

*THE LUING—  
ITS ORIGIN  
ITS PURPOSE*

*1947 - 1972*

# *What is this Luing Breed?*

It is a breed of Beef Cattle which was established on the Argyllshire Island of Luing (pronounced Ling), situated off the west coast of Scotland.



Evolved by the Cadzow Brothers, to live on the hills and the uplands, there have been many herds of this Breed established throughout Great Britain and Eire.



*As a roughage convertor the "LUING" has no peer.*

# *The need for this Breed*

The need for such a breed was realised in 1947 when we started breeding beef cattle on the island. It was therefore a breed which was evolved through necessity and economics. The necessity being – able to produce a potentially good beef calf under adverse conditions similar to many of the poorer parts of Scotland, and able to be a self-propagating breed.

It is therefore a breed which has been bred to the requirements of the beef industry and to **suit the environments encountered in many parts of the world.**

With improved feeding and wintering techniques, and better animal husbandry methods, we can now keep a breed of cattle on the uplands more suited for modern feeding, and to mature at the correct weights, than is now readily available.

The biggest gap in beef production is the same to-day as it was 25 years ago – the want of a suitable cow which could be bred pure or crossed, and which would rear a reasonable calf under range conditions – and this gap the Luing has helped to fill.

Apart from pure breeding with Luing cows, the bulls have been proved successful in crossing with other Breeds to produce good butchers' steers and the much sought after heifers to build up our hill herds. Many Friesians are now being crossed with the Luing to produce a high production suckler cow for the better lands. This Luing/Friesian cross cow has the ability to outwinter and costs less to keep.

# *History of the Breed*

We would like to give full credit to the two great beef breeds which gave us the foundation of the Luing Breed.

The Beef Shorthorn and the Highlander. No two British breeds are more complimentary and analogous to each other. Each of them have something of great value to give to this new hill cattle breed, and we are quite confident that many of these qualities are now completely established in the Luing Breed.

The ruggedness of the Highlander and the fleshing qualities of the Shorthorn are a part of this breed.



*Here is that ruggedness.*

With the selection in 1947 of some of the best first cross Shorthorn/Highland heifers that could be procured—from herds that we had bought calves from for years and had proved themselves—we started our herd. Shortly afterwards we bought a Shorthorn bull called “Cruggleton Alastair”, one of the last sons of “Cruggleton Perfect”, that famous Shorthorn bull which brings to one’s mind all the size and goodness wanted in beef cattle. The sons and daughters of “Alastair” were outstanding. They had many of the qualities that we had been looking for in our cattle.

From then on by judicious mating we have now firmly established the Luing Breed of beef cattle as a breed in their own right. Many of our cattle are ninth generation by Luing bulls and have proved themselves as breeding true to type.



*This evenness of type is shown in these 14-month-old heifers in May with their coats cast.*

# *Breed Characteristics*

These are not polled cattle but have all been dehorned at birth. However there are some polled Herds being developed.

The colours of the new beef breed are those common to the Beef Shorthorn and the Highlander and are therefore the following:-

red	roan
yellow	red roan
white	yellow roan brindle

No cattle have ever been discarded because of their colour.



*A group of 14-month-old bulls in May showing some of the colour common to the breed*

This is **no Wonder Breed**. It is not suddenly going to turn breeding for beef into a fortune maker. Lasting improvements in beef production are not made with dramatic speed. One must hasten slowly.

However, we really feel that this breed is capable of doing a tremendous job. Why? Because it has already done a big job at Luing, and in another ninety-five herds embracing over 6,000 breeding females. Hundreds have been bred every year for years and have proved themselves.

But perhaps the most fundamental reason of all is that throughout the period from 1947 these cattle have been treated **absolutely commercially**. No special treatment has been given to them because we have always realised that cattle themselves have to measure up to commercial requirements and not be assisted unduly. **Pedigree or commercial, they should all get the same bread and butter.**

This Breed is essentially a roughage convertor – large quantities of grain and concentrates are not a requisite of its diet – performance testing of the Luing must be done not on high concentrate diets, but on grass products to show its commercial viability.

