

4th Edition



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The Irish Parthenaise Cattle Breed Society Ltd.

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CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

by Liam Fitzgerald:

As I write this, the 4th chairman's report of the Parthenaise Cattle Breed Society, processors are trying to force down the price of beef again. The year so far for cattle prices has been steady but the "war" seems to be starting again. One of the few cost controls that we as farmers can influence is the breeding policy that we adopt. We as suckler producers can choose the sire that our beef calves and suckler replacement calves are bred by. As breeders of quality pedigree stock we in The Parthenaise Cattle Breed Society believe that our breed of cattle fulfil all the criteria for producing top quality animals. Traits such as high percentage killout, ease of calving, docility, and great suckler mothers. We are confident as breeders that we can produce quality stock bulls suitable for crossing on dairy and beef herds and are greatly encouraged by the number of enquiries and compliments that we get at shows and field-days around the country.

With the recent abolition of milk quotas dairy cow numbers have increased significantly throughout the country. The Parthenaise Society believes that there is a place for Parthenaise stock bulls after the replacement requirements have been met. Pt x Fr heifers are proven to be docile maternal stock and are in great demand. The bull calves produced would compete with any beef breed. Research should be done when selecting a sire for your herd and most members of the society can help in this exercise. Members contact details can be found in this issue.

For farmers that strive to produce top quality E and U grade animals and also want to breed their own replacements i believe that the Parthenaise breed stands head and shoulders above all others. Every breed has its good and bad points but i know that when herd owners study the replacement and terminal values of the Parthenaise, on balance they can deliver the performance. What other breed can produce a docile animal that can consistently calve and rear an E or U type animal and get top cull value when finished.

"Genomics" is the new buzz word in the cattle breeding world. Whether an individual farmer joins the Dept of Agriculture scheme or not the Parthenaise Society can meet the needs of the most discerning suckler farmer in choosing a bull for his herd. A lot of our breeders are members of the Gene Ireland Bull Breeder programme which identifies pedigree animals that have been bred in a quality Gene Ireland pedigree herd. The progeny from this programme can be recommended. We as a society try to encourage our members to use the best genetics and breeding information that is available, thus ensuring that you the beef and dairy farmer can avail of the best breeding bulls for your herd. Breeding is not an exact science but we strive at all times to be the best.

Every breeder believes that their breed is the best. It is what drives us on as breeders and producers of cattle. If you like what you see in the Parthenaise breed there are a selection of sires available in all AI stations and from the Irish Parthenaise Cattle Society. If you decide to purchase a bull feel free to contact any member of the society who will advise you, or put you in touch with someone who can. I am confident from the feedback from shows, field-days, sales and the National Ploughing Championships that our breed is growing in popularity. I wish all our breeders and customers continued success and would urge farmers to stay safe.

