



*Mountain View Galloways*

# President's Report

*By Gus Smith*

With animals fed and with nothing in any difficulty apart from being rather wet and hopefully not too cold it's another day by the fire catching up on paperwork and another chance to watch our new Galloway video made recently with the very kind and generous donation from prominent Belted Galloway breeder Linda Van Eyk.

The filming was carried out in the Waikato where we have three breeders in close proximity who had all four main colours of Galloway, which fitted in nicely with the video company not having to travel to far making time and travel costs easier and more reasonable.

To date, there have been over 1,300 views of our video on YouTube and many more on the Galloway and individual Facebook sites. I have shared it with my Facebook friends in UK, Holland and USA, and they in turn have shared it on with us receiving a lot of feedback, are they ours and do ours have the white stripe? The belted Galloways does seem to be the colour pattern most recognised around the world.

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Council had our first full face-to-face meeting in Wellington on 18th June at the airport. Four of us made it to Wellington Virginia, Nick, Sarah and myself. Jill had her flight delayed so she would have arrived about the time she needed to board for her return flight so she joined the meeting via Zoom, as did Tracey who had a last-minute work issue. Ulrich, the best option was to fly via Auckland making it not very practical, so also joined via Zoom. Wendy gave an apology having just had some time off work for an extended holiday thought it bit cheeky to ask for another day off which I'm sure we can appreciate.

Other matters arising recently, many of you joined in on the white breeder's Zoom meeting on how you would like the Riggits/White herd books sorted, most of the recommendations put forward by the Breed sub-committee were agreed to, with one alteration asked for which council are considering and a final decision to be made at the next council meeting.

Jill raised a good point at the last council meeting that possums are on the rise in some areas, we in Southern Hawkes Bay are almost possum-free but North of Napier have recently had a TB outbreak. I can appreciate first hand how devastating it would be to have ones Galloway herd infected with TB. We had Microplasma Bovis next door to us, they had 50 animals from an infected South Island farm mixed in with 100 other yearling bulls, the testing procedure was awful, for both human and bull, sticking a cotton swab up the bull's noses. Nothing came back positive but authorities decided to kill all from the affected farm plus a few that had lost their Nait tags, all came back clear but an anxious time waiting for results. At the time I thought it would be the end of Galloway breeding for me, but many members offered to sell some of their animals for me to start again, a lovely advantage of being a member of GCSNZ.

Some of you may have read the article in the Beef NZ Magazine re Galloways and Chopped Butchery in Canterbury. The article has a possible misprint quoting Chopped butchery as being in Taranaki, I thought initially that there may be an area in Canterbury called Taranaki, long shot I guess but as I know the approximate location of Chopped butchery (Nick and I were going to drive there on the southern Bull walk but Nick convinced me it was a very long road trip) I knew it was not Taranaki in the North Island. Not a big problem if it drew extra attention to Chopped butchery specialising in Galloway beef still a good promotion for Galloways,

So to end with I hope the weather at your place is better than here, and ask members to submit articles for the newsletter, NZ is a long country with weather patterns much different from North to South so other members are interested in what is happening in your area of the country.

Just a final note to please watch and share our new Galloway video and thanks again Linda for your very generous donation in making this video possible.

Take care, stay safe.  
Gus Smith  
President GCSNZ.



# From the Desk of the Registrar

By John Berridge

As outlined in my Report to this year's AGM the introduction of Breedmate in October last year allowed the development of new "online" arrangements for each of the Calf Entry Returns and Active Dam Lists starting in 2023. These arrangements have replaced the manual paper-based returns that had previously been used with ABRI/PBB. New forms have been developed in Breedmate so that breeders now need to log on to their individually pre-populated form, enter the relevant information and then return the completed form electronically.

**The Calf Return.** These new Calf Returns for 2022 born calves were emailed out to breeders in late April with a target date for completion of 30 June.

**There were 98 individual herd lists sent out. As of 31 July only 20 had been received back!**

That level of response is very much lower than expected; some breeders had asked for assistance to complete this electronic process and were sent some Guidelines. Do you still need help?