# Breed Standards

The following are all considered:

1. **STATURE (height at shoulders).**
2. **WEIGHT (naturally fed – idle period).**
3. **PERFORMANCE OF SIRE AND DAM.**
4. **CONFORMATION.**

Breed Standards are a big step to take in any Breed, but it was decided in 1970 that our Luing cattle were now at a stage where we should fix certain standards, standards which we must aim for, even if all our cattle do not achieve them.

The purpose of these Standards is merely to eliminate the bottom end of our production – the slow growers – and in no way will it inhibit improvement at the top end.

No one of the four requirements is more or less important than the other.

**STATURE** – ensures that we have not got a dumpy, non grower, no matter how good is the conformation. Certain age measurements are fixed, to which all bulls must conform.

**WEIGHT** – here again is what we must aim for, and taken along with stature is most important, but fattening of bulls beyond their working condition is not encouraged.

**PERFORMANCE OF SIRE AND DAM** – this of course ensures continuity of performance if the parents have performed well.

**CONFORMATION** – this is as we all know, most important, but not so much as it used to be, unless it also has the other three attributes given above.

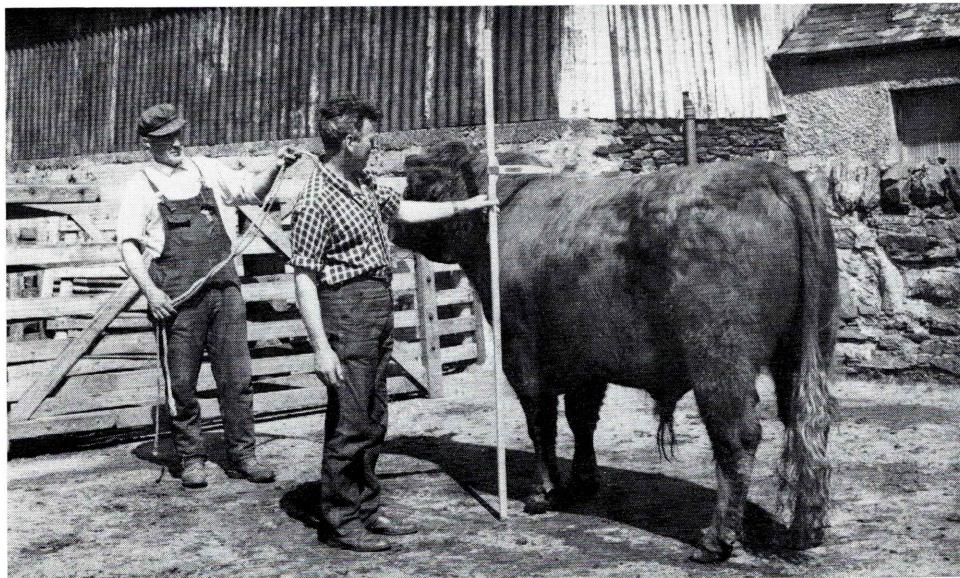
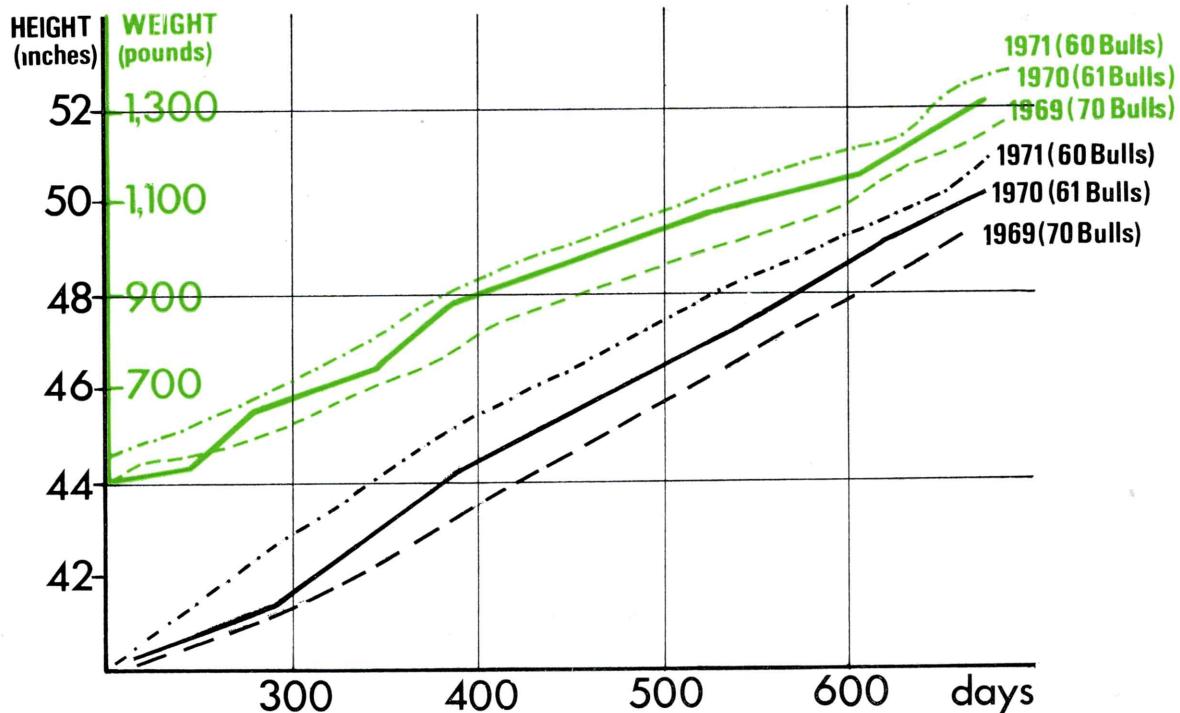
## BREED INSPECTION PANEL

