



GALLOWAYS AUSTRALIA INC.
PO Box 309
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AUSTRALIA

Galloways Australia Report to 2018 World Galloway Congress

As I sit down to write my report I ask myself is it really two years since our last world Galloway Congress. I must say I certainly look back with fondness on the memories of visiting the traditional home of Galloways and the wonderful time we had.

For those who don't know me I am Colin McNeil, and I have been President of Galloways Australia for about 3 years. My wife Helen and I had been looking at options for breeding cattle for about five or six years prior to our retirement. After considering several breeds, we decided on Galloways and purchased our current property some 10 years ago. Our focus has been on the original solid colour Galloways although we now have one well-bred, commercial, Belted Galloway cow which we use for display purposes when we represent Galloways Australia Inc at Field Days. We have 12 breeders along with their progeny on our small property on the mid north coast of New South Wales (NSW). We also have three bulls which we use and lease out to other breeders in our area. We concentrate on breeding seed stock original Galloway genetics, but we also provide our table with excellent meat which we enjoy sharing with family and friends.

Galloways Australia continues to maintain a strong focus on representing the three separate and distinct breeds within the Galloway family, Galloway, Belted Galloway and White Galloway, and strives to ensure the continuation of the original genetics of the Galloway breed. Our rules and roles continue to be based on indisputable genetic principles and the promotion of all three distinct and separate Galloway breeds.

The Market for beef in Australia is as interesting as it is complex and there is no way of understanding the price we receive for our cattle at the sale yards. Anecdotal evidence has indicated that no matter the quality of the animal if it is black then you can almost guarantee a higher price for the animal than you will get for any other colour. We tend to put this down to the assertive marketing of Angus branded beef in supermarkets and fast food outlets. In Australia there is not a consistent message about the Galloway's qualities or heritage. Our aim is to continue building on previous marketing achievements by championing and promoting the exceptional eating qualities of Galloway beef as well as their hardiness, calving efficiency, feed efficiency and marbling ability when fed only grass.

On the topic of beef quality, Galloway Cattle still achieve excellent results at major carcass competitions and the hoof and hook competitions at major shows. Last year Northholm Grammar School, a member of Galloways Australia, was awarded the Jim Wilson Memorial Shield as the result of the success they had in a carcass competition, The Shield is awarded to the Galloways Australia breeder of the highest



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point scoring Galloway steer in a carcass competition. It is one of the Association's ways of encouraging breeders to test their breeding of excellent beef animals.

Galloways Australia continues to actively seek relationships with secondary school agriculture programs as a means of gaining greater recognition for the breed at the grass roots level. We are continuing to build on these relationships and it is extremely satisfying to see the results these schools are achieving both in the show arena as well as carcass competitions.

Galloways Australia is regularly looking at ways it can continue to pursue research activities that demonstrate the quality of Galloway beef and other characteristics unique to the Galloway breeds. Galloways Australia's research has shown that Galloways excel with regard to the eating quality of carcasses slaughtered. Galloways Australia is preparing to have a Galloway eye fillet tested in its next round of nutritional testing of Galloway beef. The results will again be compared against Australian and international comparable standards i.e. USDA testing. Results will be posted on our website when available.

Previously we have reported on the Association's discussions with researchers at the Gatton campus of the University of Queensland in order to obtain a genome profile of the Galloway breed. In this regard we have provided them with the research results achieved from the White Galloway and Belted Galloway colour pattern genetic profiles and associated molecular genetic analysis. The Gatton campus researchers have also been provided with the paper on genetic distances between British and European cattle breeds as determined by the Roslin Institute, University of Edinburgh. Such a project may be useful in culling suspected Simmental and Angus genetics within Galloways. Presently, this project has stalled however we are optimistic that we will be able to move forward with it in the near future as costs associated with genetic testing continue to reduce. Any information gleaned from this process will be posted on our website as it comes to hand.

As always Galloways Australia members have been active at local and Royal Shows. Supreme Galloway exhibits were achieved at the Royal Shows of, Canberra and Bathurst. It was extremely disappointing this year when the Sydney Royal Show Cattle Committee increased the number of animals required for a breed to be exhibited in its own class from 11 to 20. A late concession made by that committee was to have the Galloways and Belted Galloway exhibited as one breed. We have noted that Galloways are not the only breed affected by such amalgamation decisions of the Sydney Royal Show Cattle Committee. The Galloways Committee considered this to be against our overall principles and decided that it would not support the show although individual members were welcome to exhibit animals should they wish. Our principle is that there are three distinct and separate breeds in



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the Galloway family and should be treated as such. You will note that in our latest magazine we have gone into great detail to highlight the proof behind this truth.

