

Shows and Sales Committee report

It was great to see the shows returning to normal post-pandemic, and what a summer it was! Dry and sunny weather attracted many visitors to view the exceptional display of Angus cattle all over the country.

The Highland Show was a great event and it was encouraging to see so many entries, with exhibitors coming from far and wide to compete at this prestigious show. The Great Yorkshire Show was also incredibly well attended. The cattle displayed were a credit to the exhibitors.

A special mention must go to the Summer National at Norfolk, where exhibitors came from all over the UK to compete and make the event something special. This coming year, the Summer National will head up to the North-East of Scotland at Turriff, and I am sure it also will be equally well attended.

Stirling bull sales in February marked an incredible moment for the breed when we witnessed the centre breed record of 28,000gns smashed not once but twice. The new record belongs to the Massie family producing a top price of 38,000gns, which was purchased by Wedderlie. This was a momentous achievement following the record-breaking Blelack dispersal last year. Second to break the record was the Clark family at Duncanziemere, selling Duncanziemere Jacobite for 30,000gns.

The sale overall proved that Aberdeen-Angus bulls are still in high demand with an average of £6,533, up £34 on the year, with 95 bulls sold. Hopefully an inspiring indication of what the future holds for Aberdeen-Angus breeders.

The Carlisle May bull sale saw an 86% clearance, with 51 Aberdeen-Angus bulls finding new homes to an average of £4,869.12, up £497 on the year, with the sale topping at 9,000gns.

INFECTIOUS BOVINE RHINOTRACHEITIS (IBR) INITIATIVE

A significant aspect of our work over the past year has been looking into the presence of IBR at bull sales. Helping to protect and advise the membership on the various risks associated with purchasing from the mart is our priority.

In October 2022, the Council passed a proposal containing the following:

- All bulls entered into official society sales must be pre-movement tested with a health scheme provider and the results must be displayed on health sale cards. For timescale, health and pen cards can be ordered up to 3 months before the sale date. This allows ample time to screen individual animals for IBR.
- Animals vaccinated before the blood test must display vaccination dates and vaccine type on the health card.
- The use of IBR Marker vaccines is encouraged to distinguish between vaccination and infection.

- Animals that receive a positive antibody result but have not been marker vaccinated must be fully vaccinated pre-movement to reduce the risk of the animal shedding the disease at the mart and also to reduce the risk of infecting an IBR naïve herd.
- Animals that test negative for IBR can enter the sale unvaccinated, but this is at the vendor's/purchaser's risk. Therefore, we encourage vendors to vaccinate with an IBR marker vaccine before the sale date. Again, vaccination date and type must be provided on the pen health cards (see health test checklist on page 65 and 66).

Initially, we are recommending this practice for this year's February bull sales at Stirling. Following the spring 2023 sale season, this initiative will become mandatory for vendors entering all Society sales (both males and led females).

INFORMATION FOR PURCHASERS

- Actual individual testing information will be displayed on the health card. This should be taken into consideration before purchase along with the herd declaration IBR status to make an informed decision of risk.
- IBR-positive animals must be vaccinated before the sale; however, it is impossible to prove vaccination in antibody-positive animals that have been previously infected with the disease. Therefore, it is recommended that if an antibody-positive animal is purchased, it is isolated on arrival to the farm and vaccinated against IBR for complete assurance.
- The Society has adopted this initiative to reduce the risk of transfer of IBR by selling animals. It is hoped that this will allow purchasers to make more informed decisions. The AACCS, however, provide no assurances about the health results being provided.

In addition to the above, we have endeavoured to make sales easier for vendors with herd health declarations. We are happy to announce that the herd health declaration will shortly be available online, removing the need to print, fill out and scan. We hope this will reduce the late returns and speed up the process in the office.

The late return of health declaration forms is a significant factor in delaying sale entry and cataloguing. Just a reminder that herd health declarations are due with sale entries and by the sale entry deadline. These should be forwarded to the AACCS office by email.

As per the previous report, the potential changes to the Johne's element of the CHeCS scheme are still under discussion and we have yet to make any significant changes. We will endeavour to inform the membership of any changes as and when they occur.

As Chair of this Committee, I would like to thank all the exhibitors for their support at shows and sales last year, showcasing the best attributes of our great breed.

