

Heifer and hogget prizes up for grabs

This week, **Tara Walsh** and **Pádraig Keane** preview the 10 remaining prizes that will be up for grabs in the forthcoming *Irish Farmers Journal* Heifer and Hogget Competition, to be staged at the National Livestock Show in Tullamore on 14 August. Fifteen cattle and sheep breed societies have kindly agreed to sponsor breeding females for this fantastic competition, which is open to children between 10 and 18 years of age



BEEF BREED: AUBRAC

- **Cross:** Aubrac x Limousin
- **Born:** March 2010
- **Sire:** Boulat Alpin
- **Breeder:** John Deane, Butlersgift, Drimoleague, Co Cork
- **Characteristics:** Aubrac cattle are easy calving, moderate farmed cattle with maternal qualities, which provide the ideal animal for Irish suckling conditions. They produce lean, but high-quality carcasses.
- **Society:** The Irish Aubrac Cattle Society was established in 1998. Today, there are 120 breeders in the society, with



approximately 2,130 purebred in the country.

- **Contact:** For more information, call Angela Lacey on 051-641106 or visit www.aubrac.ie.



SHEEP BREED: SUFFOLK CHEVIOT CROSS

- **Cross:** Suffolk x Cheviot
- **Born:** March 2010
- **Sire:** Suffolk stock ram
- **Breeder and owner:** Messrs O'Toole and Nolan, Tullow, Co Carlow
- **Characteristics:** The Suffolk Cheviot Cross is a cross between a Wicklow Cheviot ewe, which brings excellent maternal traits, and a Suffolk ram, which brings conformation, carcass weight and overall strong bone.
- **Society:** The Tullow Sheep Breeders Society was founded by a group of farmers, located in



the remit of Tullow mart, in 1988. It has grown year on year and, currently, has approximately 95 members.

- **Contact:** For more information, call John Murphy on 059-9151142 or visit the website www.tullowmart.ie.



BEEF BREED: PARTHENAISE

- **Cross:** Parthenaise x Limousin
- **Born:** February 2010
- **Sire:** Cloonagh East Brookfield (Panache)
- **Breeder:** Grace Grennan, Parkmore House, Fivealley, Birr, Co Offaly
- **Characteristics:** One of the oldest French breeds, Parthenaise cattle are renowned for their high kill-out, high meat-to-bone ratio and meat comprising low cholesterol constituents.
- **Society:** Parthenaise cattle were first imported into Ireland in 1997 and there are currently



around 70 members in the society (an increase of 25% on last year alone), with approximately 400 pedigree registrations recorded annually.

- **Contact:** For more information, call Sheila Daly (Secretary) 087-2222875 or visit www.parthenaise.ie.



SHEEP BREED: TEXEL



- **Cross:** Three-quarter bred Texel
- **Born:** February 2010
- **Sire:** Stock ram (bought at Blessington Premier Sale)
- **Breeder:** Liam Dillon, New Ross, Co Wexford
- **Characteristics:** Originating from Holland, the Texel breed is named after Texel Island, which is located off the North Sea coast of Holland. The breed is renowned for its high kill-out,

confirmation, good mothering and milk abilities, as well as a high resistance to parasites.

- **Society:** The Irish Texel Society was founded in 1976 and, today, there are 207 members with about 8,500 registrations recorded in Ireland annually.
- **Contact:** For more information, call John Neville on 087-1204485 or visit the website www.irishtexel.com.



SHEEP BREED: MAYO BLACKFACE

- **Born:** April 2010
- **Sire:** Stock ram
- **Breeder:** John Joyce, Shanafaraghaun, Clonbur, Co Galway
- **Characteristics:** The Mayo Blackface is a distinct breed that has developed and evolved on the Connemara hills. Capable of surviving on the rough terrain of blanket bog and wet heath, they are excellent mothers, easy lambing, prolific, correct in stature and produce an abundance of milk. When carried on lowland areas, they are capable of weaning 1.5 to 1.6 lambs.
- **Society:** The Mayo Sheep Producers Association co-ordinates three different sheep

MAYO
BLACKFACE

groups, namely the Mayo Mountain Blackface Group, South Mayo Lamb Producer Group and Mayo Mule and Greyface Group.

- **Contact:** For more information, call John Joyce on 087-6297973 or visit the website www.mayosheepproducers.com.



BEEF BREED: IRISH ABERDEEN ANGUS

- **Cross:** Three-quarter bred Aberdeen Angus (13% Simmental)
- **Born:** March 2010
- **Sire:** Tonroe Lord James D214
- **Other:** According to the ICBF rating system, she has an SBV of €107 and has five stars for SBV, daughter fertility, daughter milk, calving difficulty and docility.
- **Breeder:** John McEnroe, Oldcastle, Co Meath
- **Characteristics:** Regarded as one of the more traditional beef breeds, Aberdeen Angus cattle are renowned for their ease of calving and vigorous hardy calves, as well as having low



maintenance and naturally polled characteristics.

- **Society:** Today, the Irish Aberdeen Angus society has around 950 members, with approximately 4,000 pedigree registrations recorded in Ireland annually.
- **Contact:** For more information, call Kathryn Bradshaw on 071-9632099 or visit www.irishaberdeenangus.com.