I emailed all breeders in late July to make this situation known and to ask those who have not yet completed their returns to do so as soon as practicable. The Guidelines to completing the "online" returns were also attached to that email. Meanwhile, I am now checking the individual calf returns, confirming that the calf's Dam is registered and Active (if Inactive the Dam will need to first be reactivated before their calf can be registered) and that the calf's Sire is also registered and, if born on or after 1 January 2019, has their DNA recorded in Breedmate. I am then registering the calf if that has been asked for by the breeder, recording this in Breedmate and sending out a Certificate of Registration.

**Certificate of Registration.** The new Certificate of Registration is now available, and I am mailing these out for all newly registered calves as well as for all animals that have had a Transfer approved since July last year.

**Active Dam List.** In my recent email I also advised that the 2023 ADLs will be emailed out in August and they will be in the same "online" format - so breeders will again need to log on to their individual pre-populated form, complete this and then return the form electronically.

This year's ADL will have simplified Fate Codes - there will now be only 4, namely:

1. Sold for Breeding This code is for the sale to a non-member. If sold to a breeder then a Transfer form should have been completed at the time of the sale.
2. Died
3. Culled
4. Make Inactive

## **Animal Enquiries now has Breedmate**

**Information.** The Animal Enquiries function on the Society's website now uses Breedmate information and this is "live". Breeders can now check the present status of all their animals, including the results of their Transfer applications and Calf Registrations once they have been agreed and entered into Breedmate.

**Transfers and Mannosidosis Status.** As also noted in my AGM Report the transfer of data from ABRI/PBB showed that the Society had failed to record the Alpha-Mannosidosis status of Belted Galloways since the Herdbook became electronic in format some years ago.



The Council determined that this to be unacceptable and could not continue. To avoid the costs of having to test their Belted Galloways, breeders can now clear them by parentage and this is permitted under the Society's By-Law 20.

If the Sire and Dam of a Belted Galloway are both "Clear" or "Clear by Parentage" then that animal is also "Clear by Parentage". If either or both that Sire and Dam have no Mannosidosis Status recorded in Breedmate then it will be necessary to check back on that of the Sire and Dam of those animals ..... and so on as far back as Breedmate records permit.

If the status of the Sire and Dam of any animal are "Clear" or "Clear by Parentage" then that animal is "Clear by Parentage" and this can be recorded in Breedmate. The direct descendants of these animals are all then also "Clear by Parentage" and this status can be recorded in Breedmate for each of these animals.

**Individual owners of Belted Galloways will now need to check and confirm the status of an animal, and, if necessary, that of that animal's ancestors to see if these animals are either "Clear" or "Clear by Parentage" when seeking the Transfer of any individual animal.**

The present Transfer form is being amended to include a fourth option of "Clear by Parentage" so breeders can use that when submitting a Transfer form, along with a listing of the ancestors that are now also "Clear by Parentage" so that category can be recorded in Breedmate for all these animals. Accompanying this article is a worked example showing breeders how to check the M Status of any of their animals; a similar listing is needed to accompany any Transfer when the animal has no M. Status recorded but the breeder's check on its ancestors shows it is in fact "Clear by Parentage".

**Use of the "Not Tested" option is not now realistic; if the animal is found to not be either "Clear" or "Clear by Parentage" then the animal will need to be tested.**

Transfers stating the animal is "Not Tested" will not be approved until the results of that test are advised to the Registrar. The original Transfer can then be processed and recorded in Breedmate together with the test results. Right now there were 1,577 Belted Galloways recorded in Breedmate as "Clear" and another 44 that are "Clear by Parentage". There are 37 animals that are "Positive" of whom only 5 are listed as "Active", the remainder are "Dead".

**Herd Book Audit.** When the information on animals was transferred from ABRI/PBB to Breedmate in late 2022 some of this information was in an unintelligible numeric format and the meaningfulness of some database fields was unclear. These issues have mostly been remedied. However it has also become increasingly clear that some of the information is incorrect or out of date.

This situation has been compounded by the failure of some breeders to furnish Calf Returns and ADLs. For example; when last year's ADLs were sent out there were 994 active dams listed for the 74 Breeder Members who had female animals born on or before 30 June 2021.