All bulls must conform to the Breed Standards, and are inspected by a representative of the Society. They must all be over 20 months old before being sold at a Society Sale.

## BREED STANDARDS

<i>Working Condition</i>	<i>Weight (average)</i>	<i>Height (minimum)</i>	<i>Height (average)</i>
Cow	1,232 lbs. (559.3 kgs.)	46 ins. (116.8 cms.)	47½ ins. (120.6 cms.)
Bull – 13 months	Growing Period	44 ins. (111.6 cms.)	45½ ins. (115.4 cms.)
Bull – 20 months	1,176 lbs. (533.9 kgs.)	47½ ins. (120.6 cms.)	49½ ins. (125.6 cms.)
Bull – 23 months	1,400 lbs. (635.6 kgs.)	48½ ins. (123.1 cms.)	50½ ins. (128.1 cms.)
Bull – mature	2,128 lbs. (966.1 kgs.)	52 ins. (131.9 cms.)	55 ins. (139.5 cms.)

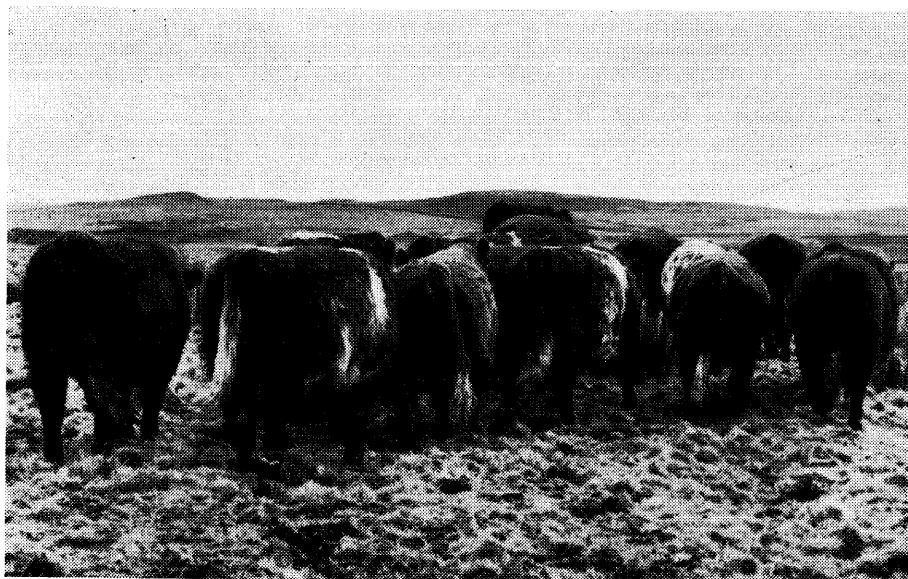
## Increased growth and weight of the Luing over 3 years under commercial conditions



# *Bulls*



*The ruggedness and strength of bone can be seen in these yearling bulls photographed in December. All Luing cattle are outwintered.*



