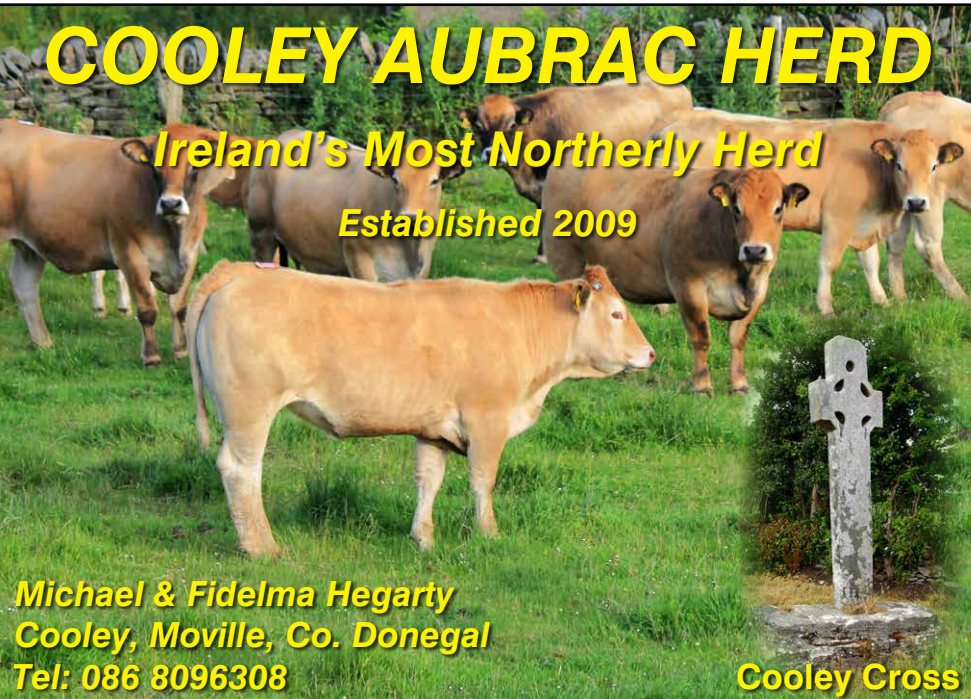


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Ireland's Most Northerly Herd

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Tel: 086 8096308

Cooley Cross

Using Commercial Beef Value (CBV) when purchasing Aubrac cattle

The CBV is a tool that gives farmers an insight into the genetic value of animals destined for beef production. It comprises traits that are of economic importance to a non-breeding (drystock) farmer, such as carcass weight, conformation and feed intake. One of the many benefits of the National Genotyping Programme (DNA at birth) is the presence of CBV's on martboards when trading beef animals. Whether it be dairy male calves at 3 weeks old, or continental suckler steers at 18 months old, having genetic information to hand when making sale/purchase decisions is vital for farmers. CBV is expressed as a Euro value like the EBI and Euro-Star Indexes. The higher the Euro value, the higher the animal's genetic merit for the traits included.

There can be massive variation in the beef merit of calves even within breeds. ICBF

research has shown that calves bred from higher genetic merit beef bulls have higher carcass weights, better conformation and are more likely to meet factory specifications than calves bred from lower genetic merit beef bulls. The table below highlights the importance of having the CBV to hand when purchasing dairy cross calves. ICBF data on over 125,000 dairy cross animals slaughtered in 2023 show that the animals in the top 10% for CBV had an average finishing price €275 higher than the animals in the bottom 10% of CBV while they also were finished an average of 16 days earlier.

The Aubrac breed performs well when you compare to other breeds for both Dairy and Beef cross dams. The table below is based on animals with a CBV slaughtered in 2024.

