

World Galloway Conference 2025

Report from the Belted Galloway Society of the UK and Eire

The Society looks after the Belted Galloway and White Galloway Breeds in the UK and Eire. Currently we have 659 members with 1125 Belted Galloway females registered last year. There were 73 BG Males also registered last year. Whilst the numbers of Whites are much less, registration numbers are increasing with a rise in the number of breeders.

Bulls have to be inspected and DNA checked for paternity prior to registration. Females are not inspected and slightly mismarked females can be placed in the appendix register, i.e. a white foot below the dew claw, and an incomplete belt. This allows for genetics to be kept and it takes 3 generations to bring their daughters into the full herd book.

Alpha Mannosidosis is now something which we test for when sending off the bull's hair sample for DNA testing. We started doing this at the end of 2022 and since then, over 1000 animals have been tested (1046 to the end of 2024). Of these 23% are carriers of AM. However, because breeders that suspect an AM problem are more likely to test more animals, we expect that the true proportion of carriers across the breed will be less than 23%.

Our Council currently consists of 21 and we meet 4 times a year in addition to keeping in contact via email. We are very fortunate to have a very proactive membership of breeders who continue to support and promote the breed whether it through media articles, shows or sales. We have 6 regional breeders' groups which organize social events and educational days which all help to continue the breeds promotion and popularity. One thing I must mention is how much enthusiasm has been shown by our young breeders and handlers, they are the future and we do everything we can to promote their growth. Stockjudgings, young handler's classes and even stock handling days have all been held up and down the country to encourage everyone to get involved.

2024 was the year of our last National Show, this time held at Malvern and the Royal Three Counties Showground. Again, this was well supported by breeders and was a great showcase of the breed. 2025 will

see the addition of classes for the first time at the Royal Welsh Show which is held in July. This now means that Belted Galloways have classes at the 3 major UK shows, as well as 24 local shows. The society takes a stand to these major shows and can therefore provide a space for breeders to meet up and socialise and also where any new potential members can get information and questions answered.

We are now lucky enough to have 3 society sales taking place each year. Skipton in May, Ballymena in September and Castle Douglas in October. Last year at Castle Douglas we saw a new female record price achieved in the form 11,000gns for an in-calf cow and the male record price was equalled at 20,000gns for a 2-year-old bull. The enthusiasm for this breed is very encouraging as seen at these sales and long may it continue.

Judith Cowie
Vice Chair