Parthenaise Breeder's in Ireland

Munster

Timothy Kelly, Leana, Kilnaboy, Ennis, Co. Clare

Jeremiah Creedon, Carrignadoura, Ballingeary, Macroom, Co. Cork

Michael Dullea Jnr, Deelish, Drimoleague, Co. Cork

Jimmy Fitzgerald, Knockardbane, Liscarroll, Mallow, Co. Cork

Liam Fitzgerald, Moygue, Liscarroll, Mallow, Co. Cork

Jeremiah C Moynihan, Lacka, Ballydesmond, Mallow, Co. Cork

Denis Joseph O'Connor, Knockduff, Cullen, Co. Cork

Patrick A O'Flynn, Dromtarriffe, Dromagh, Mallow, Co. Cork

Thomas Scally, Kilcrea, Ovens, Co. Cork

John Flaherty, Kilmurry, Cordal, Castleisland, Co. Kerry

Michael & Patricia Foley, Mausrower, Gneeveguilla, Rathmore, Co. Kerry

James Kelly, Keel, Faha, Killarney, Co. Kerry

Dermot O'Brien, Keelties, Firies, Killarney, Co. Kerry

Patrick J O'Sullivan, Gneeveguilla Village, Rathmore, Co. Kerry

Mark Bermingham, Rathjordan, Herbertstown, Co. Limerick

Niall O'Donnell, Ballinlyna Lower, Kilmallock, Co. Limerick

Mark Saddler, Spittle, Ballylanders, Co. Limerick

Jeremiah Looby, Ballynaclearagh, Clarkestown, Lattin, Co. Tipperary

Francis Ryan, Cragg, Birdhill, Co. Tipperary

Leinster

Thomas Fitzgerald, Crosslow, Tullow, Co. Carlow

Frank Byrne, Hodgestown Upper, Donadea, Naas, Co. Kildare

Brian Hallinan, Killybegs, Prosperous, Co. Kildare

John O'Sullivan, Boston, Rathangan, Co. Kildare

Janette Schwesterman, Dowdstown Stud, Straffan Road, Maynooth, Co. Kildare

Ger & Bernadette Scally, 52 Silken Vale, Maynooth, Co. Kildare

Patrick Maher, Cloneen, Castlecomer, Co. Kilkenny

James Bennett, Cooltoran Ridge, Portlaoise, Co. Laois

Mark Brophy, Glasshouse, Vicarstown, Portlaoise, Co. Laois

Patrick Joseph Scully, Courtwood, Vicarstown, Co. Laois

William Shiel, Boley House, Abbeyleix, Co. Laois

Eamon Cassells, Gillstown, Athboy, Co. Meath

Patrick J. Coyle, Knockbrack, Oldcastle, Co. Meath

John Healy, Dressogue, Athboy, Co. Meath

Liam Carroll, Clonlee, Clareen, Birr, Co. Offaly

Robert Corboy, Clonkelly, Birr, Co. Offaly

Carthage Daly, Cloonagh East, Tullamore, Co. Offaly

Des Henry, Culleen, Durrow, Tullamore, Co. Offaly

Alan Rigney, Leamonaghan, Ballycumber, Co. Offaly

Parthenaise Breeder's in Ireland

Michael Farrelly, Killeenbrack, Streamstown, Mullingar, Co. Westmeath
Anthony Scally, Newtown, Tyrrelspass, Co. Westmeath

George & Sarah Butler, Tinnashinna, Gorey, Co. Wexford
Thomas Byrne, Rathpierce Lower, Gorey, Co. Wexford
Patrick Doyle, Kyle, Bunclody, Co. Wexford
Dympna Dolan, Knockduff, Ferns, Enniscorthy, Co. Wexford
Desmond Furlong, Rathfylane, Caim, Enniscorthy, Co. Wexford
James Hayes, Kilmannon, Murrintown, Co. Wexford
Patrick C Kavanagh, Drumgoold Lr, Enniscorthy, Co. Wexford
George Steacy, Wingfield, Gorey, Co. Wexford
Alister Swift, Monfin, Enniscorthy, Co. Wexford
John Townsend, Ballypierce, Bunclody, Co. Wexford

Michael Byrne, Summerville, Three Wells, Aghrim, Co. Wicklow
Colin Tyner, Minmore, Shillelagh, Co. Wicklow

Connaught

John Charles, Woodfield, Dunmore, Tuam, Co. Galway
Daniel Flaherty, Bungowla, Kilonan, Aran Islands, Co. Galway
Billy Griffin, Toberroe, Glinsk Via, Castlerea, Co. Galway
Gerald & Laurie Harney, Lisnagranchy, Ardrahan, Co. Galway
Michael Kennedy, Lisaleen, Tuam, Co. Galway
Niall Ryan, Stonetown, Williamstown, Castlerea, Co. Galway
Joseph Raftery, Alloonbawn, Ballymacward, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway
Thomas J. Smyth, Cloonascragh, Lavally, Tuam, Co. Galway
Niall Stoddart, Ballycrissane, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway
John Whyte, Cloonascragh, Lavally, Tuam, Co. Galway

Mervyn Richardson, Mullinadara, Carrigallen, Co. Leitrim

Vincent Daly, Ballynew, Castlebar, Co. Mayo
Patrick B Duffy, Crossboyne, Claremorris, Co. Mayo
Martin Philbin, Cloverhill, Ballinrobe, Co. Mayo
Joseph Roche, Currybawn, Belcarra, Castlebar, Co. Mayo

Sean Carroll, Erris, Boyle, Co. Roscommon
John Gerard Harney, Curraghaleen, Bealnamulla, Athlone, Co. Roscommon
Daire Markham Coolatinny Ballinlough Co. Roscommon

Padraig Colleary, Lacken, Enniscrone, Co. Sligo
Martin Giblin, Carrowconnor, Dromard, Co. Sligo

Ulster

John Sheridan, Caldry, Cootehill, Co. Cavan

Andrew McShea, Tully House, Tully, Ballyshannon, Co. Donegal

Bernard McAdam, Drumhilla, Latnamard, Smithboro, Co. Monaghan

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Herd of high index cattle. Focus is to breed females for calving ability and maternal values and bulls for ease of calving and growth. Participant in the GeneIreland beef program so all animals are linear scored and monitored by ICBF to ensure that all records are correct.

Contact Gerald Harney 087 6696901

Lisnagranchy, Ardahan. Co. Galway.