*Do they look better meeting you or leaving you? I wonder!*



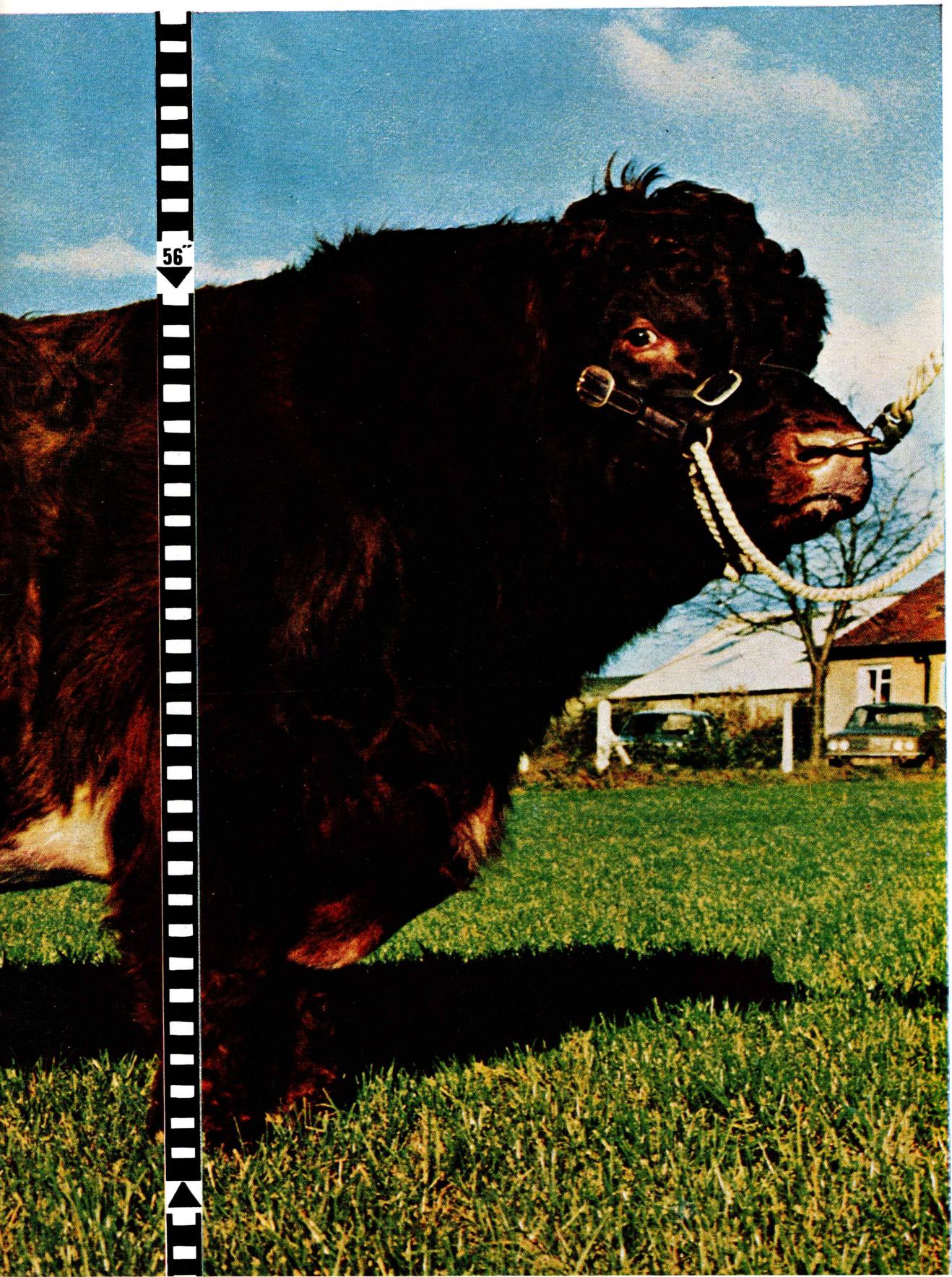
*14-month-old bulls in May.*

Growth potential is a characteristic, continually kept to the forefront and only bulls that have a good daily weight gain and growth rate are kept. Bulls are outwintered and run in groups.