Galloways Australia's co-operation with the Slow Food Movement continues and last year one of our members provided the meat for a number of events during the Australian National Slow Food conference held in the Hunter Valley of New South Wales. Galloways Australia members have also hosted Galloway Sausage Making days for Slow Food Convivia in the Hunter and Canberra Regions. Furthermore, Galloway beef was again on the menu for a lunch put on by Slow Foods at an event with skilled blacksmiths & tradesmen from the Artist Blacksmiths Association NSW (ABA NSW) who were on hand to apply some of their practical skills to restore and repair items that were broken or damaged.

We are continuing with our regular promotional activities in our attendance at rural field days which is an excellent way of promoting the three separate Galloway breeds. Recent field days continue to result in increased enquiries for both Stud and commercial cattle from both small and larger farming enterprises. While this is good for the breeds' growth we often have difficulty in meeting the demand for animals. On the other side of the coin our members who direct market their beef regularly find they are unable to meet the demand for their product. The increased interest by consumers in ethically produced grass fed beef will only further increase the demand for the high quality, well marbled, tasty beef that the Galloways provide.

At Galloways Australia we strive to promote the uniqueness of the three different Galloway breeds and the characteristics that they present.

In closing I hope you have an enjoyable time at this conference and that you are able to enjoy some of the diversity of the Australian landscape, people and animals.

Colin McNeil

President, Galloways Australia

Established in 1975 in South Australia, the Australian Belted Galloway Association (ABGA) is the largest and oldest body registering Belted Galloway beef cattle in Australia. The Association maintains the largest actively-registered herd book of Belted Galloways in Australia, with 1047 currently in the electronic herd-book. The ABGA has also steadily increased its member numbers over recent years, with 142 members spread right across Australia.

The ABGA is actively engaged in promoting and encouraging the breeding of Belted Galloways. It ensures that the purity of the breed is maintained. ABGA administers a herd book to register and supply the pedigrees of full-blood and graded animals. The association also registers miniature Belted Galloways.

The Belted Galloway is a breed that attracts many for very different reasons. Membership is diverse, ranging from commercial beef producers, studs who develop and supply seed-stock beef genetics, direct beef marketers, as well as 'lifestyle' breeders on smaller acreages who enjoy breeding registered or commercial stock. The ABGA welcomes all. Various types of memberships are available to suit. Australian breeders breed cattle of all colours although black and white is by far the most dominant colour.

Membership is represented by a national council made up of state representatives. The number of Councillors depends on the number of active cattle registered in each State. However, no State can have more than 3 Councillors. The ABGA employs the Agricultural Business Research Institute (ABRI) at the University of New England (UNE) in Armidale, NSW as its secretariat, herd book registrar and front-desk reception. Kate McDonald is the Executive Officer and Sally McPhie is the Registrar.

ABGA is a national administration body and a broad umbrella for numerous localized Belted Galloway communities around Australia. The local communities are busy promoting the breed within their respective communities and industries. While the ultimate focus is on the Belted Galloway, the ABGA is, in practice, a hands-on people network, all trying to help each other to grow and support the continuing success of the breed.

Australia is a vast country with often hundreds or thousands of kilometres between breeders. This however does deter the committed team work between breeders and they always seem to find a way to group together to show and display their cattle across Australia both at Royal and local shows as well as field days.

ABGA SECRETARY

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the breed is represented at royal shows across the country each year, with members attending the following Royal shows-Canberra, Toowoomba, Sydney, Bathurst, Brisbane, Adelaide, Melbourne, Launceston and Geelong. Our members also attend many local shows to promote the breed. We thank all our members for the great work they have done over many years to get quality cattle out in the public where people can see them. Only those who have shown cattle know of the tremendous commitment in getting their animals ready for the show ring.

• Carcase Results & Direct Marketing

Australian Belted Galloways continue to demonstrate quality carcase characteristics, producing high yielding carcasses for the butcher and the meat that people enjoy eating. The diligent work over many years by members, has achieved great success in carcase competitions at Royal and major shows across Australia. Some breeders regularly partner and donate steers to agricultural schools to encourage the youth to prepare steers for carcase competitions, the youth is where the future lies.

A silver medal was won by a Belted Galloway Steer entered in the 2016 Sydney Royal Purebred Steer and carcase competition. The steer scored 86.5 points and was rated a B-muscle score. It weighed 432kgs live and yielded at 56.71% to produce a 245kg carcase. A great achievement for the breed.

