

ISSUE

05

June, July, Aug, Sept
2024

THE SILVER BULLETIN

Newsletter of the New Zealand Murray Grey Society



Welcome to our 2nd Newsletter for 2024

We hope that this finds all our readers in fine fettle and that everyone is coping with the challenges that are always part of our industry.

It's still very dry in the top half of the South Island while in the south, it's been cooler than normal. In parts of the North Island, it's also very dry while in other areas it's been a season of catch up from the travails of last year.

It seems that calf sales for the most part were better than expected and as beef prices are now starting to improve those weaners will have been a good buy when they are ready to process.

Autumn bull sales are in full progress and while there are no Murray Grey sales on the calendar at this time, most breeds are reporting better than expected sales and clearances. With the continuing rise in payments to dairy farmers and the positive beef outlook there has to be some optimism for sales in the spring. Fingers xed



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FROM THE PRESIDENTS PADDOCK: BARRY MACDONALD

Dear Members,

Wow! I'm sure it was only yesterday that I had to compose the previous epistle for this column. So, what's happened in the interim?

I took the opportunity in April to travel across the pond to attend the Australian MG National Show and Sale and also the AGM. I was invited to take part on a discussion panel for the Murray Grey Youth. There was a good number of young people entered into the Youth event and it was pleasing to see their enthusiasm. Emily Pendlebury is the winner of the Youth Trip to NZ. She will be making her way across the Tasman to visit early next year. The AGM was an in person/livestream meeting at which a couple of new board members were welcomed. A pleasing number of members participated. I also sat in on the board meeting the following day at which John Contarino from Queensland was elected President for this year. There were a few discussion points at the AGM and at board level concerning genetics (genomics), marketing, publicity, sponsorship, ABRI and costs.

While in Australia I was able to discuss with ABRI and sort the problem they had with reporting the trait average percentile. It appeared to be corrected in the May 2024

Back here in NZ we have just completed our council election and the AGM. The elected councilors are: Zarrah Blackwell, Caitlin Brooks, Hayden Fletcher, Barry Macdonald, Tony Powell, Peter Stachurski. My thanks to Carolyn McIntosh for her contribution during her time on council. I was elected President and at the following council meeting Zarrah was elected as Vice President and Peter as Treasurer. At the SGM held prior to the AGM the proposed changes to the rules as outlined to members was passed and subsequently adopted at the AGM. Thank you to the members who participated in the meetings. There were some recommendations that came out of the General meeting that will be discussed further by council.

Shortly the ADLs will be sent to members. This year instead of the paper version, a spreadsheet will be available online for members to complete. I have done a trial run and it is so much simpler than previous. You will also be able to submit weights the same way. Instructions will be sent out soon. Utilising these options will help manage our registry costs.

Barry Macdonald

UPDATES FROM THE LATEST COUNCIL MEETING.

Council held a zoom meeting on 20/06/24.

Some of the main points discussed and finalized.

- **That for the 2024 born animals for registration purposes, members need to abide by all rules and have their calves recorded by 20th February 2025. After that date a late fee will apply.** (In recent times the society administration has been very lenient when it comes to the late registration of calves. However, the council in looking to trim costs felt that it was pertinent to be efficient with how we run things. Therefore, the existing rule regarding late registration will be adhered to.
- A draft budget was adopted which is showing a small loss or almost a breakeven situation if things go our way. If we can stick to budget then it will be an improvement on previous years.
- **It was moved by the council that from this financial year onwards any fee increases could be linked to the CPI for that year.** (At the GM following the AGM there was discussion on whether the council should implement this policy. It was acknowledged that many of our costs are already linked to the CPI and it was felt that any increases in our fees should mirror that.
- **It was moved that female fees be \$25.50, excluding GST, for the current year.** (In line with the previous motion an increase of 6% - the current CPI – was applied to the female fees.
- **CA Testing.** There had been discussion at the GM with regard to CA testing of bulls. It was felt that CA testing for sires in NZ was possibly not needed now but that all imported cattle – semen – should still be tested. The council will finalise the rule on this at the next meeting.
- **Myostatin status.** There was also discussion at the GM with regard to the status of animals in relation to the Myostatin gene. It seemed that most members present were of the opinion that breeders would like to know the status of animals with regard to the NT821 variant. It was also acknowledged that some breeders utilize the gene in their programmes and that any rule change would not preclude any carrier animal from being registered. Council Resolved. **That council change our regulations in regard to DNA testing and that from 1st January 2025, all sires must be DNA tested for Myostatin.** (the exact wording of the rule change will be discussed at the next meeting as we want to be in line with the regulation that is current in Australia) We also have some options to work through in regard to the test being part of the DNA bundle and also how the results are shown on pedigrees.
- **Moved that we move to electronic processing of ADLs and inputting weights via ABRI spreadsheet.** (In an effort to be more efficient the council decided that all ADLs and weight inputs could now be done online. You most likely will have received an email already with regard to the ADL. If you have any queries/problems please get in touch with registry at PBB. I have trailed the system and it's so much quicker and easier than the paper option.
- **Calendar.** After much discussion the council decided that for this year, we would not produce a calendar. While every endeavour was made last year to have the calendar as a breakeven project, there was some cost over runs and those did have an impact. However, hopefully next year we can look to reinstate a calendar for 2026. The council acknowledges the tremendous efforts that Sue Clarke went to in putting together the 2024 version. Well done, Sue.
- **Drench Fund Raiser.** You will see the flyer in this newsletter with regard to a drench fund raiser. Please make use of this option as the more drench that we can move the more funds for the society. Pass on the flyer to your neighbours, friends and acquaintances.
- There are some other general updates:

Emily Pendlebury the Australian Youth Exchange recipient has indicated that she will most likely visit us here in NZ in March/April 2025. It will depend on her itinerary but if you would be interested in hosting/meeting Emily please get in touch with Caitlin. This exchange is an important component in keeping young people interested in the beef industry and recipients in the past have enjoyed their time here.

The single step for Genomics is still in the pipeline and apparently MGs are the next breed off the rank.

The next council meeting is scheduled for the beginning of August. If you have any queries or would like the council to consider any points/options please get in touch with either myself, another councilor or admin at PBB.

Barry Macdonald

Calving is upon us, but PLEASE NOTE THE YEAR TATTOO FOR 2024 IS V.

There has been some confusion about the use of a year tattoo. The recording system does not allow for an animal to be registered if the year tattoo does not correspond to the year of birth. Eg **2022** the year tattoo was **T**, **2023** the year tattoo was **U**, **2024** the year tattoo is **V**.

While animals **don't** have to be physically tattooed, they still have to be registered with a tattoo. (it's just the way the system works). You also don't have to tag your calves with the year letter if you don't want to or name them according to the year letter.

Upcoming Bull Sales

On farm bull sales:

Mangaotea Stud Bull sale: Thursday 12 September 2024

Torrisdale Stud Bull sale: Wednesday 09 October 2024

Silver Fern Stud Bull sale: Monday 14 October 2024

There will be a number of registered Murray Grey bulls available from breeders across NZ.

WANTED – CONTENT FOR OUR NEWSLETTER!

The only way we can keep this Newsletter interesting and informative is to have contribution from our members – photos, articles on bulls/cows, updates from around the country – please make sure you drop the editor a line (and a few Murray Grey Photos!)

Deadline for the next Newsletter is 20th September for the final 2024 issue.

Email address for content – ballyhooleymac@gmail.com

MURRAY GREY COUNCIL MEMBERS

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NEWS & UPDATES FROM ACROSS THE DITCH



Results from two major events across the Tasman. The Murray Grey National Show and Sale held during April at Albury, NSW. Beef 2024 held at Rockhampton, QLD during May.

Top photo: Champion Exhibit, Murray Grey National Show, Albury.

Ganado Too Cool

Middle photo: Champion Murray Grey Bull, Beef 2024 Rockhampton.

Maefair Turrmurra T24

Bottom left: Champion Greyman Female, Beef 2024 Rockhampton.

NB7 Tennessee T12

Bottom right: Champion Murray Grey Female, Beef 2024 Rockhampton.

Maefair Lucy T50



DRENCH FUND RAISER



NZ MURRAY GREY SOCIETY FUNDRAISER

BOSS POUR ON - ABAMECTIN/LEVAMISOLE

- ✓ 5L DRUM \$1280
- ✓ 10L DRUM \$2400
- ✓ PRICES INCLUDE GST

Hayden Fletcher
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The society has an opportunity of raising some funds by offering BOSS pour on drench to members, clients and whoever may require product. This option is being done through a veterinary practice and the more product we can place then the more the society will benefit. Hayden Fletcher is coordinating sales so to get more information about the process please contact him.

***YOU CAN'T SELL A SECRET — MURRAY GREY BREED
PROMOTION***



It is great to see and know that clients who use Murray Grey bulls, always have positive things to say about their experience.



I started using Murray Greys to put over my heifers when looking to change to a zero, bobby calf policy and after the first season being impressed with the calving ease and easy to rear nature of those heifers calves, I changed to using MG over the dairy herd and haven't looked back since. The shorter gestation along with easier calving compared to bigger beef breeds has made it a no brainer. I have been lucky to get docile bulls from Trevor and Sue at Yorkvale stud who have always proved very fertile and never cause any issues in the yard at milking. One year with my second bull going lame I gambled on my old faithful 5yr old Yorkvale Logan Grey to do the job and he didn't let me down, successfully mating the remaining 75 cows without a drop in the empty rate. It is easy getting calves to weaning weight and they usually attract top end prices at the weaner sales due to their more solid look compared to the rangey, leggy look of other breeds which take longer to fill out. In recent years my neighbour has bought weaners from me taking them through to finishing and the MG content of the mob is always in the first draft.

Reuben Sterling, Palmerston North