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2021 Birth Year Letter

Diary Dates / Key Events.

4th September:

South-West and Cork Club
Pedigree Heifer Sale. Roscrea
Mart.

24th September:

Closing date for entries for
Roscrea Sale.

1st October:

Closing date for entries for Elphin
Premier Sale.

25th October:

Roscrea Sale

13th November:

Elphin Premier Sale



ILCS JULY 2021 NEWSLETTER

Limousin and the Myostatin Gene

The Myostatin or 'double muscling' gene influences the production of a protein that controls the development of muscle in mammals. Natural mutations have produced proteins that are less effective in controlling this, resulting in increased muscle mass. While most traits in cattle are controlled by multiple genes (eg reproduction, fertility, growth and

Benefits of these include improved meat yield and meat quality from all three genes. Disadvantages of both NT821 and Q204X, however, include greater calving difficulty and bigger calves at birth. Carcasses of double muscled cattle have higher dressing and kill out % due to the combination of increased muscle mass, reduced body fat, smaller bone mass



and smaller internal organs. This is up to 19% higher than cattle that do not exhibit double muscling. Double muscled cattle also have superior feed conversion efficiency. Superior

carcass traits) some traits are controlled by a single pair of genes (e.g Coat colour, polledness and double muscling).

There are nine mutations of the Myostatin gene in cattle; some of which only affect one breed of animal, while others impact on multiple breeds. There are three main mutations which are most common in Limousin cattle and these mutations are referenced as F94L; NT821; and Q204X.

meat quality is also expressed due to a combination of increased tenderness, reduced fat content and a higher % of polyunsaturated fats.

Animals that carry two copies of such variant genes are known as homozygous, while cattle with one copy are known as heterozygous. Both homozygous and heterozygous cattle will have increased muscle mass, more so in homozygous

Limousin and the Myostatin Gene

animals due to multiple copies.

F94L – Increases the size of muscle fibres with no associated increase in calving difficulty, lowered fertility or longevity. Homozygous animals show increases in primal cut weights by up to 19%, superior rates of feed conversion and increases of up to 8% in overall Retail Beef Yields. Improved meat quality, higher rates of tenderness, reduced fat and higher proportions of polyunsaturated fats. This mutation is now almost fixed in the Limousin breed and expressed phenotypically through increased muscle mass without an increase in calving difficulty and without lowering fertility or longevity.

nt821 - Recessive variant carried by a lower proportion of the Limousin breed. Homozygous recessive animals will exhibit increased loin depth, reduced fat

depth and large, rounded rump and thighs. These animals may also have slightly heavier birth weights and potential for more difficult calving's. Heterozygous animals will also exhibit quality carcass characteristics but are less likely to be affected by more difficult calving's.

Q204X – Partially dominant mutation of the Myostatin gene and is carried by a smaller proportion of animals. Homozygous animals will exhibit larger loin depth, reduced fat cover and increased meat tenderness. These animals may also have larger birth weights and females may have lower milking ability and adverse effects on maternal traits.

The cattle genome consists of 30,000 genes and 3 billion pieces of DNA. While carcass, calving and milking traits in

cattle are controlled by many genes, Myostatin is one of them and should not be considered in isolation. The Myostatin gene appears to be influenced by several other, as yet unidentified, genes. Therefore, the interactive role Myostatin plays with other genes in controlling carcass, fertility and milking traits has not been fully established. It is important that breeders consider all available data (EBV's, Genotypic, Phenotypic, Pedigree and Performance) when making their mating decisions

We are encouraging all our members intending to sell their animals at Society Premier Sales to complete the Myostatin testing in advance of the sale. From the 01st January 2022, a €5 discount will be offered on all Premier sales entry fees for animals that have been Myostatin in advance of the sale entry closing date.