Email geraldharney@gmail.com

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Irish Farmers Journal Advertising Solutions

The image displays a variety of advertising options for the Irish Farmers Journal. At the top, a laptop shows the website's desktop version with navigation menus for News, Beef, Dairy, Sheep, etc., and a main headline about beef and cattle farming. To the right, a tablet displays a 'focus' supplement featuring a pedigree cow and the headline 'Pedigree'. In the center, a smartphone shows a mobile app interface. In the foreground, several print magazine covers are layered. One cover promotes a 'FREE 72-PAGE AGRIBUSINESS MAGAZINE' for 'Feeding 50 million people in an upside-down world'. Another cover features 'AGRI BUSINESS' and 'FOCUS: DEALS ON WHEELS', a nine-page motoring supplement. A large cover is titled 'Clarity on suckler scheme' with a sub-headline about clawbacks and a six-year contract. Other covers mention '20,000 to enter GLAS' and 'Aurivo tops March Milk League'. A 'Toplink.ie' logo is prominently displayed at the bottom of the print covers, with the tagline 'The farming classifieds website that speaks your language.'

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IRISH FARMERS JOURNAL

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Contact Siobhan Foster for advertising solutions tailored to your needs:

Tel: 01 4199556 Email: sfoster@farmersjournal.ie

Eamon Cassells

Is a young farmer from Athboy Co. Meath, Eamon is well known in the community due to his involvement in Macra na Feirme, where he sits on the National Ag Affairs Committee plus on the National Council. Eamon also works for NCBC as a lab technician while running a Suckler to Beef enterprise on 104 acres of heavy but productive land outside Athboy.

"This was a Dairy farm with a beef enterprise attached up to 7 years ago" says the Meath man "we were milking 30 cows and finishing all bull calves and beef heifers that came from the dairy enterprise. We've used 100% AI for the past 30 years and have always used Progressive Genetics (NCBC) bulls. We have a great technician here in John Tuite so we've never been tempted to go down the DIY route."

The nucleus of the suckler herd was BBxFr heifers from the original dairy farm.

"We had a mainly British Freisian herd so the blue heifers from the old dairy herd made good suckler cows. Temperament, milking ability and calf quality was/is very good with these cows. The only trade off is calving ability but that's the beauty of AI. You can mix and match bulls to suit your cows and PG have plenty of bulls to that have proven calving ease without sacrificing on quality."

In recent years Eamon has dipped his toe into using Parthenaise. How does he find Progressive's selection?

"I used a good bit of IRX - Sirex when he was available and he gave great growthy cattle and suited me just fine for finishing but wouldn't have had the muscle for export. Hurricane Gonzo - ZGH is a different story altogether. He is pure muscle machine. I'll definitely be using a lot more of him. I have some nice VUL heifer calves, so I look forward to seeing how they turn out as he has some good maternal figures coming from France."

Continued →



Hurricane Gonzo—ZGH

And on the Pedigree Front?

"I have a lovely Bourvil (S1363) bull coming up now. With me working off farm, I just don't have the time to pamper the pedigrees so this lad has had no meal since the beginning of April but I'm really impressed with how he's doing on grass. With both my pedigree and commercial cattle, I have no time for hard calving bulls. A fancy dead calf is no use to me, so the fact that Bourvil can deliver quality and calving ease is exactly what I'm looking for." Richelieu and A Ta Sante from the Parthenaise society have also worked well for Eamon. Richelieu Cows are bringing the milk that his French figures promised.

Eamon has some calves due soon from a ET flush using A Ta Sante. Eamon Says that the combination of high muscle and easy calving is what Eamon wants from his commercial herd and sees no reason to treat his breeding plans with the pedigree herd any differently. A Ta Sante will hopefully bring these qualities to the table.

Why Parthenaise though?

"I suppose I was looking for something different and when I saw Parthenaise bulls at Tullamore I decided to chance my arm.

No breed is brilliant at everything. Anybody that tells you otherwise is probably trying to sell you a bull. Limousin are probably the benchmark breed due to their wide usage and versatility. I'm finding that I'm getting more muscle and better growth rates from the Parthenaise than my Limousin stock but Limos would trump the Parthenaise on Maternal traits. Its horses for courses but Parthenaise would be my first choice for terminal sire now."

Thanks for your time Eamon, really appreciate it and all the useful insights.

TULLY HOUSE HERD



Andrew Mc shea 086 8354450

Conor Mc shea 087 7621915

Caller's welcome all the time

Tully, Ballyshannon, Co Donegal

KYLE PARTHENAISE HERD

MEMBER OF GENE IRELAND MATERNAL BULL BREEDER PROGRAMME



Left: KYLE HERD IVAN,
currently in the GENE
IRELAND MATERNAL
PROGENY TEST
PROGRAM

Below: KYLE HERD JENNY,
OVERALL PARTHENAISE
CHAMPION AT
TULLAMORE SHOW 2015



Paddy Doyle, Kyle, Bunclody, Co. Wexford.

Tel: 087-2334621 Email: paddydoyle5@gmail.com

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Parthenaise



**Some of the embryo calves from the Aylesbury Farm herd
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Moving forward with Parthenaise – Frank Ryall.

