

# Colin, Ann and Kevin Douch Maestroyddin Fawr Pumpsaint, Carmarthenshire



are benefiting from the Welsh Beef Quality Improvement Project



## Factfile

- 440 acres upland farm at Pumpsaint, Carmarthenshire including 70 acres Unimproved land
- Member of Tir Gofal Scheme
- Farms beef and sheep
- 60 Limousin x suckler cows
- Most progeny sold as store cattle at 15 to 18 months, some sold fat

Colin Douch and his son Kevin joined the Welsh Beef Quality Improvement Project (WBQIP) with the aim of purchasing a superior bull to help them breed progeny with easy calving and better weights.

To qualify for funding all participants undertake a three day training programme to help them optimise the benefits from improved breeding, health and welfare and environmental management. Kevin has so far attended the first two days and found them extremely useful: "Prior to the course we had little knowledge of Estimated Breeding Values (EBVs) and had never selected a bull based on them". The course gave valuable information about EBVs and how to interpret them which meant that for the first time they went to the sales with a list of pre-selected bulls.

Blelack Auk, a Charolais bull born in April 2005, was purchased from Perth sales for 6,500 guineas. He qualifies for the scheme with a Calving Value of CH0C (above average) and 400 Day Growth of 80 (top 1%). He also has a Beef Value of CH33 (top 3%). Kevin said "As we sell most of our cattle over 400 days it was imperative to purchase a bull in the top 1% for 400 Day Growth Rates".

Colin and Kevin have also started Performance Recording which allows them to accurately monitor the progress of their calves and allows them to draw comparisons between bulls. Colin is also in the

process of arranging a bull fertility test; the WBQIP offers funding of up to £70 towards the fertility test helping to reduce the calving interval.

**Bulls with superior genetics are capable of improving herd gross margins by £40 - £60 per calf sired. For example, for Colin and Kevin's herd of 60 cows this could be worth £2,400 extra a year and over four seasons worth an extra £10,000. This highlights the value of investing in superior genetics.**

## WHAT STEPS TO TAKE

1. Register with HCC on 01970 625050
2. Complete Part 1 of the training course
3. Select & purchase an eligible bull **before 31st December 2007**
4. **Immediately** register the bull with HCC
5. Complete the training course
6. Receive 40% of the purchase price back, 9 months after buying your bull (£2500 maximum)

# Colin, Ann a Kevin Douch Maestroyddin Fawr Pumpsaint, Sir Gaerfyrddin



## yn elwa o'r Prosiect Gwella Ansawdd Cig Eidion



### Ffeil Ffeithiau

- Fferm tir uchel 440 erw ym Mhumsaint, Sir Gaerfyrddin, gan gynnwys 70 erw o Dir Heb ei Wella
- Aelod o Gynllun Tir Gofal
- Yn ffermio gwartheg cig a defaid
- 60 o fuchod sugno o groesiad Limousin
- Y rhan fwyaf o'r epil yn cael eu gwerthu'n 15 - 18 mis oed, rhai wedi'u pesgi

Ymunodd Colin Douch a'i fab Kevin â Phrosiect Gwella Ansawdd Cig Eidion Cymru (WBQIP) gyda'r nod o brynu tarw uwchraddol i'w gynorthwyo i fridio epil sy'n lloia'n rhwydd ac sy'n drymach.

Er mwyn bod yn gymwys ar gyfer yr arian, rhaid cwblhau tridiau o hyfforddiant i sicrhau cael y manteision gorau posibl o well reolaeth ar fridio, iechyd a lles a'r amgylchedd. Hyd yma mae Kevin wedi mynychu'r ddau ddiwrnod cyntaf, a oedd yn ddefnyddiol iawn iddo; "Cyn y cwrs doedd gennym fawr o wybodaeth am Werthoedd Bridio Tybiedig (EBVau) a doedden ni erioed wedi dewis tarw oedd yn seiliedig arnyn nhw". Rhoddodd y cwrs wybodaeth werthfawr iddynt ynglŷn ag EBVau a sut i'w dehongli – a golygodd hynny eu bod, am y tro cyntaf erioed, wedi mynd i'r arwerthiannau gyda rhestr o deirw wedi eu dewis ymlaen llaw.

Prynwyd Blelack Auk, tarw Charolais a anwyd ym mis Ebrill 2005, yn arwerthiannau Perth am 6,500 gini. Mae'n gymwys ar gyfer y cynllun gyda Gwerth Lloia o CH0C (yn well na'r cyffredin) a Thwf 400 Niwrnod o 80 (yn y 1% uchaf). Yn ogystal, mae ganddo Werth Cig Eidion o CH33 (yn y 3% uchaf). "Am ein bod yn gwerthu'r rhan fwyaf o'n gwartheg dros 400 niwrnod oed, roedd rhaid prynu tarw o blith 1% uchaf ar gyfer Cyfraddau Twf 400 niwrnod," ebe Kevin.

Yn ogystal, mae Colin a Kevin wedi dechrau Cofnodi Perfformiad - sy'n golygu eu bod yn gallu monitro cynnydd eu lloei yn gywir ac yn gallu cymharu teirw. Mae Colin hefyd wrthi'n trefnu prawf ffrwythlondeb tarw; mae'r WBQIP yn cynnig hyd at £70 tuag at y prawf ffrwythlondeb er mewn asesu ffrwythlondeb y tarw, a bydd hyn o gymorth i gael ysbaid lloia byrrach.

**Mae teirw â geneteg uwchraddol yn gallu gwella maintoli elw'r fuches gymaint â £40 - £60 am bob llo o'r teirw hynny. Er enghraifft, i fuches Colin a Kevin o 60 o fuchod, gallai hyn fod yn werth £2,400 yn ychwanegol y flwyddyn – sef £10,000 yn ychwanegol dros bedwar tymor. Mae hyn yn pwysleisio gwerth buddsoddi mewn geneteg uwchraddol.**

### CAMAU I'W CYMRYD

1. Cofrestrwch gyda HCC ar 01970 625050
2. Cwblhewch Rhan 1 o'r cwrs hyfforddi
3. Dewiswch a phrynwch darw cymwys **cyn 31 Rhagfyr 2007**
4. Cofrestrwch y tarw gyda HCC yn syth bin
5. Cwblhewch y cwrs hyfforddi
6. Derbyniwch 40% o'r pris prynu yn ôl, 9 mis ar ôl prynu'ch tarw (uchafswm o £2500)