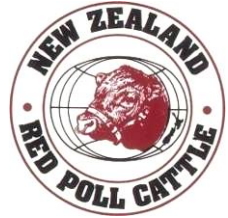


# RED POLL NEWS



Summer Edition    December 2024



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### **Cover Photo:**

*Champion Exhibit, Strathwell Cleo, led by Brionne Fleming. Calf 'Misty' led by Kathy Yaxley. Judge Hamish Grigg. President Ellesmere A&P Show, Ian Fleming.*

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*The Association accepts no responsibility for the accuracy of any published opinion, nor information supplied by individuals or reprinted from other sources. Items may be abridged or edited.*

**Closing date for next newsletter is March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

## PRESIDENT'S PAGE



Well, we find ourselves close to finishing another year of farming and managing our Red poll cattle studs. I hope the day to day chores with respect to this breed of cattle are far from a chore. We just need more people to realise the benefits of this wonderful breed and the versatility of them for all types of country.

We have recently sold two bulls to a dairy farmer who also buys my lucerne. If I can place the future cross calves with some lifestyle farmer perhaps that will be a good way of spreading the word and advertising our breed.

I'm sure we are all doing our best to promote the breed in our own way.

Recently the current Government have done a tour of Agriculture NZ. At the end of the tour, they came up with an idea of stopping carbon credits being earned on productive farmland. Why didn't they bring in this decision at the start of the tour?

Anyway, this will hopefully make a difference and slow down the destruction of country towns by the planting of forestry. Over 200,000 hectares of productive sheep and beef land have been planted in carbon farming in the last five years alone.

As Toby Williams, the spokesperson for Federated Farmers has said, "Today's announcement brings New Zealand's emissions trading policy more in line with the Paris Agreement's requirement of achieving low emission development in a way that doesn't threaten food production. We will watch this space with interest.

At least this Spring come summer, the sheep and beef prices are more buoyant compared with last year, which is certainly welcome.

Hope you all have a wonderful Christmas.

*Cheers  
Ian Fleming*



## **SECRETARY'S SAY**

Hello Everyone,

Another year has passed, and while not spectacular in terms of the breed, we have managed to keep above water and host the world congress.

The Congress was considered a success by those attending, and credit must go to those who displayed their cattle, as well as the tour company.

Registrations for this year's calving have started to come in, and I would encourage those who have yet to submit their registrations to do so by early in the new year.

I trust you will all have a good Christmas and that the new year will be kind to you and your cattle.

Good to have a 40-page newsletter this time! Thanks to the contributors.

*Warwick Potts*  
Registrar/Secretary/Treasurer

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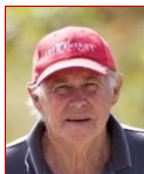
### **NZ Red Poll Badges Available**

These are well made and beautifully finished and each one comes in a lovely presentation packet.

\$15 each + p & p (About \$3.50 for up to 6 badges). Size is approximately 3cm by 2¾cm.

Order from the Secretary, Warwick Potts, who will supply an invoice and the badge.





## **PATRON'S PAGE**

### **The Significant Role of Some Small Details**

In the vast and intricate world of agronomy, it is often the seemingly minor details that play pivotal roles in shaping the success and sustainability of agricultural practices. While grand technological advancements and large-scale innovations capture headlines, the importance of the small things cannot be overstated. From the precise measurement of soil pH to the careful monitoring of pest populations, good farmers understand that it is the meticulous attention to detail that fosters robust and resilient pasture production.

At the core of any thriving agricultural system lies the health of the soil. This foundational element, often overlooked in broader discussions, is a prime example of how small-scale factors can have far-reaching impacts. Soil health is influenced by a multitude of micro-level factors, including nutrient balances, microbial activity, and organic matter content.

For instance, the pH level of soil, a seemingly minor aspect, profoundly affects nutrient availability and microbial efficiency. Good fertiliser advisers meticulously measure and adjust soil pH to create optimal growing conditions for specific crops. A deviation in pH or any one micro element imbalance can lead to nutrient lockout.

Another area where small details make a big difference is in the precision of planting. The depth at which seeds are sown, the spacing between them, and the timing of planting are all critical factors that determine new pasture success. Planting seeds too deep or too shallow can hinder germination, while improper spacing can lead to competition for resources or insufficient sunlight exposure.

As modern-day farmers, we are all aware of the small details which are so significant but often with time and cost pressures things may not be perfectly employed but in the end, we may be forced to acknowledge that it is often the tiny things that count.

And perhaps most important are the small detail is in the relationships down on the farm and with that in mind remember to take time out for you and them. So, with that in mind I wish you all a very pleasant festive season where the small things count.

*Ka Kite and  
Robin Shepherd QSO  
Patron*

---



**Canterbury A&P Show.** Judge was Tony Partridge, a Simmental breeder. We were placed 5th out of 18 in the Senior Yearling Heifer class. Here is **Strathwell Georgina**. Her first Show.

Ian & Anita

## STRATHWELL REPORT

This year's calving went pretty well, with only one lost calf out of thirty cows who calved. I was impressed with the vet who did a sterling job minimizing the stress for the cow during the birth. This year the ratio of bulls versus heifer calves is 50/50. Ash leaves some great hind end definition as you can see from Strathwell Georgia, the yearling heifer which won the All-Breeds Heifer class at the Courtney A&P Show. However, her stable mate Strathwell Georgina beat her at the Canterbury Show.



At the Ellesmere A & P Show Strathwell Cleo, with calf 'Misty', not only won Best Beef Animal over a Murray Grey heifer but won best Animal exhibit. This was judged by Hamish Grigg, a delegate from the RAS. It must be hard judging and picking a winner out of eight exhibits. Two horses, best Dairy, best Beef, best sheep, Poultry, Alpaca and dairy goat. I still think showing is the best form of advertising, although time consuming, once a heifer is broken in and enters the herd, she will be there to add to the future show stock pool of the Stud.

*Ian & son, Trent, leading at the show.*

On the home front we will be staying at 1026 Selwyn Lake road until our house is finished being built. We think this will be around August. Once in West Melton both Anita and I will be commuting to our work which will be approximately 20 minutes each.

Currently on the lease block I have one crop of radish seed, three lucerne paddocks and the rest in pasture for cattle and sheep grazing. Hopefully the product prices remain buoyant for sheep and beef.

