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I have great pleasure in welcoming you to the first edition of the Full Montey. On behalf of Montbeliarde UK I hope you find our journal both interesting, informative and in places amusing. The breed and the society have come along in leaps and bounds over the last 10 years with Montbeliarde being one of the fastest growing dairy breeds in the country and the society growing year on year.

As many of you will know I farm with my family on the wild west coast of Cumbria, our first experience of these formidable red and white cows was in October 2002 when we bought 14 in calf heifers from Lordswood Farms in Somerset. I was proud as punch when the wagon pulled into the yard and dropped the door down to unload and as I now know that in true monty style the girls wouldn’t be turned and continued to walk straight through us!!

Having been involved with the breed for the past 10 years I have met some very kind and helpful people who have guided and advised me along the way, not just in the UK but in France and Ireland as well with a few from the latter enjoying more than a few pints on the numerous trips we have made to the breed show in France. So if you are reading this and feel you would like to find out more about the breed or get involved with registering your cattle both pure and cross breeds please don’t hesitate to contact anyone named in this journal.

While doing my research for the chairmans comments I have read many other breed journals for inspiration and one comment that struck me was a question set in a GCSE exam asking 16 year olds to name the four seasons....the answer given was salt, pepper mustard and vinegar and with the summer we have had they might as well be!!!

It is a real pleasure to be working with these great cows and with more and more farmers taking notice of the super cattle we have had on display at the shows and the farm open days around the country over the past years, well done to everyone who has taken the time and effort to promote the breed.

Thankyou to all those who have contributed and made this possible especially Sarah and Sarah at The Farm Organisation for keeping me right and on track!! As a dedicated Leeds United fan I never thought I would say it but the future is definitely red and white!!

Michael Wilson
Front cover photograph by Laura Teasdale of cows grazing at Monk Foss

The Full Montey has been written, designed and produced by The Farm Organisation on behalf of Montbeliarde UK. Editorial & Design team - Sarah Liddle & Sarah Jarvis.

While all attempts have been made to ensure the material included in this publication is correct and accurate neither The Farm Organisation nor Montbeliarde UK accept any liability for mistakes. Opinions and views expressed by advertisers, contributors and the editor are also not necessarily those of Montbeliarde UK.

Both parties welcome members feedback
Printed by Alverton Press, North Yorkshire
With figures like these provided by CDI who could question the production possible from the breed. This table shows the top producers both pure bred and supplementary registered.

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**SUPPLEMENTARY REGISTERED**

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| FAULDIE ORNANS BECKY      | FAULDIE     | 2    | 09-Feb-10       | 12529    | 305 | 3.75         | 3.18       | ORNANS JB     |
| FAULDIE ORNANS CROCUS     | FAULDIE     | 2    | 02-Mar-10       | 11913    | 305 | 3.79         | 3.39       | ORNANS JB     |
| ISEL IMPOLI HILARY        | ISEL        | 5    | 08-Nov-10       | 11536    | 305 | 3.65         | 3.41       | IMPOLI         |
| OBELISK MAC VIOLET 2      | OBELISK     | 4    | 26-Nov-09       | 11305    | 305 | 2.58         | 3.17       | MICMAC         |
| OBELISK FERRARI FA        | OBELISK     | 4    | 20-Nov-09       | 11104    | 305 | 2.81         | 3.45       | FARADAY        |
| PARK LANE NIKOS MOUSEY    | PARK LANE   | 2    | 30-Oct-10       | 10882    | 305 | 3.22         | 2.93       | NIKOS          |
| BEECHES GEMMA             | BEECHES     | 3    | 09-Nov-10       | 10680    | 305 | 3.65         | 3.23       | MOHAIR         |
| FAULDIE ORNANS BEATRICE   | FAULDIE     | 2    | 20-Aug-10       | 10534    | 292 | 2.84         | 3.28       | ORNANS JB     |
| FAULDIE GIRO BESSIE       | FAULDIE     | 1    | 19-Nov-09       | 10456    | 305 | 2.89         | 3.11       | PARC-DAVERS GIRO ET |
| BEECHES JOYCE             | BEECHES     | 2    | 11-Nov-09       | 10456    | 305 | 3.46         | 2.92       | MASOLINO       |
| BEECHES MIRIAM            | BEECHES     | 3    | 20-Aug-10       | 10441    | 287 | 3.84         | 3.21       | MOHAIR         |
| DEANERY MANDY             | DEANERY     | 4    | 19-Feb-10       | 10353    | 289 | 2.90         | 3.17       |                |
| PARK LANE NIKOS NANCY     | PARK LANE   | 2    | 10-Sep-10       | 10123    | 305 | 4.19         | 3.29       | NIKOS          |
| PLAS LUCILIUS DUCHESS     | PLAS        | 2    | 08-Dec-09       | 10088    | 305 | 3.88         | 3.05       | LUCILIUS       |
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In 2011 around 80 farmers attended the Montbeliarde UK Open Day hosted by Ian and Steph Sharman in Nottinghamshire. Unlike many who have dipped their toes in the water, either buying a few Monty’s to run in among their Black and White herds or using a few straws a year to increase cross bred numbers the Sharman’s went into the breed full steam ahead.

Their high yielding Holstein herd was sold, with the young stock subsequently sold as freshening heifers and in their place purebred Montbeliardes were bought from France. Here we find out from Ian and Steph how their new breed compares at a number of levels.

**Feeding**

Feeding the Montbeliarde is a far cheaper proposition, gone are the days of expensive ‘rip’ and ‘tip’ feeding methods. There is now no buffer feeding of the herd during summer, instead roughly half of the 600 acre farm is grazed to support the 400 Montbeliardes milking on the farm. The cows are fed to yield through parlour feeding, with a feed rate of 0.24 -0.25. In winter the diet is composed of grass silage, fodder beet and rape seed. Fodder beet is a firm favourite of the Sharman’s with Ian saying its use in winter lifts both milk and protein (by around 0.2%).

The Monty’s also respond better to longer forage in their diet, now the self propelled forage harvester is set to a longer chop length, while round bale whole crop; haylage and long chop Lucerne are all fed. The farms location in Nottinghamshire is favourable for Lucerne growth with either three or four crops harvested per year. With the cows fed inside less than the Holstein herd was previously there is obviously less slurry to be spread and significantly less time spent feeding, with the feeder wagon sitting redundant over the summer months.