Over the years, I researched the economics of suckler farming, placing specific emphasis on profit in the pocket at the end of my farming year. There is no fortune out of commercial suckling, profit is reliant on staying within certain parameters but the fundamentals are simple, a calf per cow each year and a quality calf. The cow breed is critical, as the cow carries a 60 – 70% responsibility for what your calf is going to be. I farmed 40 commercial suckler cows up to recently, mainly limousin cross, with a flick of Belgian Blue through a small percentage. I would vary the sires used through AI and stock bulls. Being happy with what I had but trying to add value to this type of farming seemed to end up at the same bottom line most years. All this being said, if I could achieve upwards of €1,000 average per weanling it would somehow justify continuing with weanling production. Paying bills would more often than not depend on my single farm payment arriving, cash flow depended on it. I feel that many farms can identify with this. Every year for a suckler farmer is different, difficult to plan due to varying costs and market prices and punctuated by weather conditions. Over the past three years, I have noted Parthenaise cross weanlings in Co. Kerry marts. Like most breeds there are good and bad ones but the good ones are exceptional and remarkable. When one looks a little closer, my argument of having the cow correctly bred comes in to force. I did take a special interest in Parthenaise and often used the opportunity to visit a farm where Parthenaise A.I. is being used. This year, I made a further discovery, in that a suckler cow with one cross of Parthenaise in her blood had serious potential to breed a good calf. In fact I would go further by saying that it is the experiment that every suckler farmer has to conduct. Top suckler farmers have gotten to grips with the regime of having a Parthenaise cross female and then crossing with either a Belgian Blue or a Parthenaise sire again. The result is what every suckler farmer desires. A good if not a great calf to bring to a sale, something that would bring confidence to you while en route to a weanling sale. This year I also met with a suckler farmer, who acquired pedigree non registered Parthenaise females for commercial production and the end product was top class. Many top calibre weanlings of course never get to the weanling sales and are being purchased on farm, it seems that Parthenaise cross weanlings are being snapped up on farm, as feeders here and abroad realize their potential to clock up weight efficiently. All this being considered, I decided to try and purchase a number of Parthenaise cross heifers. This task proved difficult, as I was either too late or no one would part with them. I then came to the conclusion that maybe I should consider buying a batch of pedigree heifers for commercial production and go on this route. After visiting a number of pedigree Parthenaise breeders, who were very informative and helpful, I decided to look further at the breed in France. The Irish Parthenaise society helped to organise herds in France for a visit. I must say that the trip to France was a further eye opener, cattle quality was very impressive and to go one step further convinced me in my belief to “go Parthenaise”. After negotiating a three day farm to farm outing in the Vendee and deux sevres regions of France, I felt that perhaps I should consider selling my commercial sucklers outright and exchange them for a small number of top production pedigree Parthenaise stock. It seemed to make sense. In doing so, I was reducing stock numbers to have more time for myself, reducing the running costs that come with large numbers on the farm, increasing the possibility of attaining better prices be they for commercial or

pedigree. I sold my commercial herd in July and a few days later had 22 good quality Parthenaise cows and heifers arrive on my farm. I am confident that I have made the correct choice and all going well, I will hope to have the first pedigree Parthenaise calves born in November 2015. The selections made were based mainly on calving ease. The 22 females selected all had very good indices for calving ability, milk and growth, which are the basics for any livestock production system. One thing that also impressed me during my trip to France was the attention to detail paid by the French Parthenaise farmer to cattle weights. Cattle performance was measured with the weighing scales four times per year, whereas in my experience most cattle here in Ireland are weighed by the eye or on the mart scales at the sale. The French data collection and recording system is extremely accurate in my opinion and every suckler farmer should have a scale on farm to monitor what is happening in their herds. Parthenaise cattle are very efficient feed converters. I think for anyone who wants results and quality, they have to try out Parthenaise. One thing I would advise and that is to speak to those with the experience and investigate the breed capabilities but everyone has to try a Parthenaise A.I. straw at least once.



Some Parthenaise breeding stock imported recently from France, cows with calves at foot.

The Parthenaise breed is growing in France, Ireland and in other European countries and this speaks for itself. Parthenaise were in fact a rare breed in France, for a rare breed they are some breed. Exceptional in so many ways.

ALAMIRA PARTHENAISE HERD

MEMBER OF SAC HERD HEALTH PROGRAMME



ALAMIRA HARRY

currently in the GENE
IRELAND MATERNAL
PROGENY TEST
PROGRAM



ALAMIRA ISABELE

Champion junior
heifer, Tullamore show
2014.

Champion senior
heifer, Tullamore show
2015.

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DRUMGOOLD JULIA (CQO) Winner Junior Heifer & Reserve
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DRUMGOOLD JILL (AIOLI) Winner Junior Heifer class at
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Paddy & Conall Kavanagh, Drumgoold Lower, Enniscorthy, Co. Wexford.

paddy.kavanagh@wexfordmcc.ie 087-2785273 / 087-3932431

G€N€ Ireland® Maternal Beef breeding program

Ciaran Costello & Stephen Conroy, ICBF

What is Gene Ireland Beef breeding programme?