So, what a busy year!! The World Red Poll Cattle conference, two new knees one sold farm, President of the Ellesmere A & P Show, and thirty years of marriage celebration. A big thank you to family and friends for making this possible.

We wish fellow breeders a very Merry Xmas.

*Cheers  
Ian & Anita Fleming.*

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Mario from Uruguay is celebrating another successful outing to the Expo Prado 2024.

If it could be arranged would there be any interest from Red Poll breeders anywhere, in travelling to Uruguay to meet some of their breeders and see their cattle??

See the photos of  
the cattle on page  
??



## STONEYACRES HERD REPORT, December 2024

Hello Fellow Breeders

Everyone around Wiltons Road has now got used to my ways and accepts me and my small herd of a mere 85 Red Poll animals to keep me sane. The herd currently consists of 40 cows, 21 steers, 3 bulls and 21 heifers - that is including this year's calves.

In the Wairarapa we have had a fantastic season for calving and growing grass up to late spring with plenty of rain. I have baled 78 bales of medium square baleage and 31 round bales. Knowing that drought is always expected in the Wairarapa, my cows and calves are off grazing up around the corner on the hills. The calving was good, 100% with 50% split bulls to heifers.

After a kick to the knee and a bull with the old head stock around his neck as a necklace I went out and ordered a Te Pari crush which the cows seem to like. The bull has been out since 20<sup>th</sup> October, Crofthead Farms Duke for next season's calves. The truck has been to spread some lime and fertiliser on too.

Small is the new word in my life as its manageable, e.g. small herd, small tractor workz, small farm!

All the best for Christmas and the New Year

*Neil Wilton*



*The new crush  
in operation.*

## FOUR DIAMOND STUD REPORT

I hope all is well. It's been an interesting quarter with the cattle. We had 3 calves pretty close to each other at the beginning of September and then 1 more about a month later. As of today (4 November) we are still waiting on two more that have been scanned and rechecked so they are definitely in calf. I really didn't want them this spread out but you can't rush these things.

I am AI-ing all other girls for the first time this year, so I started the process today by putting heat detector stickers and tail paint on the first 3 that calved in September. I have straws waiting for me at Xcell breeding and a local technician ready at the end of the phone.

I sold 3 yearling steers at Canterbury Park last Wednesday and they did pretty good. Turns out it's a small world because the guy that bought them is the same fella that I have been getting barley from.

I have now also sold my surplus yearling heifers.

*Doug & Sharon Pitsch*



*Four Diamond cow waiting for the AI technician*

## KAIHINAU REPORT, December 2024

The condensed volumes of the New Zealand Journal of Agriculture, 1947 that we have inherited, contain an article on DDT (dichloro diphenyl trichloroethane) with the following advertisement. "DDT as an insecticide in the home ". How time changes our knowledge and understanding.

We are writing this report when we read that 13 local newspapers are closing down. Many have been operating for over 100 years, and this to take place before Christmas. Our Red Poll newsletter is really important as a means of communication and keeping in touch with each other considering how we are conscious that distances between us as breeders are getting greater.

The cows started calving the first week in August and are cycling again, and we are one bull down.



*Left is **Rosemarkie Bar's Murcia** #T24 by R. West Baroque ex R. Para Andalusia #N11. Born 25/9/23. Weaned 18/3/24 Wean wgt 240kg. Wgt 7/11/24, 342kg*

*Right is **R. Tris Trafalgar** #T9 by Dawn Mist Ferd's Tristram ex R. Alec Molasses #M12. Born 25/9/23 Weaned 18.5.24 @319kg. Wgt 7/11/24 @416kg  
Photo after 6 weeks on saved pasture in the small paddock behind the house, after a long winter!*

The photo is 2 yearling bulls offered to us from Helen and Warick. Data is their growth rates as recorded and can give confidence we can challenge any other breed for growth rate, grazed and fed similarly.

Our latest sales - 10 yearling steers and 9 yearling heifers - were sold at Levin sale yards. We were pleased to hear comments from onlookers as to how well they presented themselves. BUT we, as the sellers were better known than the breed printed on the label!

There was a choice of 4 breeds, but being red and polled doesn't identify the source and historical background or a description of what you see before you. We need a place of origin to go with breed name to identify an historical background. History is factual. To be authentic is to have a place of origin.

Cattle are still the mainstay for smallholders as well as larger run herds required for dry stock farming. Demand for red meat is crucial for the New Zealand economy and farm budgets alike

With this report comes our best wishes to each of you at Christmas time, and hope that the new year brings a de-escalation in world violence

*Kelvin and Kath Lane*

## D.D.T. as an Insecticide in the Home

**T**HERE are sufficient supplies of D.D.T., made famous during the war as an insecticide, to enable the householder to wage war against insect pests within his own four walls, states an officer of the Health Department.

D.D.T. is what is known as a contact poison. In other words, when the insect walks over D.D.T. the substance is absorbed, probably through nerve endings, and has a powerful toxic effect on the nervous system, producing first convulsions, then paralysis, and then death. Death does not come rapidly, but takes from one to four hours, according to the type of insect. Mosquitoes, for example, quickly succumb, but cockroaches take longer to die.

D.D.T. has the advantage over other contact poisons that it is stable, is difficult to destroy, and exerts its effect for a prolonged period after being applied. It should, therefore, be applied in such a manner that the residual film of the substance will be left on the article or surface. As long as this

lasts it usually spells death to the insect that touches it.

Suitable insecticides usually effectively control the visible insect population in a house, but those insects that escape go on breeding in nooks and crannies and continue to supply the nuisance in unabated quantities.

**This is where the value of D.D.T. comes in. Its residual toxic effect is such that a room sprayed with D.D.T. solution will remain lethal to insects for weeks or even months. Experiments have shown that the results obtained by this are far in advance of anything experienced in the past.**

When using D.D.T. for insect infestation, the practice is to use a fairly coarse spray of 5 per cent. solution in kerosene. The walls, the edges of the floor and ceiling, and the bedstead are sprayed.

Gloves and overalls should be worn while spraying and the hands thoroughly washed before eating a meal. If a fine spray is being used indoors,

a gauze mask should be worn over the mouth and nose.

Care must be taken not to contaminate foodstuffs with D.D.T., for although it is relatively non-toxic to man, it can produce both gastric and nervous symptoms if inhaled or ingested in any quantity.