**Milk Sales**

For over three years now Long Clawson Dairy which is 25 miles away has purchased the farms milk, for use in their award winning Stilton cheese. Long Clawson operates a 20% direct supplier and 80% member pricing structure, with suppliers providing five years worth of direct milk before becoming members. At Long Clawson there is payment for both milk fat and protein, while three quarters of the milk price is protein dependant. All these factors favour Montbeliardes production – as a breed their milk fat to protein ratio is ideal and while herd yields are running around the 7200kg mark (with the aim to increase this to 7600kg), the fat of the herd runs at 3.4-3.6% and the protein in winter is up at 3.6% (dipping to 3.4% in summer when the Monty relies on grass and cake). By comparison the Black and White were always 0.3% down on this level for protein.

**Herd Health and Fertility**

‘Touch wood’ displaced abomasums are now a thing of the past at Holbeck, as there...
hasn’t been one since the switch to Monty’s. Vets bills themselves are down by two thirds annually, in part due to the herd being outside from February through to December.

The herd now incurs 50% of the mastitis cases per year it did, with SCC running around the 180,000 mark and Bactoscan averaging 18.

The cull cow value is very pleasing – any culls have averaged £1100. The approach has been to buy in calf heifers, giving a calf, a milk cheque and leaving the original purchase not owing you much – if anything! The target is for an 18% replacement rate. The longevity and durability of the breed is seeing animals stay around at least half a lactation longer, with the long term aim being to push this to a lactation longer. The calving interval of the herd is certainly better, and is approaching 380 days – with less than two straws of semen used per cow across the herd.

**Foot trimming**

No breed is perfect, and Ian and Steph aren’t declaring the Monty is. They certainly feel that the feet of the breed is no better than the Holstein, a foot trimmer still visits the farm every three weeks, and regular trimming is needed. Many of the purebred Monty’s are too straight in the leg, however with cows now walking a long way and being grazed for 10 months of the year; in 8 acre rotation paddocks their feet are naturally worn more. The farm did need to invest in water troughs, cow tracks and fencing when it restructured. However there were no parlour modifications for the new breed as their capacity and barrels are similar to the Holstein despite them being shorter in stature.

**Sire Selection and replacements**

The Sharman’s consider it important to keep the attributes of the breed that differentiates it. Therefore they won’t use a negative protein sire. They are avoiding using sires which offer the highest production increases – chasing milk is not a direction they wish to pursue in the Monty’s, nor do they want to see rising rumps in the bulls they opt to use. Instead they want to keep the Body Condition Score, sloped rumps, high fertility, strong feet and components which have endeared them to Monty’s.

With housing for youngstock limited on the farm, as it carries as many milkers as space allows, surplus youngstock need to be sold – hence the Invitational sale in May 2012. The farm only has capacity for 50 young stock per year.

**Going Forward**

The Sharman’s have found a breed that suits them and as such want the society here in the UK to move forward.

On a personal level they will look to sell in the region of half a dozen bulls a year from their best cows. The ease with which the Monty’s calve is another plus, the calving aid has only seen one outing in twelve months at Holbeck – so the top 50% of the herd will be served to Monty semen, the rest to a double muscled Charolais.

As the saying goes there’s more than one way to skin a cat – in this case there’s more than one way to run a dairy herd and from the Sharman’s experience the Montbeliardé delivers a substantial pence per litre dividend at Holbeck over the previous Holstein and her associated system, and what’s more the Monty’s make you smile say Ian and Steph.
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It has been an interesting journey so far for those at Lordswood. Neil Darwent, Farm Director started at Lordswood Farms, near Frome in Somerset in 2000 at a time when the farm was heavily influenced by the success of their dairy business. Sarah Jarvis visited Walk Farm where Neil explained the changes that have occurred over the years at Lordswood and how the Montbeliardes have featured in them.

Malcolm Pearce began farming at an early age becoming involved on the school farm. With a passion for farming ignited, it wasn’t long before he bought his own farm and started bottling his own milk. This first step in the 1970’s was just the beginning of the Lordswood enterprises. The success of the milk round was only the starting point and as the dairy business grew rapidly through the 1990’s, milk was supplied to schools, hospitals and corner shops across the South West with up to 50 million litres sold annually. With this rapid growth of the dairy, Malcolm was conscious of the importance of safeguarding the supply to the processing side of the business, so during this period of growth three farms were bought - Walk Farm (420 acres), Witham Friary and Pinkers Farm (250 acres). In addition several five-year farm business tenancies were entered into. In all by 2000, 13 farms consisting of 4600 acres were milking 2800 cows and producing around 18 million litres of milk annually.

In 1988 Malcolm was first introduced to Montbeliardes at the International Agricultural Show in Paris and he immediately recognised the potential in the dual purpose breed for his farms in the UK. Strong physical attributes coupled with excellent milk composition and good figures for fertility sealed the decision to import some in calf heifers. Between 1992 and 1997, 350 heifers were imported from the Jura region in France, which became the foundation of the Montbeliarde herd at Lordswood. By 2000, 600 Montbeliardes were milking on three of the 13 farms and Neil remembers when he arrived it took him a while to adjust to the breed. “Looking back one Montbeliarde cow stood out from her contemporaries as I walked through the herd. 318 was a more dairy cow than some of the heavier ones and she is still in the herd today, 11 lactations on, with a calf every year, she has never lost time and is still earning her keep – proof of their longevity as a breed” Neil explains.

2001 saw Lordswood take a new direction. Lordswood Dairies was sold to Wiseman and with the sale of the dairy the focus changed from one which had been driven by volume of milk produced (to supply the dairy) to one that focussed purely on farm profitability. At this time the decision was also made to concentrate on the strengths of the Montbeliardes. Over the following years some of the farms were sold and the farm tenancies terminated as the business consolidated and concentrated on a new strategy of increasing profits through reducing inputs rather than expanding outputs.

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Left: Neil Darwent, Farm Director of Lordswood Farms since 2000. Bottom: Cow 318 still going strong after 11 lactations.
12 years on from when Neil started, Lordswood now consists primarily of four farms. There are 650 acres at Walk farm which is the home of the 350 milking Montbeliarde and between the three other farms 100 acres are grown as cereals and 30 acres have been planted back to trees amongst the additional grassland.