Over recent years, Australia has increased its numbers of producers who are direct marketing Belted Galloway branded beef. This is done both on farm and through various farmers markets. Besides producing a growing market opportunity for other Beltie beef breeders, they have shown themselves to be great ambassadors for our beef. The ABGA is very grateful for their continued initiative and enterprise.

• Field days

Our members actively promote the breed at field days across the country. Field days always draw an enormous number of people and they create a lot of interest in the breed. It is at these days that many future breeders see their first belties and have their interest in the breed stirred.

• World Galloway Congress 2018 Australia

Finally, on behalf of the ABGA a big welcome to the World Galloway Congress here in Melbourne.

It is wonderful to see so many overseas visitors as well as our local breeders.

The program has a wonderful display of activities and farm visits for you to enjoy. We look forward to returning the gracious hospitality that other countries have provided at previous congresses.



**Australian Galloway Association
12th World Galloway Congress
September 2018 Australia**

www.galloway.asn.au

The Association

Association membership is continuing to grow, particularly in the area of lifestyle farmers, who have moved from the cities to small properties on the outskirts of larger towns and purchased smaller herds of cattle for both aesthetic reasons and as a source of beef for their tables. We now have 128 members and it is great to see an increase in junior members as the younger generation is coming through to become the Galloway breeders of the future. Sadly, some of our longstanding members have reached the age of retirement and dispersed their herds, but in most cases the cattle have been snapped up by existing members, or people who have purchased registered stock and made the decision to join the Australian Galloway Association (AGA) and build on the pedigreed stock they have purchased.

Sallie Wadley is our Executive Officer and she works for the Association two days a week. The AGA's web site is updated regularly and provides a great source of information and news, and includes public access to the Association's herd book. It is a great tool for obtaining pedigree information when considering cattle genetic options or new purchases, as registered and commercial cattle for sale can be listed on the website.

There have been a number of Galloway Family Facebook pages developed for information exchange and our members, and Galloway enthusiasts world wide, have been active and enthusiastic contributors on these pages.

Australian Current Climate Conditions

Since the last World Galloway Congress in Scotland 2016, Australia has seen very low rain fall in large farming areas along the east coast of Australia. Farmers are experiencing severe drought with little to no rain over the past two years and have had to adjust the way they farm. The Galloway breed has also had to adapt to the change of foraging more to survive during these hard times and is coping a lot better than many other breeds with the current situation of little to no rain.



Galloway Family - Field Days, Workshops & Forums

The Galloway Family, that is all types of Galloways, are registered with the Australian Galloway Association. We recently held our Annual General Meeting for 2018. This included a forum for our members to put forward and share their knowledge and opinions. 46 people attended the weekend which is a great positive reflection on the Association. A very successful stock handling workshop and field day was held in conjunction with the AGM.

AGA members have run several similar days in the past year, with a couple more planned before the end of the year. New and existing members enjoy gaining new knowledge and practical ideas to take home to their farms, and they are a great opportunity to mix with other Galloway breeders in the area.

With Australia being such a big country, the Committee called for people in different areas to act as event co-ordinators to help members organise similar types of events. We are hoping to build a bank of resources to use at field days or to provide to new members who are also new to cattle. We will be building on the success of past field days by holding future events in different regions in the future, at the properties of AGA members.

Galloway Family Marketing

Showing continues to be a favourite marketing tool for breeders with AGA members doing a fabulous job of presenting their cattle in great condition despite tough conditions over the past couple of years. At many shows the Galloways have held their own in the interbreed competitions, being highly ranked in the final placings. Shows are also proving to be a great opportunity for Galloway breeders to get together and relax after the formalities and chat about their cattle and get to know each other.

An exciting event is now in the planning for 22nd to 24th February 2019 with the Galloway Family taking centre stage as feature breed at Royal Canberra Show. This has attracted a lot of interest among Galloway Family breeders, and it's possible we will see the largest representation of exhibitors and cattle from the Galloway Family ever seen at an Australian Royal Show.

Carcasses

The Galloway family in Australia continues to prove that they can produce the high yielding carcase for the butcher and the quality meat that the consumer



enjoys. The proof is in a number of wins in carcass competitions entered and awards for “From the Paddock to Plate” production of beef.

Currently there are premiums being paid for grass fed beef for both export and local consumption.