The first step in the control of flies should be to attack them at their breeding grounds. Frequent removal and proper disposal of manure, garbage, and other refuse are therefore of primary importance. Dusting and spraying of the breeding grounds with D.D.T. can take only second place, and reliance should not be placed on this line of defence alone.

Flies are very susceptible to D.D.T. Inside the house the best places to spray or smear the solution are on hanging light fixtures and drop cords, edges and arches of doors, window frames and sills, and other favourite haunts of the fly.

D.D.T. has no repellent effect against moths. To be effective the solution must come into contact with the moth larvae. Therefore all the fabric to be protected must be impregnated with the solution so as to have a residual coat of D.D.T. crystals.

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*References to spraying fabric and bedstead are a bit scary – Editor*

## **OPOUTERE RED POLLS**

At long last a wet day. It has been threatening to rain for some time and is most welcome. The silage contractors have been having a glorious time, with literally thousands of bales of silage all through the Hauraki Plains and the Waihi area sitting in the paddocks.

We have had an amazing Spring for growth, the dairy farmers ARE HAPPY! A world first.

Our calving all went reasonably well, though there are still a few tailenders yet to calve. One bit of excitement occurred. We had a youngish cow with a dead calf. She was fiercely protective of her dead calf. A neighbouring dairy farmer offered us a Jersey bull calf to try and adopt on. With steam coming out her ears and flames out of her nostrils we managed to get her into the yards. Took her dead calf away, skinned it and put the skin on aforementioned Jersey bull calf, and attempted to reunite.

She chased the dog, chased me out of the yards and attempted to kick the calf to death. Day two she was calling the calf and cautiously allowing him to feed. Day three she kicked the skin off the calf and was happy to lick the calf and feed it. Day four she was very proud and protective of her new calf, and God help anyone or anything that came between her and the calf.

It does look rather weird, a thumping jersey bull calf on a Red Poll cow and she is now as placid as can possibly be.

As we had steered our bull calves last year, we did not have any yearling bulls for sale, so were not in a position to enjoy the record prices being paid for beef bulls. However, we have the steers which will get older and bigger.

Wishing all Red Poll people, a happy family Christmas, and good haymaking weather in the New Year.

*Allan & Helen*

## ROSEMARKIE REPORT

Well one likes to think things will go according to plan but...

We put 27 cows to the bull and ended up with 3 dry. The bull got his other 12 cows in calf OK so not sure what went wrong there.

However, all is not lost – first cow to calve had a mixed sex set of twins; a bought in heifer that was bought as empty had a nice unregistrable bull to steer and one of our R2 heifers is in calf thanks to Tristram jumping the fence last April so if that calving goes well, we should still have 27 calves on the ground!

Put the 3 dries (1 R3 and 2 older cows) in the works recently – 53.9% weight ratio, got \$1658.76 each.

We sold 4 yearling bulls, x2 to a local dairy farmer & two to Kaihinau Farms.

We have kept one for ourselves. He is **Rosemarkie Red Admiral** #T18-23 by Tamihana Red Max #4794 (by Raedean Maximus, Aus #NZ4439 out of Tamihana CP Selena#11908, a granddaughter of M-M Century 21-04, USA) and T18 is out of Tamihana VA Elisa #12808 by Tamihana TK Vail.

*Helen & Warwick*



*R. Red  
Admiral.*

*Sorry, not  
standing the  
best!*

## **Taranaki Gates - Another Shade of Grey**

By Robin Shepherd.

For livestock farmers, gates are some of the most important items of farm structure. Gates allow in and out movement of stock from fields, races and yards. Gates keep animals in or out or separated. Gates can secure property and good gates in the right places can make the place tidy and efficient.

Most gates today are made from galvanised steel materials and are strong, tidy looking and efficient. Forty years ago, it could have been that a fair number of gates were made from timber neatly cut and bolted together. At the time I took considerable pride in being able to build such attractive looking gates requiring twelve lengths of 4 by 1 treated timber along with two galvanised hinges and a dozen galvanised bolts washers and nuts. They also were functional but more subject to wear and tear. Then came electric springs, tapes and bungies which are cost effective but depend upon a reliable electric fence energiser. There are even electric gates which can be driven over and then pop up again. Many farms now have similar gates which are remote controlled

Today it may not be often that a heritage gate appears as in the past. Heritage being a Taranaki gate. These essentially are batten and wire fence sections made to open at one end with the other end attached to a strainer post. At the other end of the section is an over length batten which is used to strain the gate tight and accommodate wire loops top and bottom to hold it in place. Some gates may employ a lever to stretch the gate tight.

A Taranaki gate is simple, basic and effective provided it is well made and treated with respect. It often incorporates two strands of barbed wire. For many farmers across the ages the Taranaki gate has been a cost saver, and it has worked even though opening and closing it can be cumbersome and not child's play. And, why Taranaki? you may ask. Folk legend says it was invented in Taranaki, but it seems it could just have easily originated in the Southern Wairarapa or Central Volcanic Plateau but those places lending a name to the gate just would not resonate.

## FACE TO FACE... At Last

*Thanks to Murray Williams for this update on the Australian Red Poll scene.*



*Left to Right. Members of the Australian Red Poll Cattle Breeders National Executive. 2023/24 and 2024/25, Gay Ward (Federal Member); Tim Light (NSW/Qld); Peter Wilson (SA) Outgoing President; Alan Couch (NSW) incoming President; Ross Draper (Vic); Federal Treasurer, Rachael Constable (Federal Member) incoming Vice President, and Murray Williams (WA).*

Members of the Australian Red Poll Cattle Breeders Inc National Executive all travelled to Wagga Wagga in the New South Wales Riverina for a National Executive meeting and the breeds Annual General Meeting on the 18th and 19th of October. It was the first Face to Face meeting of all of the Executive for five years.

Wagga? you ask. It may be geographically central but certainly not the most convenient to get to, but it is the home of our new administration, Genetic Hub which is housed on the University premises.

The last 18 months has seen major changes in the administration and operation of the breed in Australia. Forced into an unsustainable situation by declining numbers of cattle and breeders and with ever increasing costs we chose to not

renew our contract for services with ABRI at Armidale. We have chosen to not continue as a breed with the Group Breedplan system, though some individual members may continue to use Breedplan in their individual herds, but instead to build greater genetic testing. As a consequence, we put out tenders separately for administration, data management and genomic evaluations.