When the data from the returns was entered into Breedmate there were 19 of those 74 Breeder Members with 242 active dams who failed to make their return. Breedmate does not therefore contain up-to-date information on these 242 animals ie nearly a quarter of all the then 994 active dams. A number of breeders also failed to submit their Calf Entry form for 2021; their calves remain unrecorded and not yet registered.

While the Society maintains a reasonably accurate picture of the number of registered active breeding females through the annual ADL return (provided members do submit these), the same is not true for younger females and all male animals. The fate of few of these animals is ever advised to the Society – they therefore remain listed in Breedmate as "Living" and owned by past or present breeders whereas many, especially the males, are likely to have been "Sold" to a non-breeder or are now "Dead".





At present there are 4,845 animals listed in Breedmate as "Active" or "Inactive" ie alive. Last year's ADL exercise identified 994 females born before 30 June 2021. It is hard to imagine there are therefore another 3,951 animals who are either male of any age or female and born since 30 June 2021 that are all still living. For 2021 there were only 307 male and female calves reported as born that year.

There are over 3,069 animals with either no birth date recorded or a date of birth in 2009 or earlier. Many of these are still showing as "Living" whereas in reality most if not all are likely to be "Dead". The present status ie "Active" or "Inactive" ie living, "Sold" or "Dead" for all animals needs to be verified either by the forthcoming ADL for older females or by having owners confirm the status of all their other animals.

It has also become evident that some present information regarding ownership is incorrect. One tangible example is the present ownership records of the Alclutha and Glenfinnan herds. As a Breeder Member I sold these herds in 2012 to Barbara Fitchett. Around 80 animals in total were Transferred but Breedmate still shows 40 of these animals as still owned by John and Ruth Berridge and moreover that a number of them are still alive!

This lack of up-to-date and accurate information precludes the Society maintaining an up-to-date and accurate picture of the size and shape of the Galloway breed in New Zealand. The Council agreed to my recommendation that an audit be undertaken to confirm the ownership and status of all present breeding stock of Galloway cattle.

This audit will be undertaken later this year after Calf Return and ADL information has been recorded in Breedmate. It will then provide greater clarity as to the numbers of registered male and female animals being used by breeders for breeding.

Some breeders who attended the last AGM and heard of the above issues have since emailed me with updates on the status of their animals; I so appreciate this and welcome further such updates from other breeders. Thank you in anticipation of getting these!

I hope the above update is of use to breeders; please do contact me as and when you have queries.

Kind regards  
John Berridge





## BOVINE TUBERCULOSIS (TB)

TB is an infectious disease caused by the bacterium *Mycobacterium bovis*. It's dangerous to both animals and people – it has a major impact on human health in many parts of the world.

TB probably arrived in NZ at the same time as cattle, in the mid-19th century. NZ has been working to control and eradicate TB since the 1970s. In New Zealand, cattle and deer are the species at greatest risk of contracting the disease. Possums are the main wildlife carrier of bovine TB here, and contact with infected possums is a major cause of herd infection.

Eradicating TB in New Zealand will help us protect our valuable dairy, beef and deer export industry. It will also benefit our native animal and plant life. Funding for the TB-free programme comes from the Government and the dairy, beef and deer farming industries.

We all have an obligation as farmers to help with the eradication of pests and by keeping your farm free of any of the TB carrying pests. If you own cattle you can help with biosecurity and disease management by ensuring you are NAIT registered and all your stock are tagged with NAIT tags.

Check out OSPRI website for information on TB Free NZ and NAIT.

[www.ospri.co.nz](http://www.ospri.co.nz)



## ROYAL AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY (RAS) OF NEW ZEALAND

Over the weekend of 23-25 June 2023, Rob Hall attended the RAS conference and AGM in Wellington as the delegate from GCSNZ. Rob has reported it was a very positive and productive conference and was worthwhile attending.

