

# Limousin Breeder

THE NEWSLETTER  
OF THE IRISH LIMOUSIN  
CATTLE SOCIETY



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## **T** 2022 Birth Year Letter

### **50th Anniversary Events**

#### **17th June 2022:**

Launch the 50th celebrations

#### **Location:**

ILCS Offices, Mitchelstown,  
Co. Cork.

#### **14th August 2022:**

Limousin National  
Championships.

#### **Location:**

Tullamore Show.

#### **21st, 22nd and 23rd September 2022:**

National Ploughing  
Championships.

#### **Location:**

Ratheniska, Co. Laois.

#### **30th September and 01st October 2022:**

50th Anniversary Show and Sale.

#### **Location:**

Carrick-On-Shannon.

#### **28th May 2023:**

50th Anniversary National Calf  
Show & YMA workshop.

#### **Location:**

Roscrea.

Further details on each of these  
events will be circulated in the  
coming weeks.



# IRISH LIMOUSIN CATTLE SOCIETY

ILCS MARCH 2022 NEWSLETTER

## **Irish Limousin Celebrates 50 Years**

This year we will mark the 50th anniversary of the Irish Limousin breed. The first pedigree calf was born on June 22nd, 1972, on Paddy Clancy's farm in Carrick-On-Suir, while the first meeting of the Irish Limousin breeders was held on February 16th, 1973 at the Silver Springs Hotel in Cork.

A number of key events will be organised during the period June 2022 – June 2023 to mark the 50th Anniversary and this programme will provide a unique opportunity to highlight the history of the Irish Limousin, and to promote and market the breed.



## Irish Limousin and Gene Ireland

Gene Ireland (GI) is the name given to the national beef breeding programme which is operated by ICBF in close collaboration with various industry stakeholders – including the Irish Limousin Cattle Society. The primary aim of the programme is to identify, select and progeny test young high Replacement Index beef bulls which will produce profitable replacement heifers for the national suckler herd. In recent years, Gene Ireland have also added two new elements to the programme. Firstly, a Dairy Beef section to progeny test high Dairy Beef Index (DBI) beef bulls which are suitable for use on dairy cows. Finally, a Terminal section which contains beef bulls suitable for

use on suckler cows to produce profitable animals for sale or slaughter.

The identification of successful sires results in them then being returned to widespread AI and subsequently siring the next generation of animals which should then be more profitable than their ancestors. A key pillar of the breeding programme is the repeatability of the exercise. Once 500 straws of a bull have been distributed, Gene Ireland immediately move on to the next bull. It is not about identifying one superstar sire, but rather once one is identified the search only intensifies to identify superior successors. This consistent approach is ultimately a key

contributor to driving genetic gain in the national herd.

The programme was relaunched in 2014 and in the intervening years some 22,000 straws from 49 different Limousin sires have been distributed to commercial herds in every corner of the country. These sires are some of the highest Euro-Star index bulls in Ireland and many of them have gone on to have a significant impact on the national herd. Within this overall total, the 10 sires which have produced the most progeny are displayed in Table 1 below.

**Table 1. 10 GI Tested Limousin Sires with most progeny in the ICBF Database**

AI CODE	NAME	IRISH BRED	GI YEAR	TOTAL PROG	PED PROG	REPL IDX	REPL REL	TERM IDX	TERM REL	PROG IN TULLY
ZAG	CASTLEVIEW GAZELLE	Yes	2014	104729	2622	€117	98	€121	97	38
LM2014	EWDENVALE IVOR	No	2015	23294	1181	€184	92	€162	96	26
LM4217	MOONDHARRIG KNELL	Yes	2017	22747	716	€144	82	€122	95	16
OKH	KELTIC HANDSOME	Yes	2014	13177	813	€141	96	€120	95	26
LM2117	TOMSCHOICE IMPERIAL	No	2016	9085	289	€122	91	€124	95	15
LM2116	TOMSCHOICE IRONSTONE	No	2015	8176	402	€136	92	€149	95	16
OEO	IVOIRE PP	No	2015	7696	119	€83	91	€113	94	16
ZCH	CARROWREAGH HONDURAS	Yes	2014	5928	288	€25	95	€108	96	25
KZH	KILSKEAGH HILL 16	Yes	2014	5070	199	€37	95	€91	95	16
LM4591	CROSS LIAM	Yes	2018	3662	180	€127	66	€100	87	9
<b>Averages</b>				<b>20356</b>	<b>681</b>	<b>€112</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>€121</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>20</b>

## Irish Limousin and Gene Ireland (continued)

The sires displayed in the table above are some of the highest impact AI sires used in recent years. On average, they have sired an incredible 20,356 calves each. Most significantly, on average, they have also sired some 681 pedigree calves each. It is the pedigree progeny, which, when retained or sold for breeding, will ensure that the sires' genetics will filter out through the national herd for many

years to come. Also of note, is the fact that the average Replacement Index for this group of sires is €112 at 90% reliability. As their progeny have also been heavily represented in the Tully Test Centre, all stakeholders in the cattle breeding industry can be confident that these sires' indexes are built on solid foundations of genomic and phenotypic data.