Fed a relatively simple diet of grass, home grown cereals and grass silage, the herd averages 7015kg at 4.05% fat and 3.54% protein with SCC at 147. The cows receive a flat rate in the parlour of 18% dairy cake, but are split into two milking groups and fed two separate combinations of TMR. The aim is to cut the amount of purchased feed and produce more milk off home-grown forage. It is obvious feeding is taken very seriously by Neil and he manages the cows’ intakes successfully without the help of a nutritionalist.

“Growing a good quality grass silage is essential as a good base and then with the addition of home-grown cereals (maize or wholecrop barley as grown this year) we have a diet from which the Montbeliarde cow can both maintain milk yield and body condition, with minimum input of expensive concentrates,” he says. The grass silage analysis each year is an important part of diet formulation. Last year’s silage was good; first cut was 35% DM, 16%CP, with a D-value of 73.9 and an ME of 11.8; second cut wasn’t far behind 31.4%DM, 15%CP, with a D-value of 67.7 and an ME of 10.8. Which, with the added home-grown cereals, made for a relatively low cost yet nutritional TMR throughout winter. This idea of making the farm self-sufficient is an inspiring one and it is apparent the Monty’s play their role in helping make it happen as well. Neil points out, “The cows are very adaptable to different levels of feeding, which makes them quite unique. Feeding as we do currently with little purchased feed they maintain and continue to improve on that 7000kg average, should feed costs come down allowing us to increase the concentrates in the diet then the Monty would also adapt and step up in terms of production to nearer 10,000kg/lactation.

Although the dairy was sold in 2001, Lordswood retained its quota and therefore market their milk on an annual basis by putting it out to tender. This puts them in a different position from many dairy farms and Neil is conscious of the benefits of their position in the market. “The yearly contract makes us stay in close contact with the industry and review it carefully each year, our milk did go to Dairy Crest and now it goes to First Milk. This all helps when setting out the costings for the year and budgeting accordingly to ensure the farm remains profitable.”

Considering themselves as a commercial enterprise, Neil explains that the breeding policy is also a straightforward one. Heifers all run with a bull and the cows are inseminated twice before seeing the bull. Fertility isn’t a problem at Lordswood and the figures speak for themselves, partly thanks to the breed’s strength – the herd is currently running at a 367 day calving interval; 61% Conception to 1st service; 85 days calving to conception and only 1.63 straws of semen per cow. In 2010 Neil visited three farms in France and purchased bulls from each of them that were sons of successful cows. The best of these bulls went off to Dartington to have semen collected from them for use on the cows and then also went to run with heifers before being sold on. “In addition we also rear two or three bulls of our own each year” he adds and is already planning his next trip to France to repeat the procedure and ensure that new bloodlines are brought in to minimise any risk of inbreeding. “In the Montbeliarde we believe we have a cow that is fit for the masses. With this in mind any of our surplus heifers must be suitable to go to any farmer pedigree or commercial.”

Over the years Lordswood Farms have also developed a market for their own grass fed Montbeliarde beef. “Heifers that we have no
intention of breeding from spend two seasons at grass, producing a high quality beef carcass by 24 months of age,’ Neil explains. The beef is slaughtered at the local abattoir in Frome and then cut and boxed by Stourhead Butchers, a well established name in the area. Time has been spent on producing a logo and label for the boxed beef with consumers able to choose what their box consists of from steaks or joints to mince and stew. The boxes sell particularly well through the winter months and will see the farm slaughter an animal each month. In addition to a box scheme the local farm shop have taken a stock of mince – winning a Taste of The West Award for their Montbeliarde beef burger. ‘It is an area of the business where there is room for growth. The dual purpose nature of the breed means it is cost effective to raise everything on the farm whether as replacements or to go as beef,’ says Neil. Being in the South West there is always a worry of the increasing incidence of TB and the Montbeliarde’s beef value almost provides a little protection against the concerns of being shut down for long periods, in the fact that at least they can be sold through the markets for beef. Thus allowing the farm to continue to operate as a closed herd and as a profitable enterprise even if the worst should happen.

From spending time at Lordswood it is clear farming is taken seriously and the strong achievable aim of becoming self sufficient seems well within reach. With the varying changes that have occurred over the years, it appears the farm is settled for the time being with a breed that is delivering on all levels for them; the final burning question for Neil was What does the future hold? “The next growth area probably for us at Lordswood will be in expanding on marketing our livestock,” he explains. The aim is to keep everything pure bred, continuing to breed a commercial cow that produces 7-8000 litres a lactation with good components that lasts and lasts. It’s obvious that exciting times continue at Lordswood, Neil says; “Malcolm is currently away in Cambodia helping them establish the first Montbeliarde herd out there. Meanwhile here at Walk we have been doing a bit of embryo work with our vet Dave Coombes, flushing some of our best cows as we have had enquires from overseas.”

With all this going on at Lordswood Farms from marketing their own milk and beef to selling embryo’s in the future and sustaining the self sufficiency aspect of the farm, anyone who pays a visit to Walk farm and meets Malcolm, Neil and the team, is bound to come away inspired by both the Montbeliarde as a breed and the entire enterprising nature that encompasses Lordswood.
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An anonymous semen salesman tells us of his experiences of the upsurge of the Montbeliarde as a breed...

Life used to be simple, everything that was good was in black and white and sourced from North America. You could have type, milk or a mixture of both. Then in the 90’s the Red Holsteins started to become fashionable and people were prepared to pay more for inferior genetics as long as it was Red. Meanwhile, occasionally some other breed came along to grab a headline but after a while it would just remain with a few die hard enthusiasts and go on the back burner.

Then the “Monty” made a serious appearance, red with a white face, a steady starter with a handful of enthusiasts and only a moderate growth rate. The “Monty” cow persisted though and made many new friends and by the millennium growth had accelerated. This continues to this day with pure bred imports, cross breeding and grade up programs with both registered and commercial cattle popular.

I must confess the qualities of this breed had been overlooked by myself until around six or seven years ago when I came across a “Monty” Holstein crossbred cow. She was in a good pedigree Holstein herd but was the highest yielding cow and did it two years in a row. This woke me out of a “Holstein only” approach to milk production and dairy herd profitability.

So now I was actively marketing Montbeliarde genetics, doing my homework on the breed and booking myself onto the first of many visits to France to view Montbeliarde farms and progeny of the sires marketed by Coopex.

The enthusiasm for this breed focuses on easier managed cows which turn a profit through their specific attributes. The first report I get from farmers is that the semen is fertile and even known problem breeders are pregnant to the Montbeliarde. As one farmer stated, he did not know what to make of Montbeliarde cattle but his Holsteins are at last, now in calf!