Table 1. Aubrac vs Other Beef Sired Dairy Cross Animals with a CBV slaughtered in 2024

Animal Type	Average CBV	Average Finishing Age	Average Carcass Weight
Aubrac Sire x Dairy Dam	€134	820 days	315kg
Other Beef Sire x Dairy Dam	€93	860 days	302kg
Aubrac vs Other Breeds	+€41	-40 days	+13kg



Boley Rock Dairy Farm

Boley Rock Dairy Farm is owned by Dermot and Angela Kehoe. Situated in South Wexford we farm about 135 Acres - 105 Grassland, 15 of Maize and 15 of Barley for feed. The herd comprises of 75 dairy cows; 30 in-calf heifers; 25 replacement heifers and a few beef heifers.

The farm is a member of Bord Bia Quality Assurance and Herd Plus. We operate a closed herd as it helps with disease prevention. We normally only buy in stock bulls, but recently have bought a few purebred Aubrac heifers.

In Spring 2014 we bought our first Aubrac Bull from Leo Dooley. For many years, we have been looking for a suitable bull to clean up the herd. The calf crop is an important element of income from the dairy herd.

2015 was our first crop of Friesian Aubrac cross. We are extremely satisfied with his first offspring with easy calving, exceptionally good quality calves, and all average €300 - €400 at 4-5 weeks old.

In Spring 2016 we bought another Aubrac Bull, Altamont Javeyron. Bred by Leo Dooley, our main crop of calves this year are from this bull. Again, we are very pleased with them, very easy calving, both cows and heifers, and yet produced top quality stock that always achieved a premium price.

BELOW: The Boss - Javeyron, with the dairy herd.



Practical Farmers say...
"Calving problems take money out of your pocket through veterinary fees, death losses and damage to the cow's reproductive system with delays recycling and rebreeding".

We are very happy with the breed - they suit our dairy herd very well.

For more information contact Dermot on: 087-7942962

LEFT: Boley Rock Lilac - Winner of the Tullamore Show 2017/2018 and her in-calf heifer Nell.



Aubrac sired dairy cross animals had an average CBV of €41 greater than the average of other beef breeds crossed on Dairy animals. In terms of slaughter performance these Aubrac crosses from the Dairy herd were an average of 13kg heavier in carcass weight at slaughter but they

also reached slaughter on average 40 days earlier than those sired by other beef breeds crossed to Dairy cows. Based on Teagasc finishing costs of €1.66 per day, this equated to a saving of €66.40 in finishing costs to go with the increased value of the heavier carcass.

Table 2. Aubrac vs Other Beef Sired Suckler bred Animals with a CBV slaughtered in 2024

Animal Type	Average CBV	Average Finishing Age	Average Carcass Weight
Aubrac Sire x Beef Dam	€243	835 days	353kg
Other Beef Sire x Beef Dam	€237	883 days	353kg
Aubrac vs Other Breeds	+€6	-48 days	0 kg



Similarly Aubrac sired cattle performed very well when you look at animals originating in the suckler herd who had a CBV and were slaughtered in 2024. The average CBV of Aubrac sired animals from the suckler herd was €6 higher versus the average for all other breeds. In terms of their performance, while the average carcass weight for Aubracs was the same as the average for all other breeds at an average carcass of 353kg, the Aubracs reached this slaughter weight a lot earlier than the average of other breeds - 835 vs 883 days - saving 48 days on farm feed costs.

The other area to consider here also is the

environmental impact of being able to finish these animals at a younger age: these animals are consuming considerably less feed as well as producing less emissions over their lifetime. The analysis has shown that the CBV is predicting animals that ultimately have higher carcass performance and within the CBV, the Aubrac breed is delivering cattle which perform well in terms of carcass traits but also deliver in terms of reduced inputs and finishing duration. Farmers can, therefore, incorporate the CBV into their sale/purchase decisions of Aubrac cattle with confidence.



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 Tel: 085 1167007 Email: belmontherd1@gmail.com

Aubrac – Top of the class in Performance Evaluations!