The most popular Gene Ireland tested Limousin sire with pedigree breeders (ZAG) has, to date, sired a very significant total of 2,622 pedigree progeny.

### Breeding Decisions over Time

Also of interest is the evolution in the breeding decisions made by pedigree breeders over time. Tables 2 and 3 below compare the 10 AI sires which sired the most

pedigree Limousin calves in the years 2020 and 2015. An interesting observation is the fact that no individual sire is represented in both of the tables. This would suggest that pedigree Limousin breeders are actively seeking out and using new sires of interest in pursuit of their breeding goals. Also of note is the change in the average indexes of the sires used. When we look back at the 2015 sires, the average Replacement Index for that group is €57. Fast forward to the 2020 sires and we can see that the average Replacement Index has jumped significantly to an impressive €135. It is important to reference the fact that this increase in Replacement Index has not been made to the detriment of the Terminal traits. Rather, the Terminal Index has also improved from an average of €129 in 2015 to €138 for the 2020 group.



**Table 2.** Top 10 AI Sires of Ped LM 2020 Calf Crop

AI CODE	NAME	GI	2020 PED PROG	REPL IDX	TERM IDX	B COW CD%	PROG TULLY
LM2014	EWDENVALE IVOR	Yes	396	€184	€162	2.5	23
LM4058	LODGE HAMLET	No	390	€94	€155	4.2	0
LM4217	MOONDHARRIG KNELL	Yes	253	€144	€122	4.5	11
ZAG	CASTLEVIEW GAZELLE	Yes	235	€117	€121	3.5	33
EBY	ELDERBERRY GALAHAD	Yes	162	€111	€118	3.0	12
LM4471	TOMSCHOICE LEXICON	No	157	€193	€155	3.5	0
LM4184	LOYAL	No	152	€146	€133	3.0	0
S1633	AMPERTAINÉ GIGOLO	No	110	€129	€131	4.6	0
S1278	PLUMTREE FANTASTIC	No	108	€125	€148	3.1	0
S3104	GOLDIES JACKPOT	No	85	€107	€134	8.1	0
<b>Averages</b>			<b>205</b>	<b>€135</b>	<b>€138</b>	<b>4%</b>	<b>8</b>

## Irish Limousin and Gene Ireland (continued)

**Table 3.** Top 10 AI Sires of Ped LM 2015 Calf Crop

AI CODE	NAME	GI	2015 PED PROG	REPL IDX	TERM IDX	B COW CD%	PROG TULLY
GWO	CASTLEVIEW GRINGO	Yes	250	€131	€134	5.1	18
KJB	BROOKLANDS F0959	Yes	219	€46	€104	4.7	27
ADX	ARDLEA DAN	Yes	200	€24	€123	6.1	27
S1421	AMPERTAINE FOREMAN	No	196	€119	€171	5.1	0
WGE	WILODGE CERBERUS	No	182	€79	€151	3.5	0
S511	FIELDSON ALFY	No	163	€34	€110	5.9	5
OZS	OZEUS	No	161	€21	€118	3.9	32
RHN	ROUNDHILL SATURN	No	152	€113	€131	3.3	9
TVR	ELITE FOREVER BRILL	Yes	144	-€41	€90	18.1	10
S1564	HUNTERSHALL GLADIATOR	No	139	€45	€157	5.1	0
<b>Averages</b>			<b>181</b>	<b>€57</b>	<b>€129</b>	<b>6.1%</b>	<b>13</b>

The sire with the most pedigree calves born in 2020 (LM2014) has so far sired a very significant total of 1,181 pedigree progeny – 396 of which were born in 2020.

### *Ewdenvale Ivor (LM2014)*





## What is your role in GENE IRELAND?

As a pedigree breeder, the main role you can fulfil within the breeding programme is to focus on the production of high index breeding stock. These animals need to be profitable both for yourself as future breeding stock or for your customers who purchase them from you. To ensure that the reliability of these indexes is as high as possible, there are two key actions to zone in on.