After this comes the calves and a new experience for dairy farmers, very profitable bull calves, and heifers that do really well. Farmers new to the breed often ask what category do they sell the cross bred bulls in and I always reply, “Montbeliarde”. Calf buyers need to know because they come back for more. It is so far so good as the stage for me but it is the milking animal that is make or break for me in the long term.

When a farmer calves down the first batch of Montbeliarde crosses they are usually most surprised. First their is a better quality udder than was expected, they are not suckler cows. Secondly is the milk volume, Holstein x Montbeliarde do milk and with a flat lactation curve.

The most interesting farmer comment I had was when walking through a cubicle shed viewing a mixture of Holsteins and Montbeliarde x Holsteins milkers. I asked the farmer “What is the difference in yields between the two types of cattle”.

The reply came back quickly “None” then he paused and just as a brief after thought stated “But the Montys are all in calf”. That for me says it all, something that makes money and saves you money has to be right.

End user satisfaction is very rewarding and this breed has made me some very good friends in my work. I definitely am not anti Holstein, in fact I like this cow and she is here to stay. It is just that the Montbeliarde does have a place and she still has more potential than most people as yet, realise. The breed improvement program in France is most exciting and genomics is making a huge impact. The future is no longer just black and white, the Montbeliarde will add some colour, but of course with a white face.
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CHAIRMAN’S POSTCARD FROM FRANCE...

By Michael Wilson

A visit to France to see the Montbeliardes out there is a must for anyone who hasn’t already been. From admiring the farms and their set up to seeing the elite of the breed at a show such as the Umotest Progeny Show – the 2012 trip to France was no disappointment.

Heading off with Robin & Shirley Nicholson from Kirkby Lonsdale for a day of farm visits and one day at the Umotest Progeny Show in Besancon, we flew out on Monday 30th January, leaving home with some hesitation after abandoning Laura and my Mother in law at home to cubicle train our recent arrival of Montbeliarde heifers! Landing in France we then met up with Eddie, Ian and the guys from R Breeders and Alta for an evening trip through some beautiful scenery with the Alps as a backdrop to our destination in Besancon. A picturesque start to the trip, Tuesday would then bring an early start for us to fit in the arranged three farm stops and these visits would no doubt whet our appetites for the Show on the Wednesday.

Our first visit on the Tuesday morning was to a modern farm built entirely out of wood with an altitude of 600m. Consisting of 207 hectares in all, there was approximately 100 hectares of natural pasture and then 75 hectares of more intensive grassland, both of which grazed from 15th April to 15th November and finally the remaining land was planted to grain. Three full time members of staff worked the farm managing the herd of 80 cows that were milked through a 12/12 parlour and they were at the time averaging 8002kg at 3.97% fat and 3.53% protein. In addition they reared 40 heifers and 20 steers per year.

Interestingly the farm was receiving 459 euros per 1000kg of milk, which went into the production of Comte cheeses. The importance of the cows diet was explained, with a premium received on the local cheese market if fed a hay based with only limited concentrate use (only 1250 kg per cow per year). The bonus on this system was 54 euros per 1000 litres of milk. If only the UK had a similar high-end cheese market to create that kind of price for high quality milk!

Our next farm stop was again at 600m altitude, with an average rainfall of 500mm. Just as at the first farm a team of three worked full time milking 105 cows rearing 60 heifers as followers and finishing 60 bulls for beef each year. The bull beef side was very impressive and run with the aim of the bulls reaching a 430kg carcass weight by 22 months of age, that would pay out at around 355 euros per kg.

The total area of this second farm was 240 hectares, and in contrast to the first the majority was as grain and maize with natural pasture making up only 10 hectares. Their milk was going to Raclette cheese and thus they were using higher rates of concentrates, up to 2020kg per cow with most of the forage being...
maize. This difference in the diet and feeding was reflected in the herd averages of 9711kg at 3.85% fat and 3.55% protein with a calving index 394 days. Just before leaving here the snow began to fall and as you can see from the pictures we became big kids on the loose!

For our last stop of the day we moved back down the hills to our final farm 350m above sea level with 650mm rainfall. A smaller herd of 45 milking cows and 50 heifers were run by two full time staff on 145 ha, the majority of which was a rented mixture of pasture and grain.

Buffer fed all year the cows diet was again a largely maize based diet with inclusion of around 1450kg concentrates per cow per year, this brought herd average yields of about 7813kg at 3.97% fat and 3.44% protein with the milk also going towards the production of Raclette cheese. The price difference for this type of mainstream cheese saw milk sold for 347euros per 1000kg of milk as opposed to the 459euros per 1000 kg of milk for the Comte Cheese. Although a smaller herd than the first two as we walked among the cows we saw some particularly impressive cow families with show winning cows aplenty and no doubt more show winners are on the way from them as they use the best sires alongside high genomic bulls.

After an informative and action packed day it was time to return back to base and spend the evening having an odd drink or two with good food and even better company of farmers from around the UK and Ireland!

Wednesday was show day and off we set for the Umotest Progeny show. Farmers and sales teams from around the world were out in force at the show viewing the impressive daughter groups from sires such as Sir, Rai and Afene and especially notable were the daughters of Redon. The overall winner was a Redon daughter with the best udder in show going to a daughter of Sir further re-enforcing the quality of what these two bulls in particular were capable of breeding.

The show had a really great atmosphere and in some respects was more like a disco than the shows we are all used to in the UK. By the spectacle and quality of the trade stands and more so the cattle that were exhibited it is understandable why people from all over the world are drawn to visit this Progeny show with visitors arriving from Chile, China, Senegal, the Middle East, North America and all over Europe.

The show was followed by sale of high genetic value heifers by proven and genomic sires, sadly none of which have made their home in the UK, but were still good trade selling to a top price of 5600 euros. The international evening rounded off our day and all appreciated both the wonderful food and great atmosphere and thoroughly enjoyed it.