The new system, with cost savings, is based on the maximum use of new technology and limited use of cumbersome and time-consuming manual data transfer.

While it has taken time to marry the parts and work through the development of the system, we can now work with considerable cost savings which we are already passing back to members. Some of this saving is coming by members entering their own data which can be passed through the whole chain by the push of a button.

A rapidly developing litigious attitude in the stud breeding industries has meant that societies that issue certification of breeding must be able to support that certification and we are moving over time to full parent verification as well as myostatin status. We continue to develop the genomic testing panel.

Our testing system will be available for use by other breeds, for a fee, and we will be able in time to move to inter breed and cross breed comparisons.

Meeting at Wagga allowed us to all meet with most of the Genetic Hub team. While much can be done with modern technology, we did find just how much more can be achieved when you are 'face to face' and with personal time together.

So, it is back to Wagga again next year

Exciting times for a numerically small breed driving new age industry changes.

*Murray Williams*

## RED POLL INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS & TOUR

### 9<sup>th</sup> - 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2024 Part Two

#### Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> April Day 3

A good start to the day – in the cooked breakfast items were the nicest mushrooms at a hotel that I've ever had, made by chef, Marilyn.

We were all on the bus more or less at 9am, ready to travel down to Sarah Elliot and her partner Will's **"Inny Vale"** stud about a half hour south of Ashburton. Conversation in the bus on the way seemed to be mainly about dairy cows and the pros and cons of Jerseys, Friesians and the Kiwi Cross (Friesian/Jersey) which is now so popular.

Sarah is originally from Cornwall. She has been in NZ for 23 years, previously dairy farming in Waikato. She has now retired from dairy farming. Sarah and Will have been on their new property for about 18months. The farm relies on bore water which is about 60metres down.

*Sarah (green overalls & cap in the centre of the photo) gives us the rundown on their property and what they are planning to achieve there. ▼*



Sarah's first Red Polls were purchased from Mike and Ann McSweeney when they dispersed their Dawn Mist herd. She bought 12 in-calf heifers and cows, and the bull, Dawn Mist Ferd's Lombard, by the English bull, Bowland Ferdinand. The first crop of calves was born in October 2023. All the male calves were castrated this time. There were certainly some very nice calves in the herd.



*Cows and calves at Sarah & Will's* ▲

***Dawn Mist Ferd's Lombard***  
by Bowland Ferdinand (UK)  
out of Dawn Mist Zod's Lisa  
(by Martinvale Zod's Chandler  
ex Garthmyl Octave). ➤

**NB:** Martinvale Zod's Chandler  
was by Yongerellen Onyka  
Zodiac (Aust.)



Lunch was in cafés in Ashburton – own choice. Feeling replete after eating, it was back on the bus to go up to Christchurch to the Antarctic Centre. With the aircon in the bus being a bit chilly it felt like we were getting a foretaste of the cold! Some people had an after-lunch snooze. It seemed a long way back to Christchurch.



◀ *Some of the group on arrival in the atrium at the Antarctic Centre*

The first thing we did was to have a ride in a Haglund – the usual mode of transport for small numbers in the Antarctic. What felt like a major obstacle course was set up outside replicating some of the terrain the vehicles would traverse when in the Antarctic. There were lots of abrupt stops and turns and ups and downs. Some really enjoyed it. I was not sitting in the best of places and did not have much to brace myself against. A very rough ride!

*Haglund waiting for passengers ➤*



After alighting from the vehicles, we went indoors to see the displays and gain some experience of the wind-chill and cold found at Antarctica. We were given hooded parkas, typical of the coats worn in Antarctica by the researchers and staff.



After reading a lot of the display information we went into a theatre. It was the best part of the visit really. The screen was holographic and it was as if we were sitting in a boat. Most of the seats rocked, water sprayed at us, a seal spat at us and a seabird shat at us! All very real. The waves and animals seemed to be about to leap off the screen at one.



◀ *In the holographic photo we are about to run into a large, sharp icicle.*

*Great graphics*

From there we went to see the blue penguins and the huskies – the latter probably of more interest to children.



◀ *Little blue penguins*

No visit to a tourist attraction is complete without a visit to the souvenir shop. Items were many & varied in price from very cheap to very dear.

On returning to the waiting bus, we could see a storm from the West Coast approaching, coming in with showers. We drove back to

the hotel for a short break before going to dinner.

Our programmed restaurant on the tram ride in Christchurch had a breakdown. Driver Les suggested we go out to a rustic hotel he knew of at Governor's Bay. At 5.30pm we boarded the bus. We travelled out through the Lyttleton tunnel and thence to Lyttleton township. A brief drive around and we continued our way out to Governor's Bay. The road was long and winding. The hotel was definitely the local pub, with several bods leaning on the bar. Warwick & I had fish and chips, others had chicken, spinach & pea pasta or hamburgers. Ayleen had a deconstructed hamburger as she is gluten free. *Ayleen & pudding ➤*



Dessert choices were Cointreau and white chocolate cheesecake; Doris plum crumble (unusual as made with breadcrumbs rather than rolled oats – quite crispy); date and meringue torte (GF) or sticky date pudding. All came with ice cream and seemed to go down well with everyone.



*Dinner table at Governor's Bay*

We left for the hotel about 8.30pm and travelled back over Dyer's Pass (not Geddes Pass). This enabled us to view the

night lights in Christchurch. It began to rain quite heavily before we made it back to the Pavilions and our return at 9pm was to a deluge as we exited the bus. We were all grateful that Les was very familiar with the Canterbury area, and we did not get lost once (although we did overshoot the Fleming's gateway the day before!)

## Friday 12<sup>th</sup> April, Day 4

A good rain today with temperature at 18°C. Another tasty breakfast and all on the bus by 8.45am, to leave for the Christchurch Airport at 8.50am.

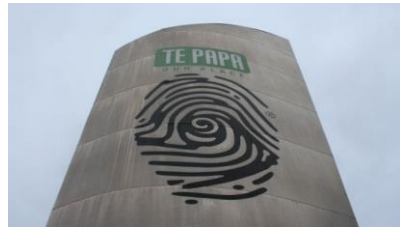
The plane was a bit late leaving with views obscured virtually all the way. A calm landing in Wellington.