Agricultural Field Days

Our members are finding field days are a great way for interested people to inspect and enquire about our Galloway cattle. These days are usually held over three or four days and breeders attend with a selection of cattle and promotional material. This provides valuable exposure to the general public as well as being a great networking opportunity to keep in touch with other cattle breeders displaying their cattle. We are finding that many people are coming back year after year to chat about the Galloway Family, and many do eventually buy some Galloways.

Composites

Galloways have always crossed very well with other breeds and some beef producers are having success doing this in order to meet current markets. In Northern Australia where most of Australia’s beef is produced, Galloway genetics have been used successfully with the Brahman breed to produce a composite that is fertile, hardy, and productive, therefore improving the carcass quality of the Bos Indicus. In the Southern part of Australia the Galloway is being crossed with Angus to produce very marketable and productive stock – the hybrid vigour is producing cattle which grow well and are meaty and easily meet butcher shop and abattoir requirements.

Looking forward to spending some time with you in Australia during the WGC and beyond

Please don’t hesitate to contact the AGA office or any member during your visit to Australia - we would be pleased to help in any way we can.

All the best for a successful Conference.



Report: World Galloway Congress 2018 in Melbourne – from AUSTRIA

My name is Wolfgang Reschl, A-3970 Weitra, St Wolfgang 21. I am living in the north-east from Austria – near the Czech Republic, only 10km from the frontier. I started with Galloways in 1989 with three black mothercows from Bavaria.

The Galloway stock has declined slightly throughout Austria. There are only a few large farms left – BOA Farm Fred Zehetner and Raganitsch in Lower Austria, Lechner in Upper Austria, Salzburg, Styria and Tyrol. But most farms with Galloways are not purebred, mostly as crossbreeding with Fleckvieh (Angus and Limousin) and are therefore not registered with the Galloway breed association.

The cattle breeding association has 27 beef cattle breeds under performance control in Austria, the number of cows fell by 10,900 (-0.6%). Likewise the number of holdings decreased by 1290. However, pigs (+1%) increased to 2.82 million, sheep (+6.1%) to 401,550 and goats (+10.2%) pieces.

The number of beef cattle cows decreased by 9671 to 207,007 (-4.46%). The sales of breeding livestock is therefore not very large, customers are mainly in the eastern states, Czech Republic, Croatia, Romania and Slovakia.

Currently the biggest problem for suckler cow owners is the excessive increase in wolf packs. More than a hundred years ago the wolf was eradicated in Austria, but now the wolf population is steadily increasing. At the military training area of the Federal Army in Allentsteig, 40 km away from me, there are already 15 sighted wolves. The wolf problem poses great problems not only for the cattle farmers, but also for sheep and goat owners, as well as the rack holders of deer and mouflon. Since the wolves occasionally penetrate into large cities and show no more shyness in front of people. It is said that wolves must be afraid of men, but at present people are afraid of the wolves. Therefore they must be shot at so as to regain their shyness.

This problem is also relevant in the neighbouring states, Germany, Czech, Hungary, Italy and Switzerland. Unfortunately no agreement has yet been reached to get the problem under control. The wolf guards require pet owners to fence pastures, which is extremely costly and does not provide 100% protection. There are piling messages where wolves also slipped down through gate fences and tore animals into it.

As far as my report, I wish the event a lot of success, a nice and interesting course and am already looking forward to the next sessions in 2020 in America and 2022 in Switzerland, where I have almost home advantage and no longer so long journey.

Best regards

Wolfgang Reschl

Canadian Galloway Association Report

Hello to all our fellow Galloway breeders & enthusiasts attending this year's World Galloway Conference. I hope that everyone enjoys themselves and the scenery. This year has been an interesting one in Canada with most of the country seeing warm dry weather with sporadic moisture. Besides the weather our Government has been very sporadic and is currently trying to work out our trade differences with our neighbors to the south. This has put some strain on the agricultural industry but hope that it is resolved shortly.

This year the Canadian Galloway Association has seen its membership stay consistent to the previous year. The highest concentration of members is in eastern Canada with most of those in Ontario consisting primarily of smaller herds. As for in the west there are less members but bigger herds that still account for half of our registrations yearly. This year's AGM in Tavistock, Ontario was hosted at Cranberry Hill Galloway home of Brad & Colleen Card. The meeting had a great turnout and much was discussed. Following the meeting we travelled to another near by Galloway breeder Amurlee Farms for a tour of there organic farming operation that was very unique and successful. We then rounded out the day back at the Card's. The board of directors was elected at a later date via teleconference. Elected the 2018/2019 executive: President Vanessa Beach (Stouffville, Ont), Vice President Marie Blake (Listowel, Ont) and Executive Secretary Valerie Watson (Caledon, Ont). The rest of the directors consisted of new-comers Trevor O'Meara (Colborne, Ont) and sitting are Chris Schapp (Drumbo, Ont), Jim King (Innisfail, Ab), Sarah Middleton (Okotoks, Ab) and Ward Marshall (Innisfail, AB). We were so glad to see new faces but also sad to see old ones go as their allowable consecutive terms were up..

