Galloway Association Denmark
2014 Report

Galloways are one of the only beef cattle breeds in Denmark going forward in numbers of animals. The increase is not large and the reasons are probably bad economy and many and difficult rules for having animals and grass areas. At the end of 2013 there were 2535 cows, of which 1592 were purebred and a total of 6287 animals.

We would like to have more exhibitors at the shows in Denmark. Even if a few new people are participating, it is mostly the same breeders year after year. The animals being shown have made good results and it is a shame we cannot show more animals, because we have many of a high quality. Danish Galloways breeders have not the same traditions for participating in shows as many of the other breed and certainly not as we have seen in other countries. One of the reasons could be that Galloways came to Denmark mainly to be used for nature conservation of extensive areas and some of the animals were and still are owned by the State. Many of the new Galloway breeders are without any farming experience and with it no tradition for participation in shows.

Some of us could wish for more interest in breeding. The association has offered a larger amount to support breeders wanting to get bull calves tested in Aalestrup Breeding Station. These tests are important for measuring growth and other characteristics wanted for developing our breeding work. Until now it has not been a success.

Our association has many different kinds of breeders with different backgrounds and different reasons to have Galloways. However, the impression is that everybody has chosen Galloways because they want their special qualities even if the purposes are very different. Unfortunately we have too many breeders who are 50+ years, we hope that more younger people will be interested.

We have experienced a little increase in small farm shops and a few butchers specialized in Galloway meat, mostly combined with other products.

One of the rules that has made it difficult for our breed among others, is that they suddenly in November 2012, demanded a shelter with roof and three sides, bedding and room for all cattle in the pen. This shelter should be available for all cattle outside in the 3 winter months. It was not enough with the shelter given by nature anymore except a few places in our country was the official opinion. This rule is also new for Angus, Hereford, and Scottish Highland cattle, so together we started a project to prove our cattle are well with the conditions given before. We will wait for the project to be finished and the conclusion of it and then react. We would be interested to hear of the rules in other countries, especially with similar weather conditions as us.

Another rule that has made our breeding conditions difficult is a plan made for fighting against Salmonella bacteria. Some livestock with dairy cows have too high a level of the bacteria. These livestock are concentrated in Jylland, where the most cows are, and to limit the infection, Denmark is divided into two zones, so you cannot move live animals from Jylland to the rest of the country. There will be an intensive fight against Salmonella in Jylland, especially on the farms with the highest concentration of the

bacteria, hoping to get rid of it. This rule however, makes some sense because we all want to maintain a good veterinary health standard. It gives us some difficulties in national trading.

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Chariman