There are two events coming up that would be a great opportunity for the Galloway Society to get involved with, if anyone is keen to take part either with stock or in another way please contact [info@nzgalloway.co.nz](mailto:info@nzgalloway.co.nz)

1. January 2024 NZ Royal Show to be hosted by Horowhenua AP & I (Levin)
2. November 2023 Beef Royal Event to be hosted by Canterbury A&P

## 2024 AGM WEEKEND

Next year's AGM and Herd Tour weekend will be 5-7 April in Invercargill, based at the Ascot Park Hotel. The Southern Breeders Group will host the weekend, more details late in the year.

Friday 5th - Council meeting and AGM

Saturday 6th - Herd visits and dinner/virtual show.

Sunday 7th - Visit some local attractions.

## WORLD GALLOWAY CONFERENCE

16-21 September 2023 in Bern, Switzerland  
Karen & Bob Curry and Angela McNaughton are travelling to the conference, with Bob representing GCSNZ as the NZ delegates; we look forward to hearing all about it.

## 2022 CALF RETURNS - THESE ARE NOW OVERDUE!!

Only a ¼ of members have entered their returns. If you are having trouble entering yours on the new online Breedmate system please reach out for help at [info@nzgalloway.co.nz](mailto:info@nzgalloway.co.nz).

John Berridge can send you a paper form if this makes it easier this year. It's important for all purebred calves to be recorded, this helps build a history for a Dame and Sire, of their progeny.

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## DID YOU KNOW?

All members have access to Council Meeting minutes on the Calloway Cattle Society Website, the code to access these is **GCSNZ21!**

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## CORRECTION

To the June Newsletter. The five profiles included should have read "New Council members" – not new members.

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## LIST YOUR BULLS!

With calving underway it's a good time to start thinking about the next Mating Season. If you have Bulls for Sale please send details to [info@nzgalloway.co.nz](mailto:info@nzgalloway.co.nz) to have them listed on our Website.

## WHITE GALLOWAY CALF REQUEST

A request has been made from Steve Carson asking if any breeders have White Galloway Calves for sale (6 Heifer and 2 Bull) for export to South Korea. Steve is located in the Hamilton area – please contact him directly on [steve.carson@herdbuilder.com](mailto:steve.carson@herdbuilder.com)

# Breeder Profile

## *Mountain View Galloways*

Nick started Mountain View Galloways in 2019 after purchasing his lifestyle block 30 minutes north of Christchurch in a small country town called Sefton. After deciding white galloways were what he was going to breed as he was sitting on the deck thinking of a stud name while looking out to Mount Grey where it dawned on him. He then managed to purchase some in-calf cows and bulls from the Moonshine, Pinzridge, Tawhai and Tekooa studs in the South Island which have been the foundation bloodlines of Mountain View Galloways.

Animals were selected on confirmation first and foremost with a very strong following on temperament. The herd is very quiet and relaxed with most being handled which come up for pats and scratches looking for attention.



New breeding animals which have been bought in from time to time have also been tamed down with Nick being called the “galloway whisperer” amongst other breeders as he doesn’t use yards but instead focuses on the individuals trust in the paddock which is gained in a matter of days with some animals and taking up to 6 months with others.

The herd has grown rather fast in a short space of time which is now sitting at 57 registered animals and counting now that calving is underway. By having quite diverse genetics throughout the herd it helps being able to set up new breeder members with unrelated animals and other breeders seeking new sires for their herds.

Most of the animals bred are sold locally to lifestyle block owners as there is quite a few in the Canterbury region with some of the bulls being sold commercially.





Galloways aren't fussy eaters which was one appeal and the other most appealing attribute he liked about them was their hardiness to be able to hold condition with cows rearing calves in droughts and in cold winters as Canterbury is well known for having both along with being naturally polled and the ease of calving. The herd is rotationally grazed on meadow grasses in the paddocks and over winter are fed hay and baleage.

The greatest satisfaction for Nick is being able to see all the selective mating's of various bloodlines of cows and bulls he has studied complementing each other to produce great looking calves for future generations to use in breeding programmes to preserve the breed in New Zealand.

Nick in addition to the white galloways has an exotic parrot collection that he breeds from along with arabian horses chinchillas, llamas, suffolk sheep, and tibetan spaniels.



**Breeder Contact Details:**  
**Mountain View Galloways**

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