Yet again we had a number of breeders do their part for breed promotion across Canada. Many attended the Royal Winter Fair (Toronto, ON), Farm Fair International (Edmonton, AB), Outdoor Farm Show (Woodstock, ON) and various fall fairs across Ontario. There has also been a rise in demand of beef producers wanting to finish Galloway or Galloway-influenced cattle on grass and providing "naturally" raised beef to meet the growing *consumer* demand for these products. Breeding stock sales have stayed consistent with past years as there are new people wanting to start with Galloway.

The Association continues to pursue new ways to advertise. We have tried to keep our website current and eye catching for a couple years now and have made a new Facebook group that you can join: "Canadian Galloway Association." We continue to promote all the attributes of the three different Galloway families but not with out its challenges as most people think Galloway is Galloway no matter what the colour pattern. All a side the Galloway Breeds are still alive and well in Canada and hope with the changing demographics that we can find a way to become more known.

Submitted by yours truly Brian A. Robertson, Past President of CGA



GALLOWAY CATTLE SOCIETY OF NEW ZEALAND REPORT TO 2018 WORLD GALLOWAY CONGRESS

Following on from our attendance at the 2016 World Galloway Congress in Scotland, a similar number of NZ breeders are attending this year's World Galloway Congress in Melbourne. We welcome the opportunity to meet like-minded people from other Galloway breeding countries, and to not have to travel very far to see our "neighbours" Galloway herds in Australia.

Our breeder numbers remained fairly static over the last two years, with older ones retiring and younger breeders taking up membership. Strongest growth in membership was in the Central/Taranaki region in the North Island, and Canterbury and Nelson in the South Island. Our membership is diverse, ranging from small "lifestyle" farmers who are employed full-time elsewhere or run other small businesses, to commercial farmers on large farms who are also dairy farmers or sheep & beef farmers.

While the Belted herds comprise the largest numbers of stock in 42 registered herds, the White Galloways are increasing in both popularity and numbers, in 39 registered herds. The Galloway registered herds number 5, so they are a rare breed in NZ.

Large numbers of purebred yearling and 2 year old bulls, both Belted and White, are sold each year into the dairy industry for mating with dairy heifers. Their attributes of high fertility, easy calving, hybrid vigour, quiet temperament, and colour-marking the calves, are appreciated by the dairy farmer. The 1st cross calves that result usually go into the beef industry achieving excellent meat yield results when sent to slaughter from 18 months onwards.

Some of our breeder members keenly show their best registered animals at local A & P Shows with great success. Unfortunately showing has been limited this last

summer due to the Mycoplasma Bovis outbreak in NZ, with some cattle classes being cancelled at these shows, to restrict possible exposure and spread of this disease, which our government hopes to eradicate. It may be several years before it is known if they will succeed, but farmers support their efforts and hopefully eradication can be achieved. Sales of registered stock has been affected to some degree with buyers showing reluctance to move animals through areas where M.Bovis outbreaks have occurred.

Displays promoting the three Galloway breeds took place in February at the Southern Waimumu Field Days, which attracts large numbers of visitors, and also at a smaller event, the Canterbury Rare Breeds Annual Auction which promotes the conservation of all types of rare breed farm animals.

In 2017, our society celebrated 70 years of Galloways in New Zealand, the first Galloways and Belted Galloways being imported from the Scotland in 1947. The society was formed soon after the arrival of these first imported animals. Our annual AGM and Herd Tour weekend was held in April last year at Martinborough, a beautiful wine growing and farming area in the lower North Island, where the first Belted herd began. This herd was named "Kowhai" after one of NZ's native trees, which bears distinctive yellow flowers. To mark the 70 years Anniversary, Graeme Clinton and Barry McAlley were presented with special certificates for 50 and 40 years membership respectively, and a special award was presented to Suzanne Kernohan for 50 years breeding purebred Belted Galloways, having recently dispersed her herd to retire from farming in her late eighties!