Gene Ireland beef programme was established in 2007 in order to deliver consistent genetic gain to the national suckler herd by testing high replacement index young beef bulls on an ongoing basis.

Aim of the Programme

To improve the maternal traits in the national herd; namely milk, fertility and calving ability. It is a joint initiative between ICBF, the AI companies (Dovea Genetics & NCBC) and the Irish beef breed societies.

2014- A new direction

Bulls now being tested are high replacement index bulls which are purchased directly by the gene Ireland beef programme. AI Company owned bulls will still be tested alongside the bulls purchased directly by Gene Ireland, provided they meet certain criteria.

New Gene Ireland Beef Programme

There are two programmes which come under Gene Ireland Beef:

- 1. The Maternal Bull Breeder Programme for Pedigree Herds**
- 2. The Maternal Progeny Test Programme for Commercial Herds**

1. The Maternal Bull Breeder Programme for Pedigree Herds

The Maternal Bull Breeder programme was launched in autumn 2012 for Pedigree Beef herds. There is an annual fee of €250 for herds that sign up.

What is required?

- The breeder needs to record high levels of accurate data on their animals e.g. Birth weights, weaning weights, etc.
 - Place more emphasis on maternal traits when selecting bulls to mate with their cows.

HDQI: Herd Data Quality Index

The quality of data collected from these herds is assessed under the Herd Data Quality Index. The HDQI is an overall % score assigned to each herd and takes into account the completeness and timeliness of data recorded.

HLO's; Herd Liaison Officers will visit these

Continued →

ALAMIRA HARRY



LISNAGRANCHY HULIO



Pictured above are 'Alamira Harry' (ZYH) and 'Lisnagranchy Hulio' (AYH). Both of these bulls were purchased for the Gene Ireland autumn 2014 program. They were tested through the Gene Ireland Programme because they are either four or five-stars for replacement index. Both bulls also have a calving ease of less than 4.7%. To date a total of 500 straws have been ordered for AYH while 430 straws have been ordered for ZYH. The first calves from AYH and ZYH have been born and they are tremendous calves. Both bulls have since been sold on for breeding.

The Process- the seven simple steps

1. Participating herds are monitored for the presence of high replacement index bulls.
2. A shortlist of bulls, ranked on replacement index is put together.
3. These bulls will be inspected by linear scorers.
4. When a number of bulls pass the visual inspection, the breed committees consider each bull individually.
5. Each breed has its own committee made up of representatives from ICBF, AI companies, breed societies, and commercial farmers.
6. Bulls selected by each committee are purchased by Gene Ireland and enter AI.
7. 1000 straws are taken from each bull, with 500 made available for progeny testing and the other 500 will be made available only to pedigree breeders in the programme.

Continued →

The Gene Ireland Program purchased 'Kyle Herd Ivan' (ZKY) for the 2015 Spring Program.



ZKY has four stars for replacement index and 5 stars for terminal index.

Straws are still currently available from ZKY

Code	Name	Terminal Index	Replacement Index	Calving diff %
ZKY	Kyle herd Ivan	€171	€99	3.9%
AYH	Lisnagranchy Hulio	€142	€156	5.5%
ZYH	Alamira Harry	€146	€89	7.1%

2. The Maternal Progeny Test Programme for Commercial Herds

The maternal progeny test programme is the second part to the Gene Ireland Maternal beef programme. Commercial herds that order straws from young test bulls in the programme can benefit greatly.

- At a cost of just **€5 a straw** – you have access to top maternal genetics.
 - Farmers have a **choice** of different bull and breeds.
 - Progeny are weighed for **Free** by our weighing technician.
- **We buy your weanlings** from test bulls for progeny testing at our research centre in Tully, Co. Kildare.

Want to find out more?

Please contact ICBF Gene Ireland on 045 520796 or 045 521573

GLASSHOUSE HERD



Glasshouse Kathrin after winning the January 2015 calf class at Tullamore Show 2015

Quality Pedigree & Commercial Stock for sale

Visitors always welcome,

Contact Liam Brophy on 087 1389719 or Mark Brophy on 086 1940554.

MEADOWRIDGE HERD



Top Maternal AI Bulls used, Pedigree stock always available for sale
John Whyte, Cloonascragh, Lavally, Tuam, Co. Galway, 087 7600309

Email : johngcwhyte@hotmail.com



E SHOWS 2015



West Cork Parthenaise

My name is Michael Dullea, Lig do Scith, Deelish, Drimoleague Co Cork.

It was back in 2010 when I first got interested in Parthenaise Breeding. I went about sourcing a bull and the bull I was looking for had to be easy calving with muscle and have a high milk pedigree - a lot to ask for I know. I went to five breeders to look at their stock. I was very impressed and appreciative as to how informative and helpful they were. At the fifth farm I saw the bull I liked. He had all the qualities I wanted.