Firstly, to ensure that your animals are genotyped at a young age. This will allow the system to verify that the correct parentage is recorded which is an essential first step in the calculation of an animal's indexes. Secondly, the genotype will identify the specific genes within that animal's DNA which are responsible for each of the relevant traits within the indexes. Once the genotype is included in the animal's evaluation, you will see a significant increase in the reliability of that index. If there

are individual animals in your herd that you wish to genotype, you can order a hair card from ICBF by calling 023 882 0452.

Secondly, we would strongly encourage pedigree breeders to get involved in the Whole Herd Performance Recording (WHPR) service. Limousin breeders have a strong tradition in the use of linear scoring and weight recording to contribute accurate data to the ICBF database. The independent recording of real on farm records gives you as a pedigree breeder the opportunity to play a tangible and active role in the data which is used to evaluate and rank your animals. Following feedback from breeders, Gene Ireland have recently simplified the requirements of the service. Breeders now only need to present all pedigree animals that are under one year old in the herd. This should lead to a more attractive offering and will reduce

the time and cost associated with the visit. Further details are available at the following link [www.icbf.com/?page\\_id=8066](http://www.icbf.com/?page_id=8066)

### The current panel of GI bulls

There are several new and exciting Limousin sires currently available to order via Gene Ireland. The sires aimed at suckler farmers are listed in Table 4 below. The Limousin sires identified as suitable for use in dairy herds are displayed in below.

As part of the Gene Ireland program, ICBF have worked in collaboration with the Irish Limousin Cattle Society and several AI companies to assemble a panel of high Dairy Beef Index Limousin sires which have been primarily bred and selected for use in the dairy market. These sires possess easy calving and short gestation genetics combined with very strong beef traits.

### Gene Ireland Spring 2022 Dairy Beef Limousin Sires

Code	Name	Dairy Beef Index
LM7404	GAGGIN POWER ET	€161
LM7641	BRACKAN RUBEN	€151
LM3719	CREGGPARK PAT	€131
LM7077	CARROWREAGH PABLO	€127
LM7719	TOWNLEYHALL RUPERT	€121
LM7959	PATRIOT	€103

### Creggpark Pat



## What is your role in G€N€ IR€LAND? (continued)

### Gene Ireland Spring 2022 Beef Limousin Sires

Code	Name	Terminal Index
LM7713	Birchpark Rufus	€160
LM5608	Noob	€134



### Birchpark Rufus



Code	Name	Replacement Index
LM8109	Percy	€148
LM7599	Moebius	€139
LM3716	Nut	€118

*We are encouraging all pedigree Limousin breeders to identify dairy herds in your area which would be interested in using the high indexing dairy beef Limousin sires this breeding season. Please contact the Irish Limousin office on (025) 85036 for further information.*

## New look ILCS Council for 2022

Following last year's Club elections and the ILCS AGM, which was held virtually on 14th December last, the ILCS Council members for 2022 are as follows:

ILCS Council 2022
Trevor Masterson (President)
Philip Crowe (Vice President)
Tom Jackson (Treasurer)
Ann Hester
William Smith
David Swaine
Alan Kelly
Donal Byrne
Michael McInerney
Pat Sheahan
James Wycherley

We would like to welcome our new council members: Dónal Byrne (North West Club); Michael McInerney (Clare Club); Pat Sheahan (South West Club); and James Wycherley (Cork Club) who commenced their terms in January.

We would also like to sincerely thank our outgoing council members: Michael Gunn (North West Club); Donal Moloney (Clare Club); Sarah McGelligott (South West Club) and Brendan Curtin (South West Club) for their service and dedication to the Irish Limousin during their terms of office.



Retiring Council Member Brendan Curtin



Retiring Council Member Donal Moloney



Retiring Council Member Michael Gunn

## Updates from ILCS 2021 Autumn Shows and Sales

Two society sales were held last autumn with the averages and clearance percentage up on the same period pre-Covid (2019). On farm sales of Limousin remain strong leading to a reduction in the number of bulls presented at sales compared to those catalogued.

### Roscrea Sale Highlights

A top price of €6,500 was reached. Of the 36 bulls offered for sale, 22 were sold with a strong average price of €3,340 achieved. The top five bulls sold, averaged €5,000/head. Demand for easy calving and short gestational sires was evident.