The Aubrac breed has been growing in popularity in Ireland in recent years and when you look at the ICBF database indices it is not hard to see why. Looking first at the replacement index, the Aubrac breed ranks 1st across all beef breeds for the Replacement index figures with the average Aubrac cow having a Replacement index of €172.07. This average Aubrac cow performs well across the different traits that make up this index. She is medium sized so her maintenance costs are lower than other breeds. She is expected to calve unassisted every year and rear a good quality calf and go back in calf the following year. These are the reasons ICBF's index rates the Aubrac so highly and why she performs so well compared to other breeds. She is ideally suited to the busy part time farmers that make up a large part of the suckler farmers in Ireland and requires less time from these herdowners than cows of other breeds.

Highest Replacement Index across main Beef Breeds!

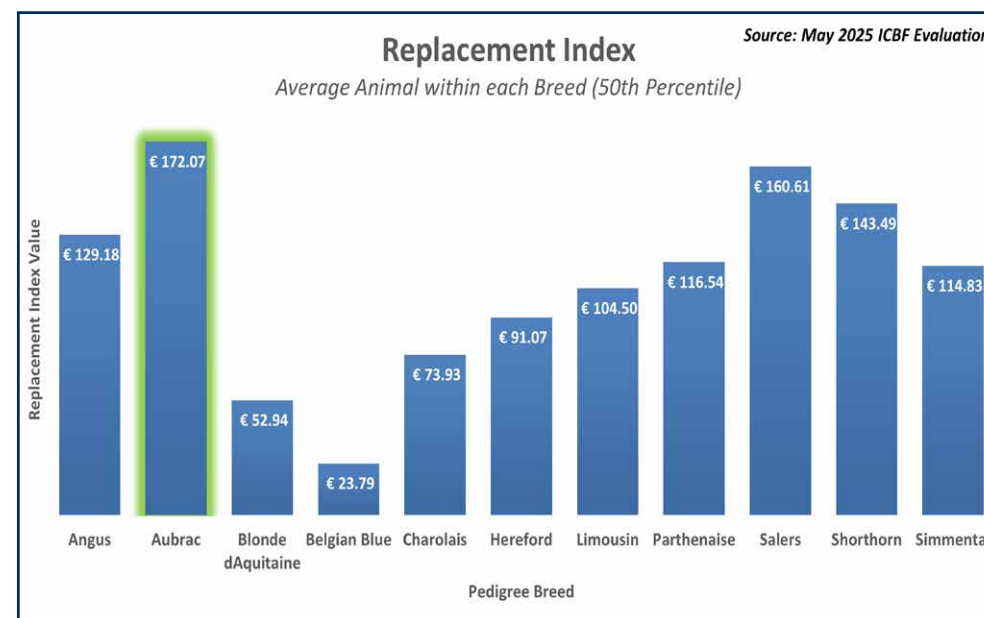


Chart 1. Average Aubrac Cow Replacement Index vs average cow for other breeds.

In addition to the Aubrac breed's growing popularity as a suckler Dam, there has been huge interest in using the Aubrac Bull as a terminal sire on Dairy herd to produce animals that can be productive and leave some revenue for Dairy Beef farmers. Comparing the Dairy Beef Index across all pedigree breeds in the latest ICBF evaluation we can see that the average Aubrac animal ranks 1st across all breeds for DBI. The Aubrac bull offers Dairy farmers a good combination of ease of calving and short gestation similar to traditional breeds but the calf produced will have conformation and weight gain of a continental breed. This balance between the needs of the Dairy farmer producing the calves and the Dairy Beef farmer finishing the calves is why the Aubrac breed ranks 1st across all breeds for DBI.



SILVERHILL FARM is a multi-generational enterprise going back to my great-grandfather.



We have always taken pride on the quality of our stock.

We started with the Aubrac breed back in 2016 and it has been the best decision we have made - the breed is so well suited to the ground here and thier temperament just makes for easy handling.

We are intending to expand in the coming years, laying down a marker for the next generation to pick up and bring the farm to new heights.

Martin Thomas Kerin 00353 85 192 4511

Email: kfp.farm@gmail.com

Silverhill Aubracs, Lahinch Road, Miltown Malbay, Co. Clare V95 Y2N0



Highest Dairy Beef Index across main Beef Breeds!