My first crop of calves landed in spring 2011. I was very pleased at how easily calved they were but it was at about six weeks when I started to really notice their real potential. I found it became the norm to find a newborn standing and sucking within fifteen minutes of birth. Calves are hardy and can withstand the typical Irish weather in their ease, for that reason calves are out on grass at a week old with their mothers as early as the first of February and show no ill effects.

I kill all my bulls under sixteen months of age and I have never had a Parthenaise cross bull grade less than a U or an E. Also kill-out weights are very impressive with a high kill-out percentage. I sell my surplus Parthenaise cross heifers for breeding with good demand for them always. I find the half-bred heifers produce super calves and rare them well with a good milk supply.

In 2013 I decided it was time to start pedigree breeding. I bought my first pedigree heifer, an Aioli sired calf from John Whyte. She has now calved a bull sired by Coquin and calved unassisted. In 2014 I added two more in-calf heifers and both have calved since. This year I bought three embryos and I was delighted my three embryos held and are due in November. Sleepless nights ahead for sure.

I can see myself Parthenaise breeding for many years to come

Michael Dullea.

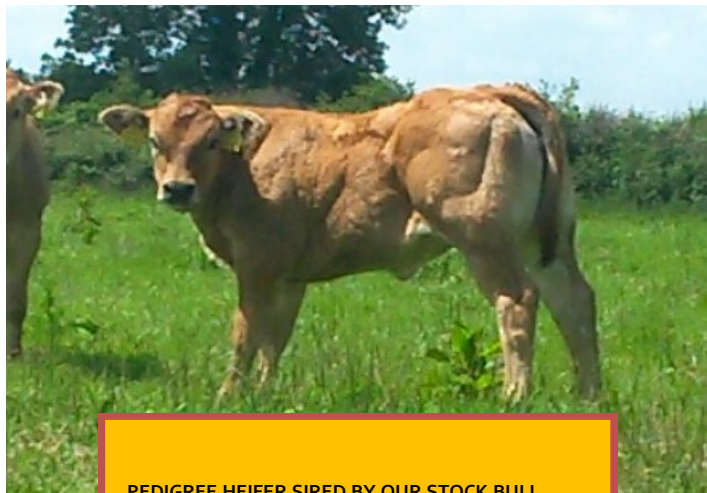


A 15.5 month old bull ready for slaughter
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A 3/4 bred LRY bull calf at 7 weeks out of my own
Half-bred heifer

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2015 calf crop
sired by Ti-Lapin
and Keelties
Goliath

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"Lacka's Parthenaise Inky" @ 16months



"Iamina" Dax heifer from France



One of our first cows "Emily"



"Lacka's Parthenaise Kuhn" @ 9months

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2 month old VED bull calf with Dam



Fleche with heifer calf by A Ta Sante

Our pedigree herd began in 2010 with the introduction of 3 purebred weanling heifers from one of the top French Parthenaise breeders, producing 3 purebred females in their first breeding season, who will be calving down themselves in the autumn 2015,

Patricia Lydon & Michael Foley, Mausrower, Gneeveguilla, Rathmore, Co. Kerry.

Contact No: (086) 604 3858. Email:mb_foley@hotmail.com, Visitors are always welcome.

DEELISH PARTHENAISE



Our current stock bull



2 freshly calved heifers grazing

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Michael Dullea Jnr, Deelish, Drimoleague, Co. Cork. Tel: 087-2341144

DolMon Parthenaise Herd

Herd established in 2014/15 by John Dolan, Monageer, Enniscorthy, Co. Wexford.

Why Parthenaise?

The focus of my Suckler herd is to produce E/U grading weanlings for the shipping trade or the Irish Market/feedlots. I was using 100% AI Belgium Blue and Charolais bulls. The target for the herd was to get a top quality calf/weanling out of every single cow every year. If you breed the right calf you can go for sale sooner and without ration feeding and thus improving your margin. With the lower quality calf you will have to push them with ration and hold them longer to get the weight gain but you were not achieving the same quality as it was not in the breeding to start with and not achieving the same profit. Ration and days in the herd all cost money.

You cannot achieve top quality calves by relying on the bull only. The Cow is the most important part of the equation and the quality of cow should be the primary focus for any serious suckler farmer. With a small Suckler herd it was difficult to go down the road of breeding your own replacements as it was going to hit cashflow as you would end up producing bulls that would have a lower market value than you would have if you used a high terminal index bull. During Summer/Autumn 2014 I was looking to purchase some top quality replacements and made several trips to Carnew and Enniscorthy marts and realised that what I was looking for was not to be got as every good suckler man was holding his best replacements. In October of 2014 I was in Carnew Mart and Percy Kingston was holding a dispersal sale of 1/2 and 3/4 bred Parthenaise (PT) cows with calves at foot and maiden 3/4 bred PT heifers. To be honest they were a breed I had not looked at or considered before for my herd but the quality on show and prices achieved and the level of interest in the stock on show that day opened my eyes. The cows all had exceptional length and great hind quarters and had super calves at foot. After doing a bit of research on the breed I tracked down Percy Kingston and after a long discussion I was under no illusion that the Parthenaise Breed was the way forward to produce the quality of calf I wanted without the calving difficulties, lack of milk and docility issues associated with other breeds.