Soundness and correct structure of feet are looked upon as a basic part of the Breed. Bulls regularly cover 60-70 cows under hill conditions with a 98% conception rate in 9 weeks.

*LUING ROCKET (winter coat)*  
**AT SCONE A.I. CENTRE**  
*WEIGHT — 2,120 lbs (962.5 kgs)      STATURE — 56" (142.2 cms)*  
Semen destined for—New Zealand, Australia, Canada, South America.





# Cows

In the past we have always felt that if our cows could emulate that grand old lady of the hills—the black-faced ewe—and be self-propagating, and therefore acclimatised to their own farm, they could play a big part in the breeding for beef in this country.



*A characteristic bunch of Luing cows and calves photographed in May.*

**Although these photographs of cows are taken at sea level, many hundreds of Luing heifers have proved their hardiness and ability to rear good calves on high inland farms—1,000 feet above sea level.**



Perhaps our cows have now got these qualities of the black-face ewes, and with production costs rising every year we will find it even more imperative than ever that replacements for the herd are reared at home. You know what you have got, and they will be acclimatised and know the ground.

Hardiness in the cow, as in the ewe, is a very important asset, especially when it is combined with productivity.

*An individual cow of the breed with her 3-month-old bull calf, photographed in May.*



Note the big wide open head and muzzle. She has a long enough body for her offspring to weigh well, but not too long to make her a difficult lady to keep in condition during the winter.



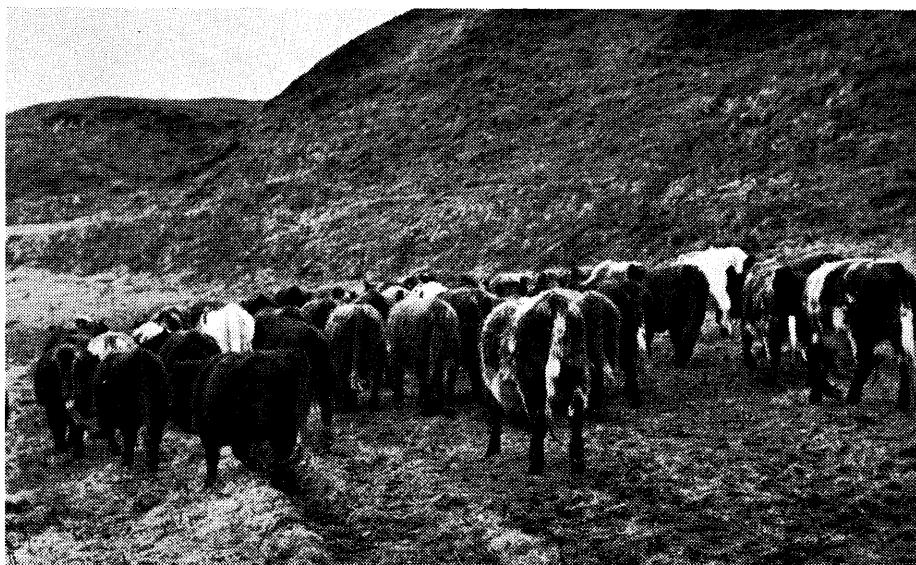
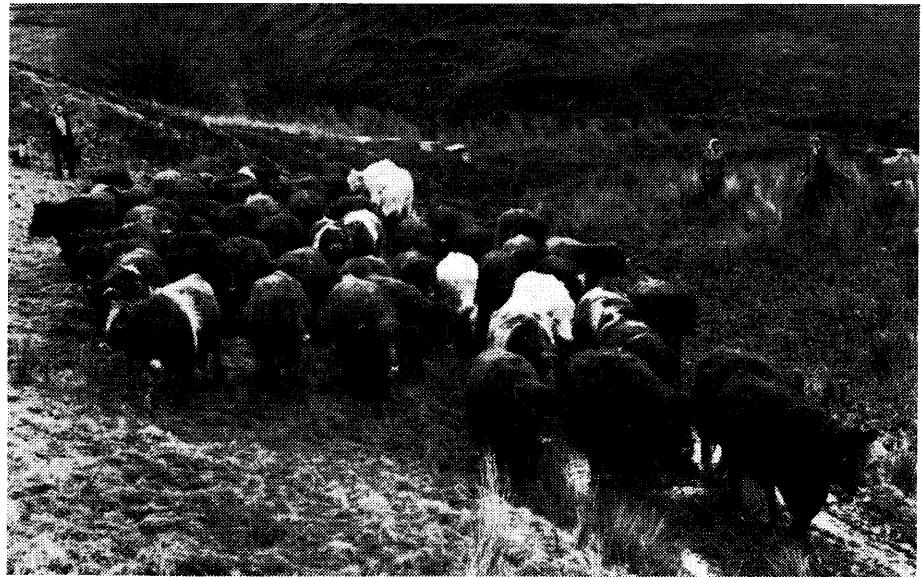
Apart from the important factors of conformation, rate of weight gain, etc., we have paid particular attention to the following qualities in the cow:-