Headlining the sale at €6,500 was Annaghmore Rupert, from breeder

Sean Garrett, Ballycastle, Co. Mayo. A Tomschoice Lexicon son who has an impressive pedigree featuring Wilodge Cerberus and Sympa. Rupert is out of the homebred cow Annaghmore Jewel and boosts a star-studded set of figures for both replacement and terminal indexes with the added bonus of a short gestational value.

### Annaghmore Rupert



## Elphin Sale Highlights

A top price of €7,800 was reached. The top ten bulls achieve an average of €5,280. A total of 34 bulls sold to an average of €3,722, up on the 2019 pre-covid sale by an impressive €500. Of the 13 heifers sold, a top price of €6,000 and average of €2,962 was achieved.

Leading the trade at €7,800 was the Junior Male Champion, Cartronfree Rodger Et, from Martina Browne, Carragh, Granard, Co. Longford. A young Kilcor Iceman son out of Ampertaine Odell, a UK imported cow going back to Ampertaine Elgin. Rodger is the first calf off Odell, purchased in Carlisle for £13,000gns.

### Cartronfree Rodger Et



Champion Female was awarded to Brooklands Razzle Dazzle, from John Hickey, Kilcommon, Thurles, Co Tipperary. She is sired by Bavardage out of a Ampertaine

Foreman dam. After a bidding battle Judge Mr Philips wasn't leaving without her as the hammer dropped at €6,000.

### Brooklands Razzle Dazzle



### 2021 Sales Data

Sale	Clearance	Average	Top Price
<b>Males</b>			
Roscrea	61%	€3,340	€6,500
Elphin	61%	€3,700	€7,800
<b>Females</b>			
Roscrea			
Elphin	65%	€121	€6,000

Full sales report and an analysis of the sires achieving the top prices is available on: [www.irishlimousin.com](http://www.irishlimousin.com)



## Spring Shows and Sales 2022

### Elphin Highlights

The first Irish Limousin Society sale of the year – the Premier Bull Show and Sale – took place on Saturday, March 12th in Elphin Mart in Co. Roscommon.

A packed sale ring led to a clearance rate of 75% of the 61 bulls that were presented for sale on the day, in what can be described as a strong, commercially-driven trade for Limousin males.

The average price for the sale amounted to €4,170, with 11 bulls purchased by Northern Irish buyers – including five bulls by James Alexander from Co. Antrim.

However, the top price of the day was secured by Faughill Ranger – awarded top of his class – with the hammer falling at €7,000 on Saturday afternoon. This bull was bred by Co. Leitrim breeder

Charlie Clancy and purchased by Mountbellew Agricultural College.

The high prices continued with another two bulls hitting €6,000. First up was senior male champion Bostonia Rocky – bred Brendan, Greg Feeney, Scurmores, Enniscrone, Co. Sligo. Additionally, lot number 53 – Milbrook Raul – also sold for €6,000; this bull was

bred by William Smith, Oldcastle, Co. Meath.

The top 10 priced bulls averaged €5,380 – selling from €4,700 up to €7,000. Furthermore, €5,000 or higher was paid for seven bulls, while over 20 made between €4,000 and €5,000; €4,600 was secured by eight more bulls.



## Carrick On Shannon Winter Fair

Sunday, November 21st, saw the welcomed return of the Carrick on Shannon Winter Fair after a one-year break due to covid. Judge on the day was James Alexander, Randalstown, Co. Antrim

Limousin X stock represented 45% of the entries at the Carrick on Shannon Winter Fair 2021. Consisting of 37 heifers suitable for breeding, 24 bull weanlings and 103 heifer weanlings along with 3 Limousin bullocks and 4 beef heifers. 57 Limousin heifer weanlings averaged out at €2,880 with an average weight of 335Kgs.

With exhibitors travelling from 21 counties, the weekend belonged to Sean Ramsbottom who travelled

from Timahoe, Co. Laois with his seven-year-old son Jack. Their 9-month-old heifer weanling at 433kgs is sired by Ampertaine Elgin.

She was awarded the Junior Limousin Championship by Judge

James Alexander on Sunday before entering the sale ring on Monday to achieve a record price for a commercial animal in Carrick on Shannon with the hammer falling at €18,000.



## Semen Royalty Scheme

For a full list of royalty bulls, please see the 'SIRE CATALOGUE' tab on our website:

[www.irishlimousin.com](http://www.irishlimousin.com).

It is important to remember that when using a semen royalty sire, the royalty fee is due when the calf is registered.