Warwick and I caught the Brentwood Hotel shuttle back to pick up our car and head for home to get our cattle ready for the next morning.

For those who spent the remainder of the day and overnight in Wellington Catherine Payne (Australia) has kindly sent a short report and photos.

'Te Papa is an amazing experience of New Zealand in Art, History, and Culture.

All valued and artfully presented in a special modern building. - Our tour began at - The Beginning, in the below black area of Nothingness or Void - To Let there be Light (and comfort in the Unknown) -Greater



Appreciation and Awareness Dawns as we climb higher to learn of the Māori arrival in Aotearoa - Land of The Great White Cloud. -This beautiful New Zealand. Māori legends are intricately expressed in the Māori carving and a very special bright, stained-glass window highlights the spectacularly illuminated 'Welcome Room', pictured in my photographs. History, Art, Culture - Te Papa has so much there, including The Treaty Of Waitangi.

Our special tour had just had enough time to see the WW1, Gallipoli Exhibition, which had giant sized models of World War 1 soldiers,



depicting the great human anguish, suffering and horror of war. - A Lest We Forget Tribute.

Te Papa has a wonderful, whole, respectful and understanding approach to learning all our world - (past, present, and future).'

◀ A ride in the famed *Wellington cable car* was also on the programme. In Catherine's other photo it looks like it was pouring with rain when they rode the cable car up to Kelburn. On a fine day there are good views over Wellington.

The night was spent at the James Cook Hotel. Off to the Wairarapa tomorrow.

### A BIT OF HISTORY (from the Editor's photo files)



### Wairarapa A & P Show 2007.

Judy and Graeme Evans won the Meat & Wool cup with Evanlea Dora with Evanlea Harold at foot, born 2007 by Glenone Sanson. She obliged with a heifer, Evanlea Impress by the same bull the next year.

## URUGUAY UPDATE

Dear New Zealand colleagues, cattle breeders and lovers of the Red Poll, it is a pleasure to share with you good news and some photos. We have attended for the second consecutive year the Expo Prado 2024, the largest livestock fair in Uruguay where the best specimens of each breed are shown.

We are happy that our animals have been awarded and highly praised.

We are sure that the Red Poll will have a very important place in the generation of wealth here in Uruguay and that it makes a great contribution to the country's livestock.

*Ing. Mariano Fernández Juncal*  
President of the Uruguayan Society of Red Poll Breeders



*Showing looks similar everywhere. Mario at his cattle stalls.*



*The prize-winning exhibits from Mario's Stud*

## A BIT OF HISTORY

### THE MOHLER STORY (PART ONE)

(Prepared by Mike Parks, with excerpts from the book "Courageous Cattlemen" by Robert C de Baca.) [*Written in 2009*]

Many Red Poll enthusiasts today have never met Marshall Mohler of Thorntown, Indiana. This article is an attempt to explain to today's breeders what one person can do when they set their mind to it... this is the Mohler story.

Marshall Mohler was born in Hagerstown, Indiana in 1922. Times went from roaring to rough very quickly in the twenties. Marshall's father worked for the utility company and was killed in an accident when Marshall was eight. He and his two siblings did whatever they could to help their mother survive. Marshall's first interest in livestock was with pigs as a 4-H project. This interest never lessened. In fact, it still exists today. After first starting at Purdue University, Marshall spent three years in the Army Infantry during WWII in Germany. His job? He planted "land mines" in what they called "No Man's Land". When the ground became frozen, he would set land mines on top of land mines! Can you imagine doing that? No wonder he welcomed to opportunity to go back to Purdue after the war, graduating in 1946.

No story of Marshall would be complete without mentioning Peg, the love of his life. They met at Purdue, married in 1949, raised three sons and a daughter, and now, 59 years later, they are retired together near Thorntown. Always supportive, Peg (the city girl) travelled many places with Marshall helping to promote both the cattle and Purdue University. Marshall received his master's degree from the University of Illinois (his thesis was on the breeding of low-line and hi-line Hampshire hogs) in 1949. He was hired by Purdue University that same year to be a farm superintendent. His first year was spent on campus, and the next thirty-five were spent in Wanatah, Indiana as Superintendent of Pinney-Purdue Farm. Purdue was the only employer that Marshall ever had.

When he arrived at the farm, there were thirty Red Poll cows waiting for him. Half of them were milked for the cream check and the skim milk was fed to the pigs. (It was very typical in the 40's and 50's to milk half of your Red Poll cows

and let the other half raise all the calves.) By decree of the Pinney family when they gifted the farm to Purdue, a herd of Red Poll cows were to always be maintained on the farm. Since Marshall had the cows, he decided to improve them. As was typical of the era, the cows were small in stature & gained rather slowly. Slaughter weights seldom exceeded 900 pounds [408kg]. Here is where the story of the most innovative, most widely known Red Poll breeder in the world really begins. In the early fifties, he realized that to increase the rate-of-gain in his herd he would have to increase their size. Here is how it worked (as re-told to me by Marshall & from my own memory). He selected the five biggest bull calves in the herd, weighed them, fed them to yearling status, & weighed them again. He then used the fastest growing of the five on those same five cows the next year. What he also very quickly discovered was that the fastest growing calves also had the best carcasses. This remained consistent throughout his research trials. For the first five years he did not worry about inbreeding; he was after weight gain & growth.

It should be noted that from 1950 until today, Marshall has always been involved with linebreeding. The process works, works well, and made him famous. (Quotes from the "Courageous Cattlemen") "In the early fifties, before Performance Registry International (PRI) set up their performance registry, Mohler had established a program of gain registry (GR) and carcass registry (CR) for his breed." "Let's look at results. In the mid-fifties, Pinney-Purdue set a goal to breed a Red Poll strain of cattle that would consistently produce steers weighing a 1000 pounds at a year of age and grade low choice. Later, a minimum of 50% cutability was added. From 1960 to 1978, they added 100 pounds to weaning weights, took essentially 100 days off of slaughter age (same weight), added a half inch to the ribeye, & took off .2 inches of fat. As geneticists will tell you, these differences are permanent. They are not environmental, they are heritable." "Marshall Mohler knew what he wanted to do and he did it. Not hampered by an over popular breed, he set out with selection to make a great herd out of the cows on the Pinney-Purdue farm. He proved that it is amazing what you can accomplish if you set your mind to it." (End of quotes from the "Courageous Cattlemen".)