- (1) Ease of wintering outside (no cow being kept more than two winters if it required extra rations);
- (2) weather-instinct—the ability to find shelter in coarse weather;
- (3) docility;
- (4) regular breeders for 9-10 calves or more; cows must have 98% conception;
- (5) mothering instinct and ability to make a reasonable job of their calves; correct udders;
- (6) correct conformation;
- (7) ease of calving; cows calve naturally to stay in the breed;
- (8) foraging ability;
- (9) correct feet and legs.

# *2-year-old Heifers*

being brought in for the Society's Spring Sale.

*The soft mellow  
colours of these  
cattle go with  
easy fleshing.*



*They go as  
well as they  
come.*

## *9-month-old Heifers*



*Wintered on an uninhabited island and fed once a day, these 110 stock heifer calves appear to be doing well. Their docile nature seems to have stayed with them.*

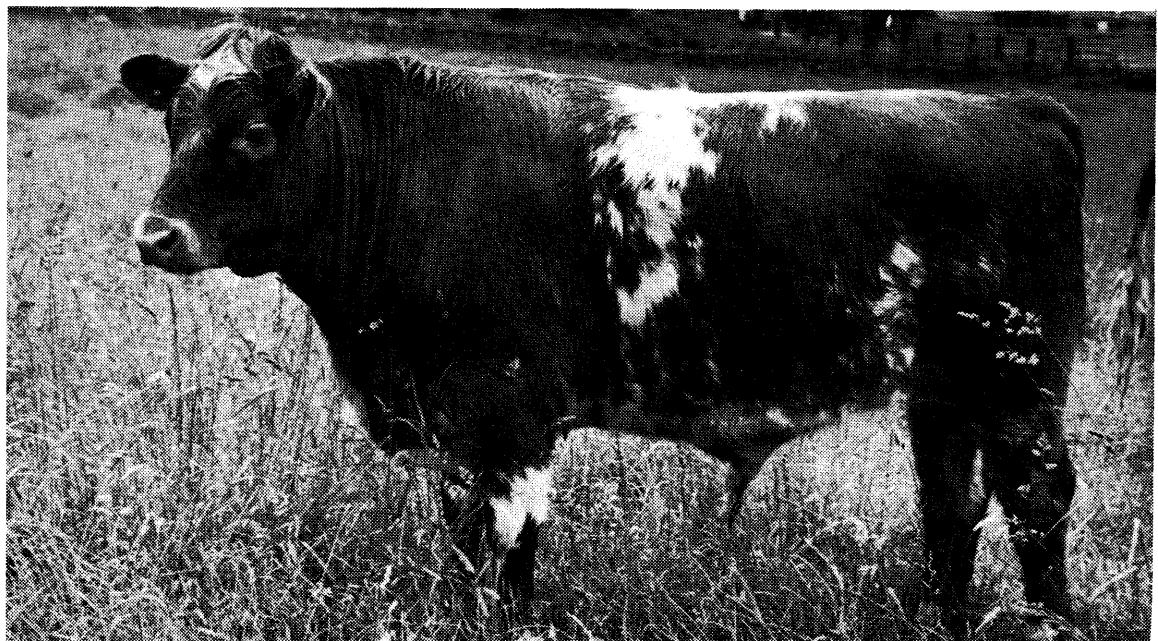


*Heifer calves, equally at home in snow.*

## *Steers*

We have looked for steers which will finish at 16-20 months at about 9-9½ cwt. (1,008-1,064 lbs.).

This, of course, will depend how much they are pushed with feeding. If they are not taken on too quickly in their youth they could go to 10½ cwt. (1,176 lbs.) without being too fat.