Note that a maximum price limit of €50/straw and royalty combined applies (including a €7 admin fee to the ILCS office). This applies to bulls accepted to the scheme from that date.

Bull Name	AI Code	Royalty Start Date	Straw Price	Royalty Fee
Ampertaine Jackpot	LM8031	1st June 2022	€30	€20
Birchpark Rufus	LM7713	1st June 2022	€10	€20
Brackan Ruben	LM7641	1st June 2022	€10	€20
Townleyhall Rupert	LM7719	1st June 2022	€10	€20
Lego PP	Pending	1st June 2022	€15	€25

## Limousin: Ireland's No. 1 Suckler Dam

Over the past decade, more and more Irish Limousin breeders have used heavily muscled sires carrying the double muscle gene (Q or NT variants). Initially, these bulls worked very well on our more traditional maternal-type Limousin females, but over time – and with the use of heavy muscled gene carrying bulls on daughters of heavy muscled gene carrying bulls and in some cases 3 or 4 crosses of the gene – we can clearly say this is the wrong way to go for 95% of our breeders. Overuse of these type of bulls can lead to calving issues, less growth, reduced fleshing ability and females not suitable for breeding.

The fundamentals of the Limousin breed are calving ease, good growth / shape, fleshing ability and excellent maternal traits (milk, fertility and calving ability).

We must remember Limousin is the No.1 suckler dam in Ireland and our main market for our bulls is the part-time Irish suckler farmer with 15 to 30 cows. His/her profitability is driven not by one exceptional calf, but by his batch of calves being born easily and alive – live calves = profit.

### Easy Calving! Easy Care! Easy Life!

The ILCS have selected several top bulls in France based on their ability to breed exceptional females and beefing ability. These sires are available via NCBC. The society will also continue to select the cream of the French bulls and make them available to our breeders over the coming years.

### Letiprince



### Hector gd



### Bel Orient



## Limousin: Ireland's No. 1 Suckler Dam (continued)

### **Bel Orient**

Top bull to add size, milk and style. First Irish calves are very impressive.

### **Letiprince**

Champion of the 2021 test series will add power, pelvic width and growth.

### **Jurancon**

Champion of the 2021 test series; adds weight, milk and fleshing ability / shape (French indexes not included in Irish evaluation at the moment – expect Irish indexes to improve in spring 2022.

### **Io**

Bull to add size, milk and docility.

### **Hector gd**

Qualified in top 1% on farm. Easy calving, heavily muscled and very high milk. Needs to be used on taller females.

### **Haled mn**

Qualified in top 1% on farm, Easy calving, excellent pelvis, good milk and well-balanced progeny.

### **Leopard Mn**

Qualified in top 1% on farm, high growth and high muscle from an exceptional maternal bloodline.

## Spring 2022 Society Sales Dates and Venues:

Sale Date	Venue	Closing Date
Saturday 12th March	Elphin (Premier Sale)	Friday 28th January
Saturday 2nd April	Thurles	Friday 4th March
Thursday 14th April	Athenry	Friday 11th March
Monday 2nd May	Roscrea (Premier Sale)	Friday 18th March
Saturday 21st May	Roscommon	Friday 22nd April

## Mandatory genotyping of all Bulls at ILCS Sales:

**Important Reminder:** All bulls entered for the 2022 Autumn Premier sale must be genotyped. Please see below ICBF genotyping schedule.

The ILCS are also encouraging all vendors intending to sell their animals at Society Premier Sales to complete the Myostatin testing also. From January 1st, 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.

## Upcoming ICBF Dairy & Beef Genomic Evaluations:

	DNA samples to be received at ICBF / Laboratory	Last day for all data for evaluations (data, pedigree and valid genotypes)	Publication at 3pm
March 2022	29th December 2021	28th January 2022	22nd March 2022
May 2022	2nd March	1st April	24th May
July 2022	4th May	3rd June	26th July

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

- 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 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.



## Please Share Your Stories

Our Social Media platforms – **Facebook** (Irish Limousin Society), **Twitter** (@irishlimousin) and **Instagram** (Irish Limousin Cattle Society) – are a great way to share your Limousin news stories and to promote positives of the Limousin breed to a wider audience.

Why not share your Limousin related stories? For example, Limousin cattle prices at the mart, new-born calves with their dams, great Limousin mothers, factory returns etc.?

**Email to:** [pro@irishlimousin.com](mailto:pro@irishlimousin.com) or by Facebook Messenger



**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.

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