Always loyal, often frustrated, constantly thought challenging and highly opinionated, Marshall Mohler almost single-handedly made the Red Poll breed

that all of us enjoy what it is today. At 87, he still tells me "I don't think people understand all that we accomplished with these cows". I tend to agree. Thank you, Marshall.

## **THE MOHLER STORY (PART TWO)** (Prepared by Mike Parks)

Pinney-Purdue Farms were exhibiting Red Polls at state and national shows before Marshall arrived there in 1950. When asked how they got along, Marshall replied "not well... we saw the bottom of the class pretty often." That would begin to change in dramatic fashion once Marshall started being in control of the breeding program. (One of his pet peeves, then and now, was how the photographers of the forties and fifties would "doctor" the pictures of the cattle with paint brushes, making them perfect, with no obvious flaws in their profile.) Early on, he developed a relationship with the Donahue family of Earl Park, Indiana. Purdue bought all of their calves for seven years. Each year most of these calves were better than any that Purdue had bred. Then, Marshall was given permission to purchase the whole herd. From this purchase came the foundation of the performance program at Purdue. In that group, the first major herd sire that would make a "difference" arrived. His name was E.P. Pinpur Prince Edward. He appeared in EVERY pedigree when the herd was dispersed in 1985.

After five years of selection referred to in Part One, Marshall began to notice dramatic differences. He recorded them all. His records, all kept by hand, were amazing and all inclusive. One set of records, lost now forever, was on calving ease. Every calf & their mother were weighed within 24 hours after the calf's birth. Over a period of 20+ years, Marshall determined that a calf would weigh 7% of their mother's weight, regardless of cow size. Consistently, after a bull's first calf crop, Marshall would castrate 90% of all bull calves for carcass evaluation. Amazingly, only 40% of those herd bulls would ever be re-used in the Pinney herd. He offered, in 1985, a complete set of records on birth, weaning, yearling, & carcass information that had been compiled over a period of thirty years. No one wanted them. I first met Marshall in 1958. I was ten. I purchased (Dad paid for) the first Red Poll I ever owned. Thus began fifty years of affiliation with the mind of a great cattle breeder. It should be noted that any purchase that I have ever made in this breed that did not have a strong

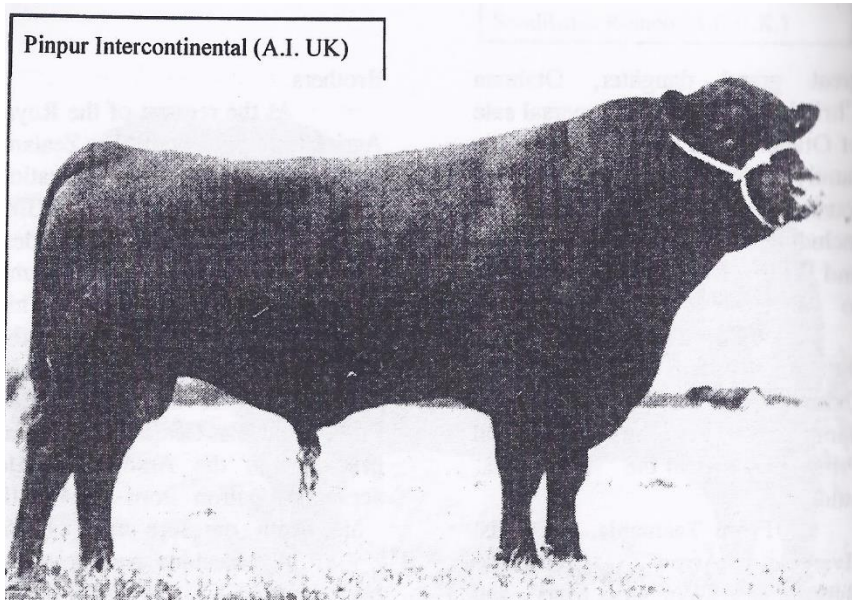
influence of Purdue blood DID NOT work. I understand that that is just my experience, but it has been consistent for fifty years.

Until the mid-seventies, the Red Poll breed held summer field days, called Type Conferences, fairly often. Usually, the largest attended with the most documentation presented at these events, were held at Pinney-Purdue Farm. Throughout the fifties and sixties, State sales were a popular spring event each year. Pinney-Purdue supported many of these sales with consignments. This is what I remember. They almost always topped the sale and had the highest average. At the time, you were allowed to sell one bull for every five females you sold. That suited Marshall's plan to a tee. He would sell a good bull, 2 really good females, 2 more that weren't too bad, and one that he really needed to get rid of. If you wanted to buy one of his "great" bulls, you usually had to make a trip to Wanatah. The "great" ones were almost always sold privately at the farm. At these sales, his sharp eye and knowledge of weights enabled him to buy cattle, take them home, resell them the next day, and cover all of his sale expenses with the profits. More than any consignor I ever knew, Marshall would almost always go home with several head. He strongly believed in and supported sales. Along the way, he set the price structure for the entire breed, based on what his cattle brought.

Marshall made several trips overseas, especially to New Zealand & Australia. There, he became a legend, both as a judge and a geneticist. He was asked by one Australian herd (I do not remember who) to select cattle for them that would win their national carcass show. He picked out six cows and a herd bull and suggested that their offspring would win. The result, four of the next six years, Marshall was right! (As a side note, Marshall judged a carcass show for pigs at a county fair in northern Indiana for over 15 years. He picked the champion carcass while still on foot every time except for three. These three placed either 2nd or 3rd. Remarkable!)

Pinney-Purdue produced many National Champions in the show ring; today no one remembers how many there were. For many years, they won both the bull & the female show trophies, along with being Premier Breeder and Exhibitor. The first great one that I remember was Pinpur Baron. He was the first Red Poll

bull ever produced that had a higher post-weaning gain than he'd had as a weanling. He was awesome, and so were his calves.