Our 2018 AGM and Herd Tour weekend was held near Nelson at the top of the South Island in May. We enjoyed delicious local food and wine, and visited four local herds including all 3 types of Galloways. Also, an interesting visit was to an American Bison stud where these magnificent animals are being bred as a conservation measure outside their country of origin.

The society plans to introduce mandatory DNA testing and inspections of all registered bulls to be used as stud sires born after 31 December 2018, to maintain and improve the quality of the national herds and to provide for the collection of DNA data as a breed resource.

We continue to promote the purity of the breeds with 5 generation pedigrees required for the registration of progeny. This purity is paramount to the Society's purpose of promoting the Galloway breeds, and supporting our members in their stud breeding efforts.

New Zealand is offering to host the 2024 World Galloway Congress, and if this goes ahead it will be held early in 2024 in the far south of the country, where some beautiful herds are farmed. We hope many Galloway breeders from around the world will make the trip in 2024. You will be guaranteed a warm "kiwi" welcome.

Angela McNaughton

Secretary/Treasurer GCSNZ.

THE BELTED GALLOWAY CATTLE SOCIETY OF THE UK AND EIRE

It doesn't seem like two years have gone by since the last Congress in the UK, time seems to have flown. The society is having a steady time since all the work and excitement of helping, along with the Galloway Cattle and Riggitt Galloway Societies, to welcome all the delegates to the UK.

Christina Cormack took up the post of secretary after the Congress and has streamlined the admin and financial functions with great success. Registrations have remained stable at around 850 per year for females and up to and around 100 for bulls. The ability to appendix heifers with white feet and incomplete belts has seen a small number registered, so it will be interesting to track the progress of their offspring markings wise. We all read the recent paper by Mishra et al from the University of Bern on the inheritance of the belt with interest. It is useful to know that there is only one gene involved. The move to computerised pedigrees several years ago has left some holes in our historical herd data base, and a project is ongoing to repair that.

The number of members remains fairly constant at around 500, with new herds being set up at a faster rate than those who give up. It is interesting to see some larger herds appearing of upwards of 100 cows, all providing meat for niche markets. The development of regional groups has provided local meeting points and supported interest in the breed locally. Since 2001, the breed has spread to all corners of our nations, with significant populations in South West Scotland, the North of England, the South West of England, and Northern Ireland and Eire.

Our Society stipulates that bulls must be inspected and DNA'd before registration, and with the nationwide spread it can be tricky getting inspectors to all parts. In order to cut down diversity the Council is planning a series of workshops for inspectors which will prove interesting and enlightening. It is a hard job balancing quality, with a small gene pool and being mindful of the markings as well.

Our main challenge at the moment is the turmoil unleashed by the decision of the UK to leave the EU. As yet there is no blueprint for the way ahead for farming and the environment. The uncertainty is impacting on people's decision on farm plans and investment. The winter of 2017/18 proved to be unusually cold and stormy, after a very wet summer, which left many short of fodder. Even the Belties were challenged, small numbers being forward for our spring sale in May. The males sold well, so hopefully that signals a renewed confidence like the green shoots of the spring pastures.

At a national level work is ongoing to control disease challenges; the most significant and damaging being TB, which has a high incidence in the south west of England and Wales. It certainly takes a toll on folk's ability to buy and sell breeding animals, and sadly, the Worcester sale will not take place this year. Scotland has developed a national plan to eradicate BVD, and many of our herds now monitor and manage Johnnes Disease, IBR and Lepto.

Our society looks after the White Galloways too, and over the last few years there has been mounting concern over the falling numbers. The White Stars research project has meant that we now see the different depths of colour marking as on a continuum, rather than throwing out the so called "over or under marked ones", a policy which was decreasing the numbers even more. Our registration system has now been altered to enable the different depths of marking to be included. It is early days but with some more promotion of the qualities of the White as a beef and grazing animal there is a hope that her fortunes will be improved.

June 2018

GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND ADDRESS TO THE 2018 WORLD CONGRESS – Australia

The weather and Brexit are the main topic of conversation in the UK farming community – the weather is causing all sorts of problems. The 2017/2018 winter/spring is certainly one to forget, although 2017 is likely to be the fifth warmest in the UK since 1910, many people will probably remember the year for some of its more notable weather events. Events like ex-hurricane Ophelia, which in October brought high winds and disruption to parts of Ireland and the UK, and memorably for some drew up dust from the Sahara and smoke from the wildfires in Iberia, giving us the appearance of sunset at midday. There has almost been seven months of heavy rain/snow and sub-zero temperatures triggered by multiple “Beasts from the East”. Our usual weather pattern comes from the west, but this winter very cold winds and snow has come from the East, which has resulted in many losses of sheep, delay in all spring work and increased feeding costs. After the wet 2017 summer, dismal autumn and wet, cold winter - an early spring would have been appreciated, but it was not to be and all farmers in all parts of the UK are battling against the elements, causing more work and expense.