With the trip fast approaching its end we managed to fit in a last stop prior to our flights back home on Thursday. We visited the semen collection centre at Rulen where we got to see Urocher, Triomphe and Faucigny as well as the sexing machines working in the labs and a very interesting presentation on genomic proofs and how they work. With a brain full of new knowledge and experiences to bring back home, our four-day trip seemed to fly by. In all it was certainly been a great chance to see the breed working well on different farms, adapting to different diets, to produce different types of milk for production of different cheeses, seeing the best of French progeny at the show has been further inspiration for how we need to move the Montbeliarde on in the UK.
Our Montbeliarde dream began the day Mr. Hilliard Dent of Morton Tinmouth, near Darlington, had his open day in June 2003. Here I was faced with some beautiful looking cattle with good conformation and the ability to milk. It seemed to me they were the ideal breed for the future on our farm. Everything that was said about them was positive: good feet, held their udders well, low in mastitis, good milk quality, and when a bull calf was born it was as good as any Charolais or Limousin of the beef breeds.

Having now had Montbeliarde cattle here for nine years we have found that all the above traits are true.

As our farm cannot all be used for the dairy herd, the bull calves are kept up to the age of 24 months before they are sold to the finishers. Frequently the pure Monty’s overtake the Limousin crosses in price at auction.

The herd has an average yield of 6000 litres. Many of you may think that is not good enough, but the location of the farm must be taken into account, being 800-900 ft above sea level, and turn out time is always the 2nd to 3rd week of May, a month late compared to lowland farms. Also they are fed solely on grass and dairy cake in summer and silage and dairy cake in winter, which accounts for the fact that foot problems are virtually eliminated.

The original two Induvi in calf heifers, bought in 2003, completed eight and nine lactations respectively between them.

There are no regrets about introducing Montbeliardes to our herd.

On the cosmetic side, we are on a public footpath, and we are frequently asked “What breed are those beautiful cattle you have here?”

We are now approaching the time when there will be a surplus of in calf heifers.

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Sarah Jarvis visited Gary and Kate Simpsons in Cumbria to discuss the progress they have made with Montbeliardees over 10 years... 

Re-stocking in January 2002 was no easy decision for Gary and Kate Simpson after losing their closed Friesian herd to foot and mouth. The challenge was finding replacements that would suit the environment at Knock Cross farm - no easy feat. The 175 acre farm is located on the edge of a fell, with a high annual rainfall meaning any replacement stock had to be hardy to withstand the conditions and wet climate. With a ‘don’t fix it if it’s not broken approach’ there was no plan to change the management system of the farm which the Simpsons knew had worked well with the Friesians, but with hindsight it also provided an opportunity to find a breed that fitted the system even better.

With a ‘Wish list’ in place for a durable robust breed that could maximise the grazing period and produce yield and components on a relatively low input system the Montbeliarde breed was the answer. With stock of the right calibre difficult to find, Gary and Kate visited a farm at St Austell in Cornwall that had a pure Montbeliarde herd. The large framed cows, which were supported by excellent feet and legs, impressed the couple and the yields and associated high levels of components sealed the decision that this was the breed for them. It was from there that the initial starting stock of 68 youngsters (ranging from calves to in calf heifers) and a bull were purchased. Buying younger animals gave them a chance to start from scratch and 10 years on numbers have now grown to a herd of 100 cows with followers.

The Simpsons’ have never looked back, Gary explains “the cows are milking better than the Friesians did and they fitted straight in without us having to really change anything”, the only exception being a new 10x20 swing-over Westfalia parlour which was in need of renewal anyhow. “When others were borrowing money and investing heavily on increasing cow numbers and their inputs, we concentrated on trying to contain our costs. We didn’t want to borrow so instead we worked with what we had and built on it step by step. The Monty’s’ have enabled us to take this approach.” he says.

The herd is currently averaging 7556kg at 3.92% fat and 3.40% protein with a calving interval of 405 days. Gary goes on to say “We don’t chase for high yields, we just let the cows do what they are capable of”. They keep their feeding simple. The cows graze from April to the beginning of December - weather permitting, which is an extended grazing season compared to many. The good legs and feet that the Monty’s possess are vitally important as some days the cows will have to walk half a mile to pasture. During winter they are cubicle housed on rubber mats and fed grass silage with a small amount of wholecrop wheat; only about 10 acres is put into the clamp a year. Finally they also receive a small amount of 18% protein dairy cake in the parlour. Bought through a local buying group to try and minimise costs whilst not compromising quality the cows are fed according to yield but nothing more than 6kg/day. This primarily grass based diet suits the Knock Cross cows well. Proof of their high performance is demonstrated by one cow who has given over 10,000kg for her sixth consecutive lactation and is still going strong. Similarly in terms of components there is a heifer that has peaked at 5.25% fat and 4.05% protein in her first lactation.

The breeding policy has also been an important aspect of the herds’ development and a key part of the Simpson’s success. Having made the decision to operate a closed herd as before, progress has taken time, with everything originating from the original 68 purchased. On the plus side the breeds high fertility and longevity has meant a low replacement rate, allowing numbers to continually creep up.
“Basically we have kept everything for the last 8 years” Kate tells me, “it is only recently that we have reached a position where we can choose which cows are to go as culls. In nearly all cases this is due to age rather than anything else and we know the heifer replacement is an improvement on what was there before”, she adds. As a breed the Montbeliarde is known for being easy calving, and this is certainly the case at Knock Cross, who have had only two caesareans in ten years with many of the cows calving out at grass and by themselves.

Breeding decisions have been focussed primarily on improving udders whilst retaining high yields with great components to fulfil the Milk Link contract with the milk going to the Lockerbie Creamery for cheese production. Bull selection has mainly been from the Jura area of France “It’s a mountainous region with hot summers and cold winters, and therefore the cows are solid in type and able to handle the conditions, we have found that type of cow also suits our Cumbrian hills and climate” explains Gary. The conformation of the cow and her yields are the final piece of the jigsaw along with selecting for good temperament in choosing the right bull. Putting a high milk bull on the lower yielders and similarly using a bull of higher type and conformation for cows that are already achieving high yields is the ethos. A Belgian Blue is used on anything that they don’t wish to breed from.

It is the value of the Montbeliarde that has also convinced the Simpson’s that they made the right choice in breed. Firstly Gary explains how well the bull calves sell due to their confirmation “the bull calves we have sold through Borderway Mart at Carlisle have averaged £255” none of the other dairy breeds come close to that and with a suffering milk price this has made a big difference “ at above £250 per calf it is the equivalent to over 1000 litres if you are on 25ppl which makes a difference to your bottom line” he says. It isn’t just the bull calf value though; the Montbeliarde cow is a strong and weighty beast as well, so with cull cows weighing around the 850kg mark they also make a good return.