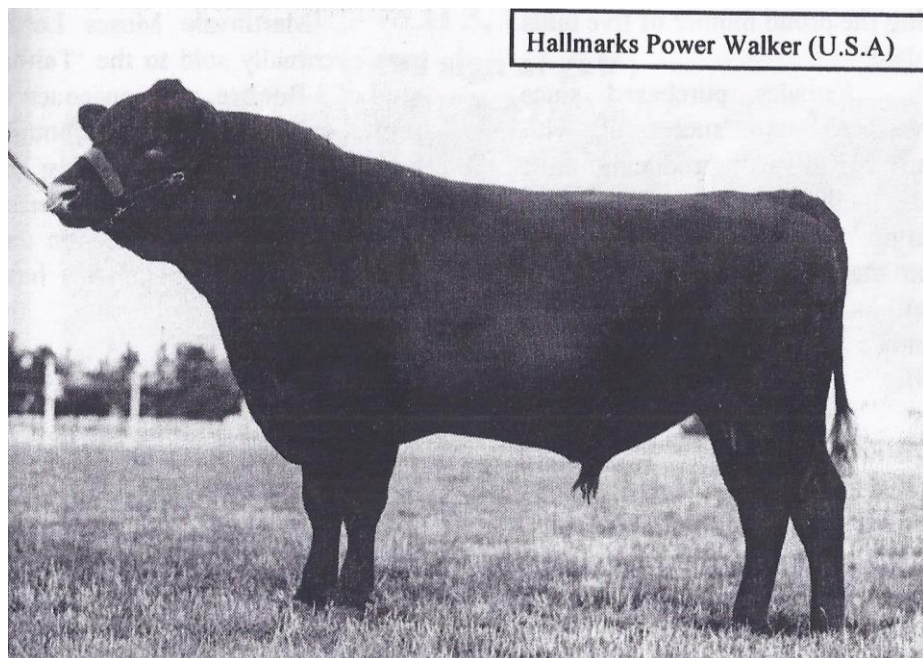
*Pinpur Intercontinental, a son of Pinpur Baron. Semen used in New Zealand.*

[Photo not in original article]

Baron produced perhaps the four greatest sons the breed had ever seen. They were Pinpur Basic, Pinpur Walking Tall, Pinpur Sizemore, and Pinpur Pro. If you trace back a few generations, these five bulls and their sons and daughters can be found in over 85% of Red Poll pedigrees today. Pinpur Baron is the only bull in this breed that I can remember that produced three National Champion sons (Basic was reserve to Walking Tall) that all produced national Champion offspring. Baron certainly changed our breed forever.

Marshall has collected more carcass data than any Red Poll breeder alive today. Here's a tip on marketing for you. He had a card file of customers that would buy quarters and halves of beef from him. He never met most of them, but with his card file he would call them when he knew that they were about out of meat. They almost always re-ordered, Marshall got his carcass data, and the Pinney-Purdue farm consistently was the only one of the Purdue outlaying farms at the time that operated in the black every year!

*Hallmarks Power Walker was a well-known son of Pinpur Walking Tall. Semen from him was used in New Zealand.* [Photo not in original article]



Did we end up making Red Polls too big? Absolutely. Did Marshall contribute to that? Yes, he certainly did. But the story doesn't end there. After retirement in 1985, Marshall purchased (with Purdue University approval) six females to start his "retirement herd". He moved them to Thorntown, Indiana and combined them with his son Alan's herd and with the McVey herd, which Alan managed. When the MARC Red Poll Research herd was dispersed, Marshall selected two cows and instructed Mike & Hal Johnson to buy one of them for him. This cow, MARC Eva, became a new foundation female for Mohler's. His goal became to make their cowherds more grass-based, smaller framed, and extremely sound. From all of this, came a bull Marshall called Hoosierland Classic. Classic sired Hoosierland Marcus, and Marcus sired Dunroamin' Century Twenty-one. Century 21 was on his way to Louisville, trying to become Marshall's last National Champion Bull, when he slipped on wet concrete being led to the trailer and was injured & left at home. (I know this for a fact... I was on the halter.)

Today, four sons of Century 21 are the predominant sires of big topped, deep ribbed, very sound Red Polls being produced today. As with all of us who've been around a while, there are many stories that could be told on us and about us. Marshall Mohler is no different, except for this one fact. HE REALLY MADE A DIFFERENCE IN OUR RED POLL BREED. This difference will live on for as long as our Red Cows shall walk our pastures.

Thank you, Marshall

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**Supre Century Winner #4330** (AI), a grandson of Dunroamin' Century Twenty-One.

Winner was bred by Sean & Alex Trafford of Supreme Red Poll Stud, based at Matiere, Taumarunui. Photo taken on 2013 Herd Tour.



## **UK NEWS, November 2024**

Ray Bowler, Society Secretary

As usual this year has been a busy one with shows, member visits and recently the Herd Competition Presentations which culminated on the 26<sup>th</sup> October with the Society Annual Dinner.

The National Show this year was held at the Three Counties Show. This saw 32 cattle from 6 members forward. Male & Overall Breed Champion being John William's bull Pinguis Jeremiah, Female Champion was Wheatfield Imogens Lark from Anthea & Jeff Daw. Judge: David Blunt

The Eastern side of the country saw the shows decimated due to the Bluetongue restrictions which are still in force, we will have to wait until the spring to see what the future brings.

Classes were held at the Devon Show for the first time this year as were classes at the Royal Welsh.

Devon Show Female and Breed Champion was Pinguis Emily 25<sup>th</sup>, John Williams who also had the Male and Reserve Champion Pinguis Jeremiah. Judge: Denis Jenkins

Male & Overall Breed Champion at the Royal Welsh was Wheatfield Freddie, Anthea & Jeff Daw &

Reserve was Moreton Lady Kenya, Terry & Helen Mancey. Judge: Joshua Briggs.

**The Herd Competition** was well supported with over 70 members entering the 4 regional competitions.

Winners were:

Northern Area: Large Herd - Elaine & Mark Hall, Kiddal Herd.

Small Herd - Ed & Tanya Peate, Low Tipalt Herd.

Judge: Mark Martin

Midlands Area: Large Herd - John Pochin, Pochin Herd, Contact, Herd Manager Andrew Kirk

Small Herd - Virginia Dawes, Hinwick Herd.

Judge: Paul Grainger

Southern Area: Large Herd - David & Simon Tompkins, Boames Herd.

Small Herd - Anthea & Jeff Daw, Wheatfield Herd.

Judge: Sarah Barnes

Eastern Area: Large Herd - Sarah & Gerald Barnes, Hopeham Herd.