Myostatin Variant name	Double Muscling	Increased muscling	Increased Birth weight	Increased Calving difficulty	Decreased Milk production	Increased Meat Tenderness	Decreased Fat	Breeding recommendation
E226X	X	X	X	X				Not recommended to use a homozygous bull on a homozygous heifer or cow with smaller pelvis.
E291X	X	X	X	X				Not recommended to use a homozygous bull on a homozygous heifer or cow with smaller pelvis.
C313Y	X	X	X	X				Not recommended to use a homozygous bull on a homozygous heifer or cow with smaller pelvis.
nt419	X	X	X	X				Not recommended to use a homozygous bull on a homozygous heifer or cow with smaller pelvis.
Q204X	X	X	X	X	X			Best for breeding terminal animals. Not recommended to use a homozygous bull on a homozygous heifer or cow with smaller pelvis.
nt821del11	X	X	X	X	X			Best for breeding terminal animals. Not recommended to use a homozygous bull on a homozygous heifer or cow with smaller pelvis.
F94L		X				X	X	Ok for all breeding animals to be homozygous.
S105C		X				X	X	Ok for all breeding animals to be homozygous
D182N		X				X	X	Ok for all breeding animals to be homozygous

Myostatin Genetics Quick Reference Guide

Autumn 2021 Society Sales Dates & Venues:

Sale	Sale Date	Closing Date	Mart
ILCS Sale	25th October 2021 (Bank Holiday)	Friday 24th September	Roscrea
ILCS Premier Sale	13th November 2021 (Saturday)	Friday 1st October	Elphin

Spring 2022 Society Sales Dates & Venues:

Sale	Date	Mart
ILCS Premier Sale	12th March 2022 (Saturday)	Elphin
ILCS Sale	2nd April 2022 (Saturday)	Thurles
ILCS Sale	14th April 2022 (Thursday)	Athenry
ILCS Premier Sale	2nd May 2022 (Bank Holiday Monday)	Roscrea
ILCS Sale	21st May 2022 (Saturday)	Roscommon
ILCS Sale	TBC middle of June	TBC



Society Rule Changes:

Mandatory genotyping of all Bulls at ILCS Sales from 1st January 2022

Following a recommendation from the Breeding Sub-Committee, it has been decided that all bulls entered for society sales from 1st January 2022 must be genotyped. While the majority of bulls presented at our Premier Sales so far this year have already been genotyped, it will now become an expressed condition of entry for all Society Sales (Premier and Non-Premier). This rule will come into effect from 1st January 2022 and breeders are encouraged to arrange for genotyping of animals for Society sales, ideally before the end of October 2021. The ILCS will send reminders to our members regarding the genotyping deadlines.

Genotyping data forms an integral component of our breed improvement schemes, ensuring parentage verification and increasing the accuracy of future selection decisions.

The ILCS are also encouraging all vendors intending to sell their animals at Society Premier Sales to complete the Myostatin testing also. From the 01st January 2022,

a €5 discount will be offered on all Premier sales entry fees for animals that have been Myostatin tested in advance of the sale entry closing date.

Minimum age and weight of bulls at ILCS Sales from 1st October 2021

A revised grid of minimum weights can be found on our website: www.irishlimousin.com

- A minimum weight of 570kgs will apply to bulls at all ILCS sales.
- A minimum age of 14 months would apply to bulls at all Spring sales and a minimum age of 13 months would apply to all bulls at Autumn sales.
- The minimum weight for age still applies to all Society Premier sales with the new thresholds being the minimum for bulls irrespective of age.

The Minimum age and weight of bulls at ILCS Sales will come into effect for the Autumn sales 2021.



Upcoming ICBF Evaluations:

2021 November		
Dairy & Beef		
1st September	1st October	23rd November
DNA samples to be received at ICBF / Laboratory	Last day for all data for evaluations (data, pedigree and valid genotypes)	Publication at 3pm



Inter-Club Photographic Competition 2021:

The Irish Limousin Cattle Society Interclub photographic competition was launched earlier this month. There are six categories as follows:

- Best cow with calf at foot (up to three photos)
- Best heifer, maiden or in calf over a year born on/before 31/7/2020 (two photos)
- Best female born on/after 1/8/2020 (two photos)
- Best male born on/before 31/7/2020 (two photos)
- Best male born on/after 1/8/2020 (two photos)
- Best group of pedigree Limousin animals (one photo only)

Entries to comprise of up to three photos for category 'a', one of the cow, one of the calf and one of both. Up to two photos per entry in the next four categories (b, c, d, e) one side view and one either from front or back. Only one photo for category 'f' the group competition.