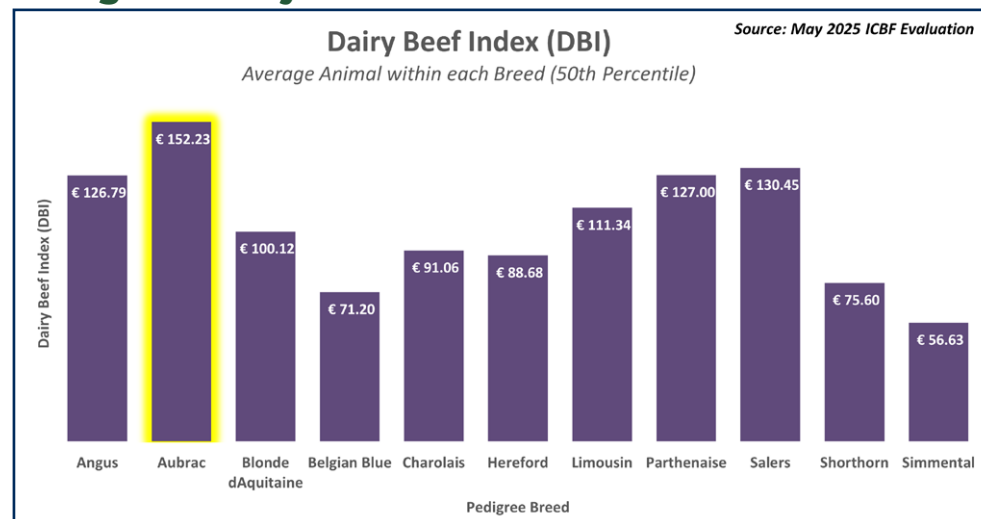


Chart 2. Average Aubrac Animal Dairy Beef Index (DBI) vs average animal for other breeds.

While the Aubrac breed wouldn't be usually associated with being a breed chosen for its terminal beefing abilities we can see from the comparison of all breeds across the terminal index that Aubracs actually rank 4th in terms of terminal index across all breeds. The ability of the Aubrac animal to gain weight efficiently, be fit for slaughter earlier and grade well on the grid are the reasons the Aubrac performs so well on this index too.

4th Highest Terminal Index across main Beef Breeds!

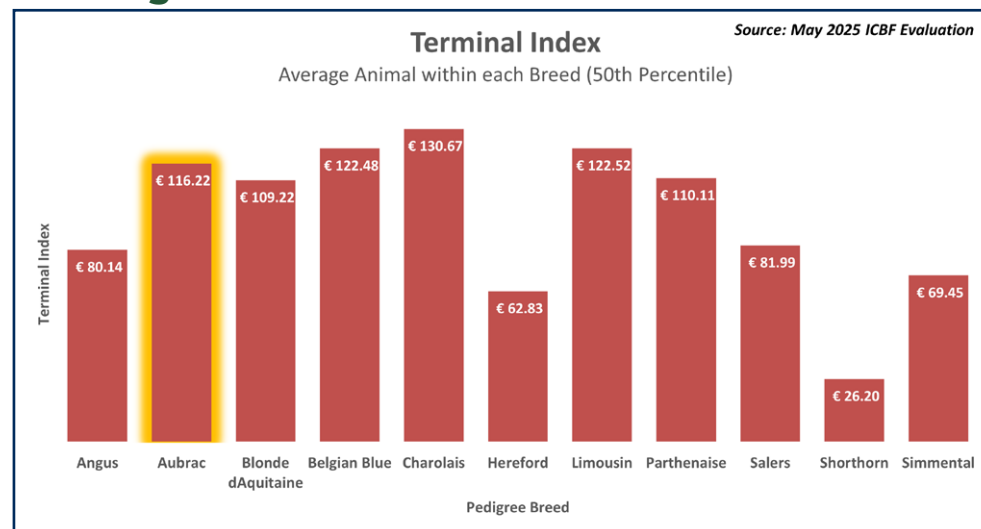


Chart 3. Average Aubrac Terminal Index vs average animal for other breeds.