A closed herd, BVD vaccinated, with a high health status and 4 Year TB Testing makes the Simpson’s cattle appeal to buyers far and wide. The couple have sold bulls nationwide for breeding from Devon to Orkney and various places in between, it is whilst discussing these sales that the diversity and adaptability of the breed again comes to the surface, “Not only have the cattle been sold to different areas in the country with different conditions, but they have also gone to a variety of management systems, from an organic farm to a high producing Holstein herd, and to people using them for both pure and cross breeding” says Gary “ we would only ever sell a bull that we would be happy to use ourselves, they are good cattle and will fit into many different systems because as a breed one of their strengths is the ease at which they adapt” he adds.

It’s obvious from my visit the passion and belief this family has for the breed and I couldn’t resist asking about the cows’ character and what challenges if any they have had to overcome. “Character, yes definitely, we have to walk in front of the cows and they follow, we never run after them and we have no need for a dog to round them up as this wouldn’t work either. You just have to show them the way!” Kate explains “they are greedy as well so if all else fails a bucket of cake is all that is required” she says. It is apparent just how well suited the breed is to the Simpson’s and although Gary admits “At first it took a while to get used to their white heads looking at you and the size of them” it is clear also that the Simpson’s, like the cattle have found it easy to adapt to this new breed and moreover have established a productive and strong herd that will no doubt continue to go from strength to strength.

Left: Raising bulls for finishing is an important part of the farm business at Knock Cross.
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This article about one of the top Montbeliarde herds in France is reprinted courtesy of OS Montbeliarde and Coopex Montbeliarde, France.

The farm is at Haute-Savoie (Cruseilles, near Annecy)

At Follon’s farm, the Montbeliarde fully assumes its double label with an orientation towards a dairy breed. It is at the heart of a system that promotes direct sales of all culled cows. The associated producers have reclaimed a niche in the local distribution network from the producer to the consumer.

Follon’s farm is a real hive of activity! But above all, it is a team of 5 members, 3 full-time butchers and often a young intern or trainee.

Here, there is no shortage of work and no lack of ideas. In the 80s, the Thomasson’s family company (Bernard and Jean, are now retired but still there to give a helping hand) was developed around dairy production. Following the completion of various investments, the milk element of the business had made good progress and the associates started to consider setting up a new products workgroup to strengthen the whole business going forward. Pascal Guiavarch, from Brittany, joined the structure in 1990 while Stéphane Labro from Auvergne (Bernard’s daughter’s husband) integrated in 1992.

“Most of the milk is processed at the local cooperative to produce Reblochon, it represents 610,000 litres/year. Through a quota transfer, we were able to start making Tomme cheese and we managed to process around 50,000 litres. “At the same time, some pigs were bought and initially sold packed in boxes to customers.

Activity grew and production increased gradually, and alongside this, the societal demands of customers expanded. Some wanted beef, others preferred to rediscover the taste of veal and this made the associates want to go further. With all on the same wavelength, at the turn of the Millenium they decided to build a processing laboratory. Not far from the milking parlour an existing building was converted into cellars, a sterilizing room, a

Above: A thriving farm shop compliments a progressive dairy farm at Gaec La ferme de Follon.
Right: The well known Montbeliarde sire Atribord originates from this French herd.
that milk comes from the udder, understanding the dentition of each species ... but also remembering the importance of preserving pastures and farms in good order seems essential if we want these future citizens to be consumers and customers”.

One unusual element to UK farmers will be the practice of castrating or rather ovariectomy the females which are used for beef. Pascal Guivarc’h can see various benefits in castrating cattle. “They are calmer and continue to milk while their carcass is still growing. They especially have better persistence which gives flexibility in managing the herd and the quota. The cost is similar to insemination. We castrate approximately one month after calving. It should be done by an excellent practitioner.”

A thesis written by Thibaut de Roizel-Marlier dating from 2004 (National Veterinary School of Alfort) discusses the effects of ovariectomy on the production of montbéliarde and Prim’Holstein cows. The study is based on the comparison of dairy cows which have, or have not, been castrated. Ovariectomy leads to a significant increase in the dairy persistence totalling 2.8kg

Pascal and Sylvain, herd managers, have the task of supplying the shop. Veal calves suckle nursing cows twice a day. They are slaughtered at about 4-5 months for a carcass weight of around 120 kg. “We do not sell any new born calves. Depending on their conformation, we choose their destination. If they go to meat, we castrate them with rubber rings. Castrated bulls production is more recent and the first ones have just come out, at 400 kg of carcass. All the cows which go for meat are castrated. Whether dry or still in production, which is the case for most, they receive the same ration as the dairy cows. The ration is well balanced at around 30 kg of milk. 35 to 40 cows are slaughtered at different ages and produce approximately 360 kg of carcass. Pascal admits that “some cows could do with another month of finishing, but demand is so high at the store they leave anyway.”

The idea of producing crossbred animals has never crossed the mind of the associates. “Hey, guys, she is double purpose, the Montbéliarde breed! In addition, it is much easier to communicate on a consistent product. Our sole objective is to sell our work at the place of production and explain to consumers that everything is derived from the farm.” “It is in the same vain that Pascale is pleased to welcome all the children on the farm “Explaining that cows ruminate, describing what hay is, showing them

Left: Around 35-40 cows are slaughtered per year on the farm, with average carcass weight being 360kg.
Above: Since the turn of the Millenium a farm shop has enabled direct sales from the farm to local consumers.
of milk per day during the four months following castration if it is done before the 125th day of lactation. There is no impact on the quality of milk: protein content, fat content and cells do not record any variation.

“Diversification is not incompatible with selection (bull dams, shows ...) and a good level of production. We have developed selling from the farm, but we have not forgotten the rest” assure the breeders.

For example, one of our best cows called “EURASIE” was the Reserve Grand Champion of the last COOPEX-UMOTEST show in February 2012. She is a RALBAN/MICMAC/FAUCON’s daughter, and she has an excellent CORTIL son which is close to being used as genomic bull in the next months. Also from the same famous bloodline, we find PEGGY (FAUCON/BOISLEVIN) who is an excellent example to show the longevity of the Montbeliarde breed: born in 1999, she is still in production (currently in her 11th lactation at the moment) and she has already given more than 100 tons of milk. She is the dam of ATRIBORD, the best ODISLAIT son with 147 points of ISU, +830 kg of milk, +0.13% Protein and +1 in Longevity.