Daniel Whiteford, Chair of Shows and Sales Committee



Health test requirements for Aberdeen-Angus Cattle Society sales

Male Animals	Test required	Vaccination	Health card boxes to be completed
BVD accredited herds	No - Individual test optional	Optional - but recommended	The herd accredited box must be completed and if vaccinated the details must be completed.
Non BVD accredited herds - must be part of the health scheme and be testing for a minimum of 12 months	Yes - Antigen	Optional - but recommended	The individual test result must be shown and if vaccinated the details must be completed.
IBR accredited herds	No - Individual test optional	Optional - but marker vaccine recommended	The herd accredited box must be completed and if vaccinated the details must be completed.
IBR non-accredited herds	Yes - Antibody	Optional - but marker vaccine recommended	The individual test result must be shown and if vaccinated the details must be completed
Lepto accredited herds	No - Individual test optional	Optional	The herd accredited box must be completed and if vaccinated the details must be completed.
Lepto non-accredited herds	No - Individual test optional	Optional	If tested the animal's individual test result must be shown and if vaccinated the details must be completed.
TB	Date of last test		The date of the last test and the TB testing interval must be completed. If a herd is TB exempt this must be shown. The TB information must be completed.
Johne's - must be a part of the CHECS health scheme and a minimum Level 4 and be testing for a minimum of 12 months			Every animal must have the risk level of the herd shown in the box. Non-homebred animals have no details in the Johne's box.

Female Animals	Test required	Vaccination	Health card boxes to be completed
BVD accredited herds	No - Individual test optional	Must be vaccinated to cover period of sale. The Society strongly recommends that in-calf females are vaccinated prior to service	The herd accredited box and vaccination details box must be completed
Non BVD accredited herds - must be part of the health scheme and be testing for a minimum of 12 months	Yes - Antigen	Must be vaccinated to cover period of sale. The Society strongly recommends that in-calf females are vaccinated prior to service	The individual test result must be shown and vaccination details must be completed
IBR accredited herds	No - Individual test optional	Optional - but marker vaccine recommended	The herd accredited box must be completed and if vaccinated the details must be completed.
IBR non-accredited herds	Yes - Antibody	Optional - but marker vaccine recommended	The individual test result must be shown and if vaccinated the details must be completed
Lepto accredited herds	No - Individual test optional	Optional	The herd accredited box must be completed and if vaccinated the details must be completed.
Lepto non-accredited herds	No - Individual test optional	Optional	If tested the animal's individual test result must be shown and if vaccinated the details must be completed.
TB	Date of last test		The date of the last test and the TB testing interval must be completed. If a herd is TB exempt this must be shown. The TB information must be completed.
Johne's - must be a part of the CHECS health scheme and a minimum Level 4 and be testing for a minimum of 12 months			Every animal must have the risk level of the herd shown in the box. Non-homebred animals have no details in the Johne's box.

Calves at Foot (the minimum age at date of sale is one month)	Test required	Vaccination	Health card boxes to be completed
BVD accredited herds	No - Individual test optional	Optional - but recommended	The herd accredited box must be completed and if vaccinated the details must be completed.
Non BVD accredited herds - must be part of the health scheme and be testing for a minimum of 12 months	Yes - Antigen	Optional - but recommended	The individual test result must be shown and if vaccinated the details must be completed
IBR accredited herds	No - Individual test optional	Optional - but marker vaccine recommended	The herd accredited box must be completed and if vaccinated the details must be completed.
IBR non-accredited herds	Yes - Antibody	Optional - but marker vaccine recommended	If tested the animal's individual test result must be shown and if vaccinated the details must be completed
Lepto accredited herds	No - Individual test optional	Optional	The herd accredited box must be completed and if vaccinated the details must be completed.
Lepto non-accredited herds	No - Individual test optional	Optional	If tested the animal's individual test result must be shown and if vaccinated the details must be completed.
TB	Date of last test		The date of the last test and the TB testing interval must be completed. If a herd is TB exempt this must be shown. The TB information must be completed.
Johne's - must be a part of the CHECS health scheme and a minimum Level 4 and be testing for a minimum of 12 months			Every animal must have the risk level of the herd shown in the box. Non-homebred animals have no details in the Johne's box.