*This 17-month-old steer is typical of many sold to Britain's leading Supermarkets.*



*157 steers in May. Their levelness of type is evident.*

Many hundreds of these Luing cattle have been bred and fattened in recent years. Some have been fattened out of the courts in May at 15 - 16 months and others on the grass up till November at 18 - 20 months of age. Being a docile breed they appear to adapt themselves to inside or outside conditions.



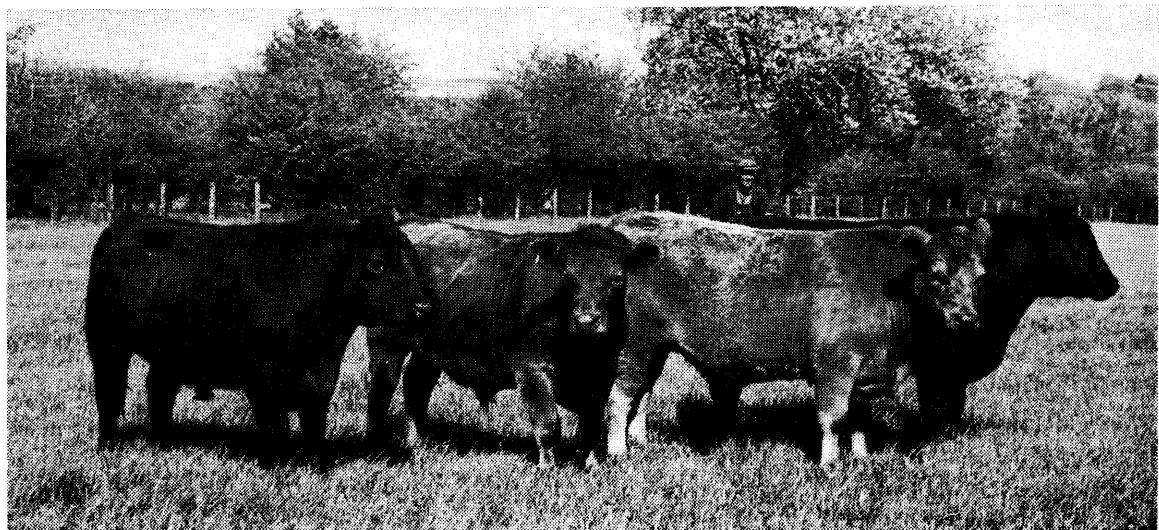
*15-month-old steers weighing 920 lbs.*

# *Luing Crosses — from the beef herd*

Outstanding results are being achieved by crossing Luing bulls with black or blue-grey cows. It is found that the Luing bull gives that added growth and scouth to the calves.



*Some Luing cross Hereford steers at 15 months old.*



*An example of what Luing bulls can do when crossed with black and blue-grey cows.  
These 18-months-old steers weigh 1,052 lbs.*

## *Luing Crosses — from the dairy herd*

Crossing with the Freisian cow produces a heifer ideal for a suckler cow on the better land. With a good coat for out-wintering and her foraging ability she can be used for a high production cow.

The steer calf is easily fleshed.



