GALLOWAY CATTLE SOCIETY OF NEW ZEALAND
REPORT TO 2016 WORLD GALLOWAY CONGRESS

IN GRETNA GREEN, SCOTLAND 5th to 10th August 2016

A record number of "kiwi" breeder members are attending this World Galloway Congress and we welcome the opportunity to meet Galloway breeders from other countries and see many herds in their original home country.

The Galloway Cattle Society of New Zealand maintains the herd books for all 3 Galloway breeds.

We have 92 studs breeding registered cattle, with biggest growth being seen in the number of White Galloway herds, now equalling the number of Belted Galloway herds, although these tend to have larger numbers of cattle.

Calf registrations last year numbered 374, of these 206 were Belted, 130 White, and 38 Galloway.

Our 82 Breeder members include 3 Juniors (under 18), it is great to see these young people competing in the show rings and their great enthusiasm for the Galloway breeds.
Our membership also includes 25 Associate (non-breeder) members.

About 75% of our herds are owned by small "lifestyle" farmers with 10 or less registered breeding cows, however the other 25% of herds have up to 60 registered breeding cows.

Promotion has strengthened over the past 2 years with the Society's own Facebook page, our website, and our Gazette which is published 3 times per year. Participation in A & P Shows and field days throughout the country is on the increase, with much success in the show rings, particularly in the south of the South Island, and the central North Island.

In February this year, the Southern Breeders Group displayed a cow and calf of each breed, at the Southern Field Days, a 3-day event for the farming sector, which is held every 2nd year. Our southern breeders worked hard to promote the breeds to thousands of visitors.

A keen group of breeders in the north & central North Island also meet regularly for herd visits and social get-togethers.

Most of the Belted and White Galloway bulls are being sold to dairy farmers, as demand for our bulls from this sector has increased greatly in the last couple of years. The dairy farmers now recognising that using an easy calving, instant marker, smaller bull, also has financial advantages as the cross-bred beef calves can be sold at a premium price to the beef farmer.

In the beef market, the public are now increasingly demanding that the meat they buy is grass-fed, free-range farmed & possibly organic. The Galloway breeds lend themselves perfectly to this, as they are extremely hardy, do well on unimproved pasture, and thrive with minimum intervention.
The result is a low fat, well flavoured beef, high in Omega-3, so healthy too! What could be better?