The Aubrac animal is the Ultimate all-rounder breed!

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- ICBF Whole Herd Performance Recording Herd
- Participant in National Genotyping Programme
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Robert Burns
087-9815019

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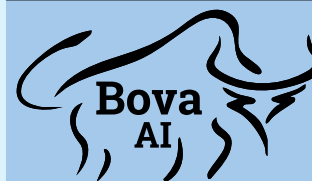
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- Myostatin: 2 x F94L



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- Easily calved on Aubrac heifers.
- 3.2% CD on dairy cows/3.4% on beef cows.
- -11 days to finish for slaughter.
- 24 kg's carcass, 2.03 conformation.
- Top 1% of breed for age at finish.
- Myostatin: 2 x F94L





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- High Replacement Index Sire.
- Transmits serious Power, Performance, Width, and Weight for Age.
- Myostatin: 2 x F94L.



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AU8953**

- Displays Massive Indices Across all Traits.
- Proven Easy Calving.
- Myostatin: 2 x F94L.



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- Produces fast growing progeny to reach slaughter age early.
- Produces females with excellent calving ability.
- Myostatin: 2 x F94L.



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THEO P
AU1515**

- Exceptional young bull from a proven superior breeding cow. Theo is very correct with exceptional muscle development and high growth rates.
- Heterozygous Polled (50% of progeny will be polled).
- Trait leader for age at finish and maternal calving difficulty.



**DEERPARK
ULTRA
AU2635**

- Breed number 1 for the Replacement index and ranked in the top 5% for the Terminal index.
- Exciting new test sire, selected for carcass and maternal traits.
- Trait leader for carcass weight, age at first calving and maternal calving difficulty.



**MOUNTCAIN
ONDEE
AU6685**

- Suitable bull to breed replacements and Dairy Beef.
- Trait leader for gestation length and calving interval
- Son of the renowned French Bull Dauphin crossed with a Perlou Dam.
- Myostatin: 2 x F94L.





TURLOUGHMORE MAGNIFICENT

AU4683

- Proven number 1 available on Terminal Index.
- Proven easy calving option for maiden heifers.
- Trait leader for feed intake, docility and calving interval
- Use to produce replacements without compromising on terminal traits
- Myostatin: 2 x F94L



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- Proven easy calving on cows



WHITETOWN LEYLAND

AU5506

- Full French pedigree
- High reliability
- Easy calving on beef and dairy cows
- Leyland is a powerful bull with excellent top line & hind quarter
- Myostatin: 2 x F94L





**WILCOT
AUBRACS**

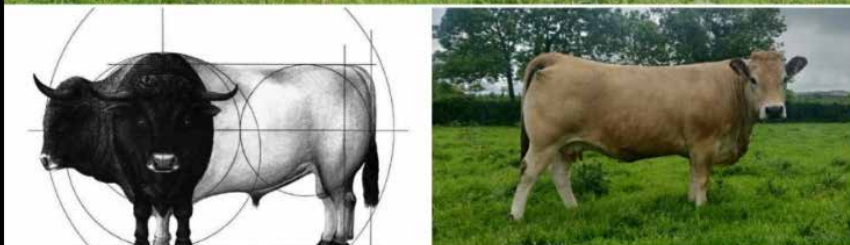
William & Cathal Bannon

085-7789494

cathalbannon@gmail.com

 @wilcot_aubracs

Lea Road, Portarlinton,
Co. Laois, R32 A276



Irish Aubrac Cattle Breed Society Limited

APPLICATION FORM TO PARTICIPATE IN THE IRISH AUBRAC BREEDING PROGRAMME

Please return this form to the address below with the membership fee.
Membership fee €65

I, undersigned, hereby apply to participate in the Irish Aubrac breeding programme. I agree to comply with the rules of the breeding programme and the obligations set out in the Rules of Procedure.

I also wish to apply for membership of the above-named Co-operative. I agree to be legally bound by the rules of the society and to make full payment of any annual subscription fees required by the rules of the society.