To get into the breed I decided to go on the search for a PT stock bull with a high replacement index to breed replacements from my own cows. The plan was to breed 3/4 PTX heifers/cows and replace my own cows with these as time progressed. On the search for the stock bull I visited many PT farms and was very impressed with the quality of the Pedigree and Commercial PT stock. I eventually purchased a 19 mth old stock bull "Lisnagranchy Ignatius" a son of "Lisnagranchy Carlo (LRY)" from Laurie Harney in Galway. The Bull had a Replacement index of €173 and a Terminal Index of €155. One thing that stood out with all the bulls and herds I looked at was that they are a well balanced animal with high Replacement and Terminal indexes which make them ideal for Suckler farmers to breed both replacements for the head and quality weanlings for sale. Being very docile also has its advantages. It is very difficult to get this balance in any other breed.

I decided to go looking for a few pedigree maiden heifer and I heard that Tom Scally owner of the Fianna PT Herd in Cork was selling his PT stock due to a change in his farming system. I initially purchased 3 cows with calves at foot and a maiden heifer and the more I studied them at home the more impressed I was with them. After a lot of consideration I decided to hold a dispersal sale of my older lower quality incalf cows and I purchased the remainder of the Fianna Herd with Calves/weanlings at foot except for a few older cows. There was 9 heifer calves at foot with the cows purchased out of an impressive French PT Bull that Tom Scally imported called "Fanforan" and these are impressive calves showing great length and muscle expression. "Fanforan" came from one of the

top Prize winning Parthenaise Herds in France. The Fianna Herd was one of the first PT herds in the country and was established from top quality blood lines and certainly has given me a great foundation to develop my herd.

Plan for the Future.

The plan for the future is to have a full Pedigree Parthenaise Herd producing high Replacement and Terminal Index stock. This will be achieved by holding all heifers produced and using AI as much as possible. I will also be using the stock bull "Lisnagranchy Ignatius" and an impressive Bull that was purchased as a weanling from the Fianna herd out of "Fanforan".

Summary

I hear far too many farmers in this country complaining about the poor returns out of suckler farming and yes I do agree but a lot of the complainers are not willing to do something about it. It astonishes me the volume of O and R grade stock being produced in this country and you will not make money when you are producing lower grading animals. The focus has to be to produce top quality animals and then we can start demanding premium prices. The top Suckler herds in France are all Pedigree herds of different breeds and the quality is consistently top notch. You can buy the best stock bull money can buy, but if you are using him on poor quality cows you are wasting your time. The focus needs to be on having top quality milky well muscled cows with good frames and size that will consistently produce top grading weanlings/replacements and from what I have seen with my own stock and the stock viewed on other Parthenaise farms you are getting this with the Parthenaise Breed.



Stock Bull Lisnagranchy Ignatius born March 2014 out of LRY (Lisnagranchy Carlo)



Dolmon Kylie out of Fanforan. Born 13/06/15. Photo 24/8/15

Breeding Stock Available from Autumn 2016.