The dairy cows are housed in a building with cubicles, slatted mattress and carpet. The winter ration is hay-based revival (made by drying using a dehumidifier) with supplementation: oil cake (soyabean - rape - linseed - max 2 kg), cereals (65% corn – 25% barley - 10% beet pulp - max 4 kg) and production concentrate (max: 3 kg). In summer the cows graze day and night, changing fields every day. The type of concentrates is based on the quality of the grass.

Interesting Statistics 2010-2011:

- 78 pure Montbeliarde cows at 9550 kg milk
  3.49% Protein and 3.72% Fat
- SCS: 94
- Average number of lactations: 2.7
- Age at first calving: 33 months
- 34% replacement rate
- Calving Interval: 395 days

Insemination April 2011 - April 2012:

- 58% held to 1st service on cows
  (25% of AI are done with sexed semen)
- 15% of cows had 3 inseminations or more
- Calving to 1st insemination average : 83 days.
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The Warburton family have always strived to milk cows on a relatively simple system. A trip to France and the Paris show in 2002 saw Rob return to the farm near Appleby very impressed with the red and white breed he had seen during his holiday and keen to try a few straws of Montbeliarde semen on his own Holsteins. In honesty Rob says he had no preference which breed he selected, and he has tried the Swedish Red cross as well. However ten years down the line the Montbeliarde and her crosses are the dominant breed in this 200 cow unit.

Taking nothing away from the Holstein who can give vast amounts of milk, Rob tells us that the easy calving nature of the Montbeliarde breed is certainly an endearing feature. Traditionally the herd has a break from calving between mid December and April, leaving the rest of the year fairly busy. Nowadays, with the Monty and her crosses it’s not a case of waiting up or getting up to see her, apart from the odd calving difficulty she can be left to her own devices. That sloped rump and high tail head maybe looks unsightly but it certainly creates a pelvic floor that aids calving. Ideally calving now occurs outside, since 1st May there have been 140 calvings without anyone really noticing.

The Warburton family’s herd is now registered with Montbeliarde UK, and is principally a black and white herd which has been crossed to the Monty and graded up. Only a few animals have been introduced. Three heifers were bred initially, the result of the first semen bought after coming back from France, and they impressed, they gave 8000kg lactations and calved every year in June right up until their sixth lactations, one now remains having just calved her ninth. At the same time two pure Monty heifers were purchased from Cornwall – one of which is still in the herd and two heifers from France were bought of which one has just calved its sixth and has a son which will be used on the herd.

In 2007 the herd underwent another change in direction by converting to organic production. This was the preferred alternative to pushing cow numbers up to around 350 cows, to ensure farm survival going forward. Coincidentally this switch again favoured the Montbeliarde breed and focused breeding in this direction - Rob says it’s not really possible to buy the feed products that are needed to sustain a Holstein when you are organic, and last year only two pure Holsteins heifers calved on the farm. Milk is sold to OMSCO through First Milk with the farm’s milk currently exported to Belgium, where demand for Organic milk is growing far more than here in the UK –perhaps because supermarkets are keener to display it to the consumer. The Warburton’s, after an initial two year conversion period when they got the standard milk price plus conversion money from the government; are now in year three of actual organic production and thus are towards the end of the initial five year commitment to organic production which they had to make- however switching back is not currently on the cards.

Great emphasis is placed by Rob on sire selection and he does believe that the bull chosen to go onto a Holstein does have a bearing – hybrid vigour is not the only factor at work. Using French sires he has found the proofs to be accurate, but whereas he was looking for health trait information ten years ago on Holsteins and struggling to find it that same information is readily and reliably available for the Monty breed - with his selection focusing on cell counts, fertility and temperament. Of course the strong Black and White cow families have become the strong Monty families within the Colapple herd.

Herd life seems to have improved, which is consequentially dropping replacement costs and the herd continues to grow in size, with voluntary culling taking place as well.
One thing which has surprised the Warburton’s is there has been no visible yield drop during the introduction of the Monty breed. The herd has and continues to average around the 8000 litres mark, because of or despite switching breeds and going organic. The herd is now fed from a mixer wagon, which can chop the forage and replaced a self feed silage system (which lacked pit face for the growing number of cows). This is the only change to counteract what you would expect to be two factors liable to depress yields. Heifers in particular have gained from the feeder wagon, no longer fighting for feeding room at the pit face. There has been a fall in components though since going organic with fats previously at 4.2% and now averaging 3.8% while proteins have fallen from 3.4 to 3.3%, although milk payment is currently only on a standard litre price.

Generally the Montbeliarde have been quiet to work with at this Cumbrian farm, as long as you don’t get between a cow and its food! While as a breed udders are not as aesthetically pleasing, units don’t drop off and with showing not a consideration they are very functional with the gains in terms of fertility, calving ease and health traits (herd cell count average is only circa 150) outweighing the herds foibles. Herd health is a priority on an organic system so vaccination for IBR, Lepto and BVD is carried out; while fortnightly routine vet visits occur. Use of PRID’s and CIDR’s has dramatically dropped since Monty’s became more numerical in the herd with the herds calving interval running at 385 days.

Another gain has been in the bull calves which average £100-£120 more than Black and Whites. Calves are sold either privately or through Carlisle mart, with repeat customers appreciating their good growth rates and excellent killing out grades- for Monty crosses either to the Holstein or to beef breeds such as the Simmental or Belgian Blue.

Forage utilisation and feeding has changed a little since organic conversion which is likely to also favour the Monty breed. The feeder wagon takes silage as well as crimped barley which is produced on farm from the 70 acres grown each year. The feeder wagon feeds a flat rate while cows are fed to yield through cake in the parlour and with out of parlour feeders – although organic cake is more basic as it lacks the likes of protected fat etc. 3800 litres comes from forage. Three cuts of silage are taken each year and although the farm is too marginal for Lucerne growth, red and white clover has been introduced subsequently increasing yields.

The herd now is in a position where all the young stock are Montbeliarde and over 50% of the milking herd will be Monty crosses as the breed seems to be delivering. The increased cull cow price, better calf returns and lower maintenance cow with her calving ease, high fertility and low cell count has endeared the Warburton’s and the romance ignited in Paris 10 years ago lives on!
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Bill Foster, Dairy Breeding Specialist, Genus ABS
Ian and Steph Sharman have changed from a high yielding Holstein herd to a pure Montbeliarde herd. This involved a fundamental switch at their Holbeck farm - from an arable farm that fed dairy cows achieving high yields, to a dairy farm that fed cows to maximise profitability on their system. Steph answers our questions on Montbeliarde calves and the differences in the youngstock rearing now compared to earlier days:

What if anything do you do differently with the newly born Montbeliarde calf from the Holstein?

