Galloway Cattle Society of New Zealand

2014 Report

I am pleased to report the New Zealand Galloway Society is in good heart. We have a membership of 135 members and during the 2013 year there were a total of 380 registration, that being 255 Belteds, 88 Whites and 37 Standards. These are very good results. The most exciting is the Standards registrations – from 4 registrations, including only 1 female in 2008 – to the 37 this past year. The Standard Galloway is the founding breed type of our breed and have worked hard to preserve and encourage the breeding of this breed type amongst our breeders to achieve the results we have now.

Promotion has been strong over the past year through the website, Gazette and having a strong presence at shows and field days throughout the country. Thank you to those members that make themselves available to put Galloways out in the public arena.

There has been mixed results in livestock sales, success for some breeders while sales have been slower for others. This perhaps would be in part due to the supply starting to meet demand particularly in the belted females. Demand for belted bulls in the south has been exceptional in the dairy industry. Other parts of the country are experiencing the same demand for bulls. At the end of the day, dairy farmers have to get their cows and heifers pregnant to produce milk to make money and the Galloway bull presents a good option for the dairy farmer being an easy calving, instant marker mating option. Again Galloways' have an advantage over other heavier colourless breeds.

Cow numbers in the south have dramatically increased, with in excess of 350 breeding females, with some of the larger herds of 30 plus breeding females. This increase has been reflected in the showing and promotion of Galloways in the South Island through large numbers of breeders showing and a strong Southern Breeders Group. The promotional material has been well used in the South Island while the North Island has only had the National Field Days at Mystery Creek where it has been used over the past year. Further to our promotion, we as a breed have made big in roads at competing alongside other breeds at Shows and in heifer competitions. Our Galloway cattle are getting ribbons and mentions from judges when footing it against other breeds such as Angus, Hereford, Simmentals, etc in the show ring. We as a breed are proving that we do have an animal that is commercially viable and has qualities that can benefit our NZ beef industry. It has been a thrill over the last couple of years to see Galloways pulled up into the top 6 at major shows in the Meat & Wool cups and Yearling Championships. Likewise it has been a thrill to have herds of Belted yearling heifers being judged 1st against other well established breeds and breeders – my Belteds even beating my own group of Angus heifers!

Further to the live animal markets, we are sitting on a wee gold mine of meat. Underneath that cuteness, we have a product that is starting to get recognised as a superior product. I have people asking me for Galloway meat – there are huge opportunities for us as a breed – our society are becoming more aware of what we eat - as Galloway breeders we are sitting on a product that can make even vegetarians' mouth water. I have had an ex-President of the Hereford Society of NZ pull me aside and admitted that he has put a Galloway heifer in his freezer and to add to that, it has been the best beef he has ever tasted! Last week I had an Angus breeder sidle up to me and discretely ask – how can I get some Galloway animals. We have a product that other breed stud breeders are asking about – this speaks volumes to me.