**For Viewings or Information
on the herd contact**

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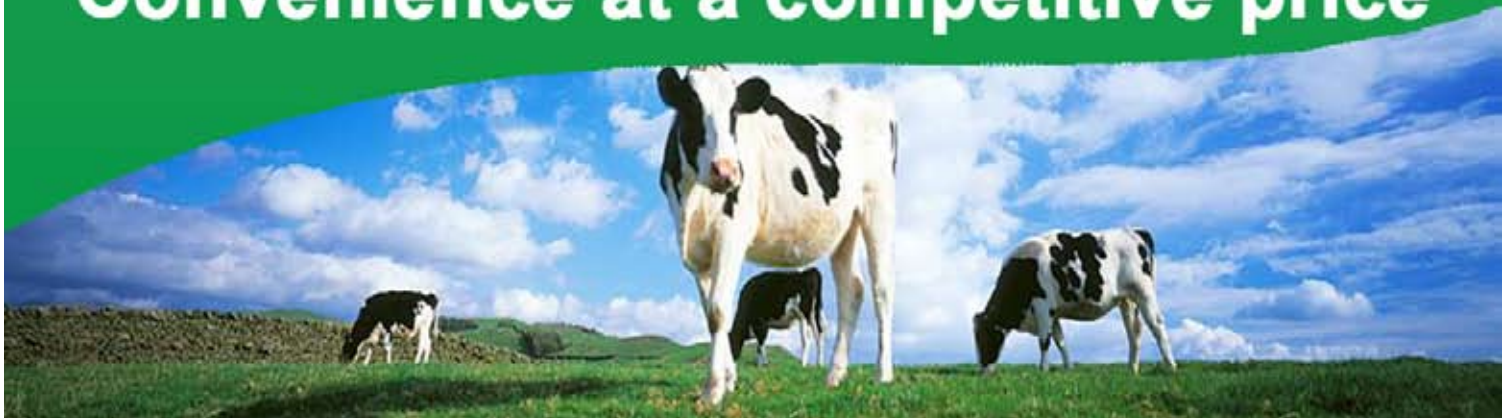
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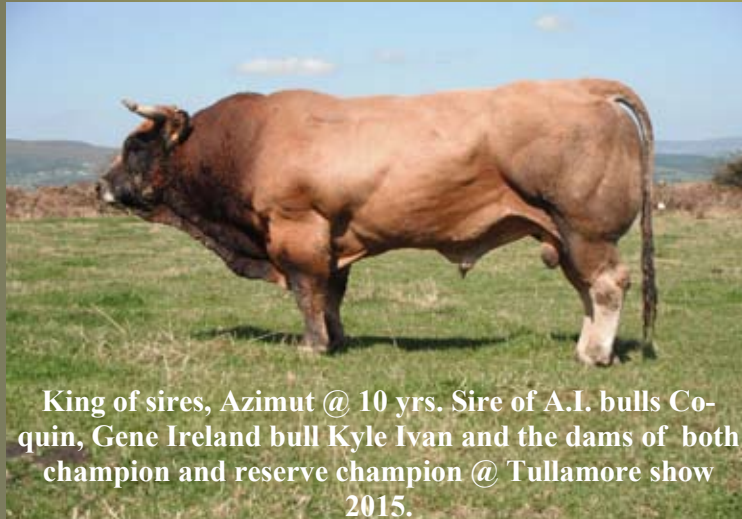
Keelties Parthenaise herd



30 cow herd established in 2006 originates from the best genetic lines from France.

Our breeding goals are to breed for easy calving, growth and weight for age.

A.I. sires used in 2015; Atica, Dakar, Vaillant, Joker and BZB



King of sires, Azimut @ 10 yrs. Sire of A.I. bulls Co-quin, Gene Ireland bull Kyle Ivan and the dams of both champion and reserve champion @ Tullamore show 2015.



Artique @ 10 yrs and still breeding strong, daughters retained in herd.

Progeny that have left their mark on the Parthenaise breed in Ireland and in France.



Former herd sire Dovea A.I. bull BZB, has sired many show winners and sale toppers throughout Ireland



Danoise, highest indexed female to be imported from France, IVMAT 118

Flushing of top females to take place in 2016, a select number of embryos will be made available for purchase.

Also wishing all our customers the very best with their purchases in the past year.

Inquiries are always welcome.

Dermot O'Brien, Keelties, Firies, Killarney, Co. Kerry

Email: agriobrien@eircom.net

Phone: 066 9767797, mob 087 2390727

Parthenaise & the French Ambassador

I had the privilege of hosting the French Ambassador to Ireland, Mons Jean Pierre Thebault on an official trip to Enniscorthy to name the ' William Barker' bridge, and to view the 1798 reenactment of the Battle of Vinegar Hill . During the visit the conversation came around to French breeds of cattle and in particular the Parthenaise breed. I was pleasantly surprised how much a diplomat from Lourdes knew about cattle. He was aware of the revival of the breed, the breeding programme and the high regard in which these are held in France. He was interested in the breed here in Ireland, but couldn't understand why we weren't getting a premium price for our pure Parthenaise beef as they do in France. The Ambassador told me that when the French housewife shopped for her meat she specified the breed of the meat first, then the cut she required. A long way to go here! The Parthenaise beef is a favourite in the Thebault household in France. Obviously a family of discerning taste. I found Jean Pierre to be a very interesting and well informed man and hope to keep in touch.

Paddy Kavanagh

Chair of Enniscorthy Municipal Authority

Parthenaise Breeder



A stock bull in France

Society Charges

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Annual subscription

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Female calf registration fee

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Male calf registration

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James Furlong - 0879704207

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Rathfylane, Caim, Enniscorthy, Co. Wexford.

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All pedigree stock from classified French cows with high indices.



Maiden Heifer sired by Bourvil, Dam IVMAT index of 110



*Glycine with her heifer calf. IVMAT 103, sire is Eclairer ISERV index of 107 and IFNAIS 120

Inquiries welcome

Frank Ryall, Kilgulbin East, Adfert, Tralee, Co. Kerry

Email: kilgulbinparthenaise@gmail.com

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Kilmannon Jackson. winner of the young bull class Bannow & Rathangan show 2015



"Vahinee" embryo donor cow



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