The other topic on the lips of farmers in the UK - is Brexit, the last time we met, we had just voted to leave EEC and we all wondered if by the next congress things would be sorted out for the exit date of 2019. I am sorry to say that we are not much further on, the Government has suffered defeat after defeat with their plans and it reported that there could be up to 20 different Brexit deals between the UK and the EU that could take years to be approved, so heaven knows how many congresses could have passed before we can say we have deals settled with our EU neighbours.

In the UK Galloway world, we have exciting times ahead, as we have been secured funding for a Farm/Quality Assurance Scheme, sales and marketing campaign and learning journeys. As a result we are able to send three young people - Ian Carlisle, Callum Park and Fraser Cameron to the congress, I am sure you will make them very welcome, please say a hello to them. The Farm Assurance Scheme is a first for Galloways and we hope it will translate into more sales of live animals and more people eating our quality product. Taking about sales, our sales are very much an important part of our work, although numbers are down, clearance at sales are still near 100%. Galloways are still wanted and hopefully more in demand with the Farm /Quality Assurance Scheme given confidence to our product.



Left to Right - Ian Carlisle, Callum Park, Fergus Ewing (Member of Scottish Parliament) and Fraser Cameron at the launch of our Quality Assurance Scheme at the Royal Highland Show.



Our new logo for our Quality Assurance Scheme.

Galloway registrations numbers are in par with other years, approximately 900 female registrations and 50 male registrations. Although new members joining the Society are down on recent years, there are just less beef cattle in the country.

At our last AGM, Scott McKinnon, who many of you met at Gretna, stood down as Chairman and John Finlay from the noted Blackcraig Galloways took on the role as Chairman. John along with his wife Ann are known to many of you and the Blackcraig herd name is in many, many pedigree certificates. We are deeply in debt to Scott, as he not only steered the Society to find funding for the farm/quality assurance scheme but the Congress committee to such a successful congress, which I hope many of you have found memories. On behalf of all the organising committee and all our UK Members, we would like to wish you a very successful and enjoyable 2018 congress.



New Chairman John, (leading the calf) with help from his son Iain and daughter Kelly at the Royal Highland Show in June.

We are sorry to report of the death in December of past Secretary Mr Alex MacDonald, Alex was with the Society for 13 years and until ill health he still helped out at shows and sales. He very much enjoyed his time with the Society, during Alex's time as Secretary he witnessed BSE, Foot and Mouth Disease and government meddling also the buoyant trade by the great demand for Galloways from Germany.

As I write this, beef prices are at a spring 5 year high at 363.21p/kg. The measure currently stands 14p above year earlier levels. Industry reports suggest that prices are being supported by processors being able to achieve good carcase balance due to a varied customer base. As you can imagine, this price is all needed, due to the extra demands of the bad weather. Lamb prices are also buoyant and further prediction are this will be the case all year again due to the high number of losses of ewes and lambs due to the bad weather.

With so many uncertainties in British agricultural, I am sure our breeders being hardy, much like their cattle will weather the storms and keep on producing this very special, quality product.

We would be delighted to welcome and help plan your trip to Great Britain and wishing you a very successful and enjoyable congress.

2018 World Galloway Congress Attendees,

The American Galloway Breeder's Association (AGBA) is continuing to see a steady demand for Galloway cattle.

Our current membership is at 85 regular members and 21 junior members. Regular membership is up 10 members in the last year.

Registrations of Section 1 Galloway cattle (Blacks, Reds, Duns) is up 32% with 185 cattle registered with 96 head of those transferred.

Registrations of Section 3 Galloway cattle (White Galloway) are up 45% with 83 cattle registered, while the registrations of White Appendix Galloway cattle is up 100% with 37 cattle being registered. The combined transfers of all Section 3 cattle totaled 73 head.

Exports of Galloway cattle out of the USA were 11 head.

Our largest source of inquiries comes from those wanting to produce their own beef and direct market it to others. Many of these people are not familiar with raising or handling cattle, requiring a lot of assistance from the breeders and or the association.