Please tick here **only if you do not wish to be a member** ☐

Applicant Name: _____

Applicant Address: _____

Telephone No.: _____ **Mobile No.:** _____

Email Address: _____

Display Name on certificates (if different to above): _____

Herd Book Name: **First Choice:** _____ **Second Choice:** _____

Herd Number: _____ **Herd Designator:** 372

If Applicable- DIY Licence No.: _____ **Licence Expiry Date:** _____

☐ Please tick if you are an organic farmer.

☐ Please tick to confirm you have read the Society's rules of procedure and the breeding programme rules.

Data Authorisations

The Aubrac Society may publish member's contact details on the society website, ICBF and for breed promotional purposes. Your authorisation to use your details for these purposes is required as part of the GDPR Rules. If you agree to give the Aubrac Society authorisation to do so, please tick the relevant boxes below.

I permit the Irish Aubrac Cattle Breed Society to use my name, address and contact number on a membership list on the Aubrac Society's website, and the Aubrac Society's Live Herdbook.	Yes	No
I permit the Irish Aubrac Cattle Breed Society to use my name, address and contact number on a membership list in the Aubrac Society's Journal.	Yes	No
Please confirm if you wish to join the Aubrac Society WhatsApp group.	Yes	No

Applicant Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

IRISH AUBRAC CATTLE BREED SOCIETY LIMITED

Angela Lacey, Deerpark Farm Services, Carrick-on-Suir, Co. Tipperary

Tel: 051-641106 Mobile: 086-2465341

Email: info@aubrac.ie or angela.lacey@deerparkfarmservices.com Web: www.aubrac.ie

To whom it may concern,



I _____, hereby:

- (a) give permission to the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (the “**Department**”) to make available a copy of my herd's calf registration data, animal identification and movement system data (AIM) and my name, address, mobile number, animal events data and other relevant cattle breeding data to Irish Cattle Breeding Federation Society Limited (“**ICBF**”) for the National Cattle Breeding Database (the “**Database**”). I understand that all such information will be stored in the Database and will be used for the purpose of cattle breeding activities.
- (b) consent and agree to ICBF (i) obtaining any data relating to animals which I either own now, have previously owned, or acquire in the future that ICBF shall consider relevant (including information relating to an animal's performance, health, meat quality and genetic makeup) (“**Animal Data**”) from any source available to it including meat processors, vets, AI companies and milk processors; and (ii) entering such Animal Data on its Database and using such Animal Data in any way it deems appropriate in providing its services and carrying out its activities including by making such Animal Data publicly available or passing it to third parties including those organisations listed below.
- (c) acknowledge that my personal data as provided in this form (ie my name, address, phone number and email address, Eircode) (“**Personal Data**”) will be retained by ICBF in conjunction with the Animal Data and may be used by ICBF when Animal Data is being compiled or assessed and also for the purpose of communicating with me. ICBF's lawful basis for doing this is: the performance of a contract, its legitimate interest in administering its business, compliance with its legal and regulatory obligations and/or your consent (where this has been provided). I also specifically consent to my Personal Data being given to the organisations for the purposes listed below and understand that **I can withdraw this consent in respect of my Personal Data at any time by emailing ICBF at dpo@icbf.com**

Organisation(s) to which data may be passed:

IRISH AUBRAC CATTLE - CO TIPPERARY - (AU)

Purpose(s) for which such data may be shared:

For the purpose of executing Herdbook Services, including report generation, certificate generation, catalogue generation, billing, handheld processing, website & social media publication, journal publication, electronic and written communications (e.g. email, text messaging, letter, etc.).

Address: * _____ Mobile No: _____

_____ Phone No: _____

_____ Email: _____

Eircode: _____

Herd Designer: * 372 _____ (e.g.3722112345)

BTE Herd Number: *

Country Letter	6 Digit Herd Number						Check Digit
e.g. D	1	0	4	7	1	3	5

Signature: * _____ Date: * ____ / ____ / 20 ____ * indicates Mandatory field

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Saturday 24th October 2026	Saturday 1st May 2027

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