**A yearling Luing/Friesian Heifer**

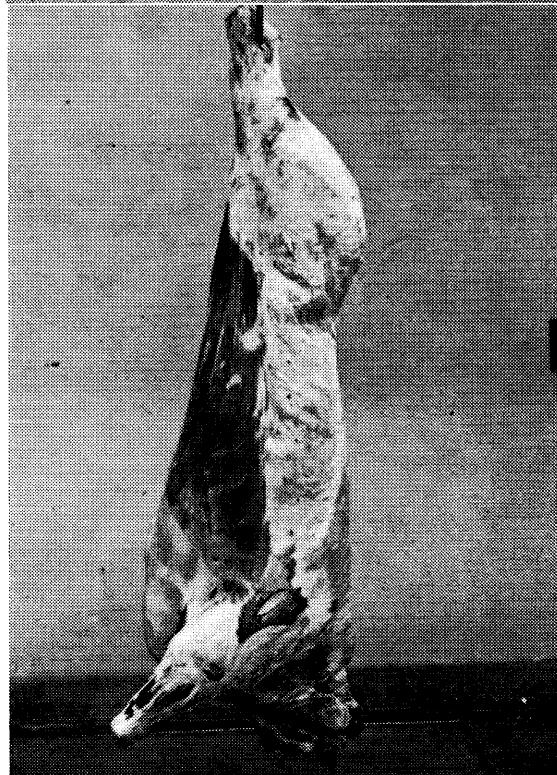
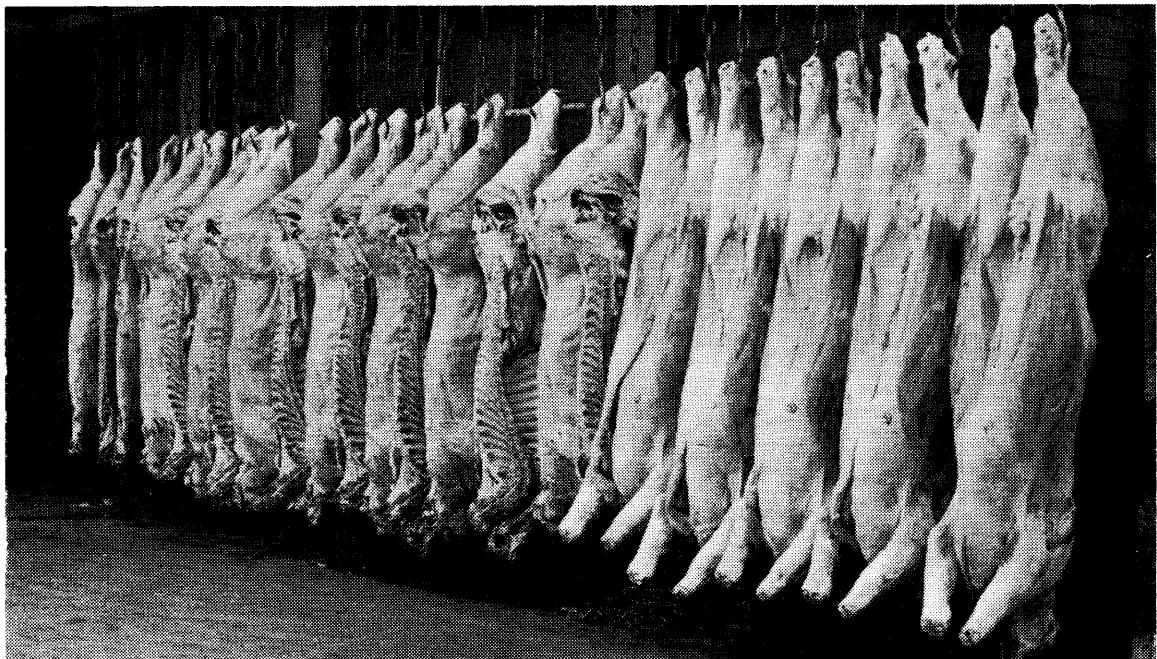
The steer with its extra fleshing will not require such a broad shovel to feed it, due to its ability to convert roughage.



**A yearling Luing/Friesian steer**

# Carcases

*Some of the 72 sides of beef of Luing Steers—shown at a demonstration in Edinburgh.*



The carcasses of these cattle have been well received by butchers. It would appear that they do not easily become overfat. They are a middle of the road type, which is probably the most "saleable" carcass which can be produced.

This end product concludes our breed story of beef production and it is not the least important part of it.

We leave you to judge the result for yourself.

## ANNUAL SALES OF LUING CATTLE

**January** – Annual Bull and Heifer Sale at Thomas Corson & Co. Ltd., Oban, Argyll.

**September and October** – Calf Sales and Pedigree Heifer Sales at Thomas Corson & Co. Ltd., Oban, Argyll.

Other Centres which have Luing steer and heifer calves and breeding heifers forward include:-  
Livestock Auction Mart, Kildean, Stirling; Inverness; Skye; Uist; Aberdeen and Hawick.

---

**Our Fieldsman is available to advise, arrange herd visits and to help with acquiring cattle.**

Please send all enquiries to:-

The Secretary,

The Luing Cattle Society Ltd

Duncrahill, Pencaitland,

East Lothian.

Telephone: Pencaitland 264.

# *THE BEEF BREED WITH GROWTH POTENTIAL*

*LUING BUZZARD*

*STATURE - 57½" (146cms)*

*SUMMER COAT*