The use of Galloway blood in the commercial beef industry continues to be recognized. Galloway blood is used as a way for producers to lower their input costs while improving their carcass quality and maternal traits such as structural soundness and longevity.

Galloway genetics are also being used in local 4-H shows and major prospect and market steer shows throughout the USA.

The AGBA has redone our association website with updated information and pictures. The goal was to make it more user friendly and easier to add updates.

The National Western Stock Show in Denver, Colorado, is still the AGBA's largest show. The show is held in January attracting attendees from all around the globe.

Attempts are being made to host additional shows in other parts of the USA for our members to exhibit their AGBA registered cattle. Participation is our biggest obstacle as many of our members aren't familiar with showing cattle.

We are also exploring ideas to move our annual meeting around the country and have a corresponding field day to encourage member participation in the business of our association. It is our intentions to bring the meeting closer to members making it easier for them to take part.

The 2018 Annual meeting for the AGBA will be on October 20th, 2018 at Blegen Galloways, Harley and Michelle Blegen Family, Roundup, Montana USA.

Best wishes on a successful World Galloway Congress.

Respectfully submitted,

Harley Blegen

President, American Galloway Breeders Association

2018 Belted Galloway Society, Inc. World Galloway Conference Report

Membership in the Belted Galloway Society, Inc. has increased by the average of 50 members per year with our 2017 total reaching 1189 members representing all lower 48 states plus the District of Columbia. Our registrations reached an all-time high of 1647 animals in 2017. The states with the highest number of registered Belted Galloways and the most members are Texas, New York, Wisconsin and Maine in that order.

The Society's 2016 annual General meeting was held in November in Louisville, Kentucky in conjunction with the North American International Livestock Exposition. The 2017 annual General meeting was held in September in Milwaukee, Wisconsin in conjunction with the 25th anniversary of the World Beef Expo.

In the summer of 2016 the DNA testing lab used by the Society agreed to start using the newly developed test for hypotrichosis (hair loss) in Belted Galloway cattle, a genetic condition that occurs in a small number of belties. Members are using the test to screen their animals as possible carriers of the condition which cannot be exhibited in offspring unless both parents are carriers. Starting on January 1, 2018 all bulls are required to be DNA and hypotrichosis tested before they can be registered and embryo donor cows, starting in 2018 will have to be hypotrichosis tested.

The Harry T. Burns award, presented to members singled out as having provided outstanding support and promotion to the Belted Galloway Breed was given to Andre LeMaistre of Maine in 2016 and Joyce Eggleston of Wisconsin in 2017. This is not an annual award and is only presented when merited.

The US Beltie Newsletter has received some upgrades. 2016 saw the monthly newsletter produced in color for the first time and in 2017 a new publisher was hired providing improved print and paper quality.

The Society's website has been greatly improved both in functionality and appearance with the hiring of EDJE Web Design in 2016. The Belted Galloway Society has an active Facebook page along with the availability of internet access to members and animals information through the Canadian Livestock Records Corporation website.

Belted Galloway shows occurred throughout the country. Several county fairs in the Northeast had beltie shows including Fryeburg, Maine which had over 100 beltie entries in 2017. A couple local shows were held in the Midwest and Texas. In addition there were 3 regional shows, the Big-E in Massachusetts, World Beef Expo in Wisconsin and the Society's National show at the North American International Livestock Exposition in Kentucky. 2016 was the 20th year of the Kathi Jurkowski junior show at the NAILE. Junior activities were expanded beyond the show to include a photo contest and showmanship. A steer jackpot was initiated with \$1000 going to

the Grand Champion steer in the junior show and \$500 to the Reserve champion steer. Similar activities were held for juniors during the 2017 show in Louisville. The Belted Galloway National open show was held in Freedom Hall for the first time in 2016. This arena is reserved for the breeds showing in the premium shows, an honor the Belted Galloway breeders have earned by exhibiting a significant number of animals at the Louisville show for a number of years in a row. The Freedom Hall show was video streamed live. The NAILE provided a professional announcer and ring personnel. In 2017, NAILE additionally covered some of the judge's expenses and processed all the entries.

The 2016 World Galloway Conference saw the largest contingent of US representatives to ever attend the conference with more than 20 Belted Galloway breeders plus a number of Galloway breeders. The Belted Galloway Society is looking forward to hosting the 2020 World Galloway Conference under the guidance of Jon Bednarski. Jon has begun to formulate plans for the event that will include the 2020 National Belted Galloway show at the North American International Livestock Exposition. We hope to see many of you there.