Small Herd - Tom & Patricia Marsh, Hallingbury Herd  
Judge: Anne-Marie Hamilton

### **National Competition Winners:**

Overall Champion – The Pochin Herd of John Pochin, Herd Manager Andrew Kirk

Large Herds Champions – The Pochin Herd of John Pochin, Herd Manager Andrew Kirk

Small Herds Champions – The Wheatfield Herd of Anthea & Jeff Daw

Judge: Andrew Blenkiron. Andrew is this years Society President.

Membership of the Society is steady at about 350 members, however active members who register cattle number about 130.

Heifer registrations in 2023 were 854 with 35 bulls being registered. It is hoped a similar number will be registered this year.

Sadly, this year we lost Rosemary Philipson-Stow and the Underhills Herd. Tony Barratt's Appleton Herd has also been dispersed due a change in Tony's circumstances.

King Charles 3<sup>rd</sup> has taken over from the late Queen as Patron of the Society which is excellent news for us, to still have the Royal association.



***Pinguis Jeremiah***, Breed champion at the Royal Three Counties Show – the National show. Judge Mr David Blunt.

## RETURN OF MINIATURE of NZ RED POLL SHOW TROPHY.

About 2 months ago the phone rang one evening. It was a Mrs Christine Smith ringing from Invercargill. She worked at the local St Vincent de Paul (Vinnies) shop. She was ringing to say they had had a small trophy cup handed in to sell to raise funds. It was a Red Poll cup. She kindly took the trouble to find out about the Association and make contact with Warwick, (the Secretary) to see if we were interested in having the cup returned.

I happened to answer the phone and very excitedly turned to Warwick and said "Wow!"

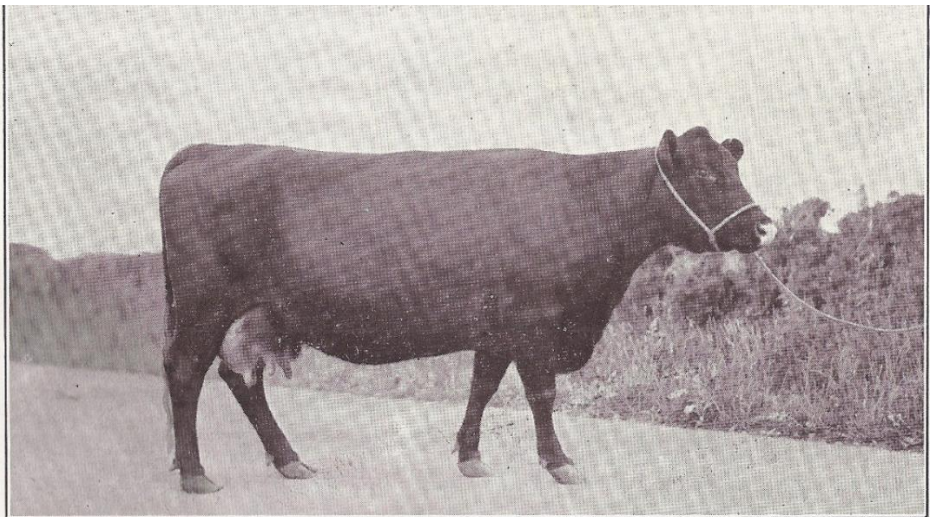
We took her details and spoke to the President about it. I thought the Assn. should offer to pay something toward the profit the shop would miss out on (the cup is hallmarked sterling silver) as well as the courier fee to get it up to Ian Fleming's. Ian currently holds the cup for which the miniature was given as a permanent trophy to keep which represented the big cup – the RASNZ Challenge cup which was presented in 1924 by the NZ Red Poll Association for award to the Champion Female at the Royal Show. Initially we did not realise the cup was a miniature. Upon receiving it Ian cleaned it up and took the accompanying photos. It was a wonderful find.



The trophy was awarded at the 1929 Invercargill Royal Show to Mr G S Young who owned the Neutyle Herd. I quote from the history book of Mike Condon's.- 'Stanley Young founded the Neutyle herd in 1923 when he purchased the bull Otahuna Red King and two heifers, Wayward 6<sup>th</sup> B NO. 1 and Otahuna Nellie from sir R Heaton Rhodes. In 1924 two Otahuna cows were added followed by Dominion Zeeland in 1929. Later purchases were Opatu and Otahuuna bred bulls and cows from the Cray and Otahuna herds. The Neutyle herd was noted for its Production and many successes at Royal and A & P shows.'

The cup was won on the relevant occasion by Dominion Zeeland. She was sired by Dominion Sylvan (C62) and out of Dominion Netherlana (C110).

*C class animals were those whose pedigrees can be authenticated, by evidence satisfactory to the Committee, as showing 93.75 percent. Of known pure Red Poll ancestry, e.g. animals sired by a known pure Red Poll bull, and whose first, second and third maternal dams were sired by known purebred Red Poll bulls, or the equivalent purity of breeding.*



**DOMINION ZEELAND, C. 423.  
Royal Champion, 1929.**

## Red Poll Society (UK)



If you would like to join to the Red Poll Cattle Society (UK) contact [secretary@redpoll.co.uk](mailto:secretary@redpoll.co.uk)

or write to:

The Secretary, 1 Nabbott Road, Chelmsford,  
Essex CM1 SW, England.

The overseas associate membership subscription is £30 sterling; includes three printed issues a year of the newsletter. The newsletter is also available to view on-line, gratis.

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### A BIT OF HISTORY

Poem written by Mrs E B Butler-Henderson advertising her herd sale on August 27<sup>th</sup> 1952. *Thanks to Red Poll Cattle society Newsletter Summer 2024, No 129*

Oh, come and buy our Red Polls  
We're sure you really should  
There's milk and beef beyond belief  
While butterfat is good

Oh, look at our red ladies  
There's Lavender and Rose  
Whose milking strain is bound to  
gain  
First prize at all the shows

Then come and see the gentlemen  
Who'll give all rivals shocks  
For none will beat for milk and meat  
The offspring of "Red Fox"

We've steers for all the butchers  
Of which the good red meat, Sir!  
We hear so much, but don't get  
such  
A lot of it to eat sir!

Then do not miss your chances  
Where Fancies mean, just back um  
Our safest bet, you'll ne'er regret  
Your purchases at FACCOMBE



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### Photos Back Cover

**Top:** Calves at Doug & Sharon Pitsch's Four Diamond Stud

**Bottom:** Neil Wilton's Stoneyacres herd on the move to local grazing.