Prizes

The top three photos in each category will receive two straws from one of the following bulls:

Hector GD RRevs LM7428
Leopard MN RRevs LM7437
Haled MN RRevs LM7425
Jurancon RRe M LM7431
IO Rre M LM7434
JYM Rrvs LM4872

Additionally, the winning club will receive six straws of any of the Evolution (Sersia) bulls that the Limousin society has in stock and the runner up club will receive four straws of any of the Evolution (Sersia) bulls that the Limousin society has in stock.

Competition Rules and Conditions:

This competition will be run on a club basis and is confined to pedigree registered Irish Limousin cattle. All entries to be forwarded to Club secretary/chairperson on/by 1/8/2021. **Each club** may enter **two entries** in each category. An **individual breeder** may have a maximum of **two entries** in the club's entry of 12. Clubs are responsible to ensure that the animals in the photographs are owned by the entrant, are eligible for the competition and are the correct age for the section they are entered in. Photos to be taken in July 2021 and closing date

for entries to club secretaries is 1/8/2021.

Completed club entries to arrive to Limousin office by 15/8/2021. All entries must come through the club secretary/chairperson. Responsibility rests with the club officers to select the clubs entries and have them forwarded to the Limousin office by the closing date. It is up to the winning clubs to decide on how they distribute the straws. An independent judge will be appointed by the Limousin council to select the winners. The judge's decision will be final.

NB: This competition is aimed at natural photos of animals in fields. Professionally taken photos or photos that have been photo-shopped will be disqualified. Any photos submitted will become property of the Irish Limousin Cattle Society and may be used in the future to promote the Limousin Society or society events. Entry in the competition is taken as acceptance of the above rules. For further details and entry forms please see the ILCS website: www.irishlimousin.com



Don't get left behind! Ensure the Society has YOUR email address

Today everyone wants the most up-to-date information as soon as it is available. Receiving it on a quarterly newsletter is not the most effective! The Society has always embraced new technologies to communicate better with our members. Many of our breeders have the Twitter App on their phones as they wanted to receive the sales prices in real time, once we started including videos in the tweets our Twitter followers doubled. With online sales breeders took advantage of creating videos to promote their stock. Many bulls are now being sold prior to the sales based on the quality of the

videos submitted in advance which the Society post on Facebook. **Our Facebook site:** @irishlimousinsociety

Not everyone is on Twitter or Facebook however most people have an email address. Thank you to all our members who have already submitted their GDPR consent form and email details. It is important that all Members contact details are fully up to date and that we have a current email for all our members on the system. Members who have not yet returned their details can still do so to ensure that their details are updated on the ILCS member database.



Reminder Any members who have not yet returned the updated contact form to the ILCS office are reminded to do so now. Please see our website for our GDPR policy.

Share Your Stories

Our Social Media platforms – **Facebook** @irishlimousinsociety **Twitter** @irishlimousin are a great way to share your Limousin news stories, and to promote the Limousin breed, while also keeping

the Limousin community informed of all the latest news. Why not share your Limousin related stories – for example Limousin cattle at the mart, calves, great Limousin mothers, factory returns etc?

Email to: pro@irishlimousin.com
or by Facebook Messenger

We are launching a more proactive digital two-way approach to communication which will require the Society having YOUR email address for YOU to participate. The new approach will include the following information being emailed:

- Up-to-date information/breaking news (breeding news, Industry-related news, breed-related news etc) will be emailed to breeders as soon as the Society have it.
- Notifications when new straws are available, or the Society is running low on existing straws.
- Council will conduct Zoom Calls, with National and International guest speakers, that all breeders will be invited to via email.
- Invitation to provide feedback and have your say via online surveys.
- Electronic copies of the newsletters will be emailed, making it easier to find them in the future.
- Receive your statements electronically which will help your filing when submitting your accounts.

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