



LIMOUSIN THE CARCASE BREED

The British Limousin Cattle Society National Agricultural Centre Stoneleigh Kentworth CV8 2RA
Tel: 02476 696500 • Fax: 02476 696716 • Email: info@limousin.co.uk • www.limousin.co.uk

UPTAKE IN LIMOUSIN HERD HEALTH INITIATIVE INCREASES BY 18%

Uptake leads to Herd Health Initiative being extended by BLCS Council

29% of all British Limousin Cattle Society registered calves in 2008 from herds in CHeCS health schemes

Breeders' participation in The British Limousin Cattle Society's Herd Health Initiative has continued to grow sharply with 156 herds, representing 5,375 pedigree Limousin calves, having registered for the financially incentivised initiative. This represents an increase on the year of 28 herds and a further 702 calves.

At the close of what was initially a four year commitment by the BLCS, this represents a further growth in uptake of 18%. This means that of the 18,240 pedigree calves registered with the Society last year, a highly encouraging 29% are from herds operating within industry-licenced health schemes. Such has been its success, that the Society's Council of Management have announced that they are providing the investment to continue the initiative for at least a further year.

The British Limousin Herd Health Initiative offers financial support to breeders who are making a long term investment into herd health assurance through being a member of a Cattle Health Certification Standards (CHeCS) approved scheme. Herds within a CHeCS scheme are able to make a claim each year based on the numbers of pedigree calves they have registered in the preceding twelve month period.

Commenting on the released figures, Tim Brigstocke, Executive Director for CHeCS said, "It is really encouraging to see the growth in Limousin registered calves linked to CHeCS accredited cattle health schemes. The success of these schemes is totally dependent on the cattle industry getting behind such initiatives to improve the health and welfare of the national cattle herd. The British Limousin Cattle Society are to be congratulated upon their continuing and extended financial commitment to this scheme."

To receive the financial support, herds need to adhere to the terms of a CHeCS licenced scheme and have an approved animal health scheme in place through either Biobest Herdcare, SAC Premium Cattle Health Scheme, HI Health, Advance Cattle Health Scheme, NML Herdwise or the AFBI Cattle Health Scheme. This must include a whole herd test for Johne's disease. As a result of the increased uptake, The British Limousin Cattle Society will pay out over £10,000 to participating herds for 2008, and has paid out over £30,000 since the initiative's introduction in 2005.

British Limousin Cattle Society Development Manager Richard Saunders also welcomed the released figures and emphasized that they underlined the Society and its members' commitment to herd health. He said: "Good herd health plays such an important part in the productivity and profitability of both pedigree and commercial herds and this initiative shows that Limousin breeders are leading by example. An extension of the Herd Health initiative has been the successful introduction of standardised Herd Health Sale Declarations at all Collective Society Sales from the beginning of 2008. These have also been warmly welcomed by prospective purchasers and are becoming an integral part of bull selection at sale."

Ends.

For any further information please contact BLCS Chief Executive, Iain Kerr, on 02476 696500