In our transition from Holsteins to Montbeliaredes, we made the decision to sell out Holsteins freshly calved. Looking back the first difference was snatch calving, in the past we had always taken the calf straight from the cow and ‘bagged it’ to ensure it got the start it required in terms of colostrum. With the Montbeliarde calf it was obvious from birth we had a more robust breed on our hands. The cows are very easy calving and require little, if any assistance. They are also exceptionally good mothers so we have continued to calve our cows inside wherever possible and tend to leave the calves on for the first 24 hours before separating them.

Can you explain how you feed and rear the calves after the first 24 hours?

We keep everything very simple – navels are treated within a few hours of birth, then after 24 hours with their dam, calves are moved to individual pens on straw bedding. They remain in pens up to weaning age at 8-10 weeks when they are then put in groups of about six. We train the calves to the bucket as soon as possible and they are fed waste milk that we pasteurise – two litres twice daily to begin with then building up gradually to a maximum of four litres twice daily. At six to eight weeks of age we then move to once a day feeding for two weeks prior to fully weaning. Water and course mix ration is available straight away to the calf as well to try and get it off to the best possible start; similarly we feed hay/haylage from quite a young age.

Following weaning, we tend to separate out our replacement heifers and group them together and they go onto heifer nuts which are increased gradually up to 2kg/heifer/day and that is accompanied by ad lib hay and haylage.

What, if any health problems have you encountered with the Monty calf?

Generally we have found the Montbeliarde calf is a more robust and healthier calf than our Holsteins perhaps were and we can honestly say we haven’t had any real issues with them. We have always tried to give our calves the best start and have always been conscious not to overstock, ensuring the calves have plenty of ventilation and good air space that is free from draughts and the Dutch barn with straw bales that houses our heifers provides that kind of environment. We de-horn at weaning age and vaccinate all the heifers for IBR, BVD, and Lepto.

How many heifers do you rear each year and do they all go as replacements?

We rear all our heifers on, grazing and winter housing limits...
the youngstock numbers to about 100 so we always have a surplus to sell as well. Due to the longevity and hard working nature of the Montbeliarde cow we have a low replacement rate, although we continue to rear 50 heifers a year on average as replacements which will enter the herd as we improve on the genetics we already have and thus make the herd better and better year on year.

At what age do you calve your heifers?

We calve our heifers at 28-30 months and have always been amazed how easily they calve on the whole requiring very little assistance. The other main difference for us is when our Monty heifers calve they are not bursting with milk and uneasy but instead they come to more and more milk during their lactation. This relieves some of the pressure on the heifer at the start, but still sees her complete the lactation with the same amount of milk.

We inseminate all our bulling heifers (serving them up to twice) with sexed semen, and then if need be we put them to the bull. Since converting to Montbeliarde we have decided to breed the top 50% of the herd pure to continue herd improvement and then we use double muscled Charolais on the rest that gives us a strong beef calf for sale. We have found that there is a huge choice of sexed Montbeliarde semen available including high genomic and big name bulls such as Urbaniste and Faucigny. Using sexed semen has allowed us to increase numbers quickly and improve the herd as a whole faster than using conventional semen.

Holbeck had a successful first Invitational sale back in 2012 – what made you decide to have the sale and what conclusions did you draw from the sale?

The use of sexed semen on heifers means that each year we have surplus to sell. For Ian and I holding the Invitational sale gave us a chance to showcase the type of heifers we are breeding and promote not only ourselves and the Holbeck herd, but also the breed. The consignment from France and the UK breeders who consigned all played a part in the success of the sale, which hopefully helped to raise the profile of the breed. The advantage of having a sale like that is you often attract new faces and it gives breeders the chance to meet pedigree and commercial men alike. It all helps to get the benefits of Montbeliarde's publicly far and wide. We have been pleased with the feedback from the sale and have heard from some purchasers that the cattle sold are doing well; it is always nice to hear how they have gone on.

What advice would you give to someone starting to rear Montbeliarde youngstock?

Basically treat them the same as any other calves, as heifers be aware of body condition scores as they come to bulling age, and appreciate the value of them.

We have sold our bull calves and any cross breds through Beeston in batches of 12 at three to five weeks, the calves have sold up to £200/calf better than Holstein calves of the same age. With this added value in the calf it doesn't matter what the cow has. Since we converted from Holsteins we have never looked back and certainly now we would never swap the Montbeliarde as a breed. We will continue to try and use the best genetics on our youngstock and by doing so will continue to take the Holbeck herd forward.
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If you have decided to purchase some Montbeliarde cattle or semen this page is designed to offer some guidance in becoming a member and registering your Montbeliarde cattle.

**Becoming a member of the Montbeliarde Society...**
- The first step is to apply for a membership pack from the Secretary. This pack contains all the information about becoming a member and explains the services offered by the Society that are available to you.
- At this stage you will also need to choose a prefix for your Montbeliardes. This might be an existing name that you use for another breed or be associated to your farm name as examples.
- Annual membership to the society is currently £40/year.

**Registering animals with the Montbeliarde Society...**
- You must be a fully paid up member of Montbeliarde UK to register any animals.
- When registering your animal it is important to check both of the following:
  - Is the dam of the animal already registered?
  - Does the sire have a full pedigree?
- If the answer to either of the above is no, you may find it difficult to register your animal as a pure Montbeliarde, and DNA may be required as proof of parentage of your animal.
- It is possible to upgrade your animals from non-registered to pure bred, although it does take a number of generations...
  - ASR’s are usually the starting point. They are registered in their own right with a family name ear tag / line number and date of birth (if known), a sire can be added to their records if this can be verified. A certificate is then issued for these animals.
  - BSR’s are usually progeny out of the above group and would be registered with full details of the ear tag / date of birth / dam / sire details verified from milk records or on farm records. ASR & BSR are both forms of supplementary register.
  - FULL PEDIGREE animals can then be registered out of BSR animals with their certificates stating what percentage pure bred they are.
- Imported French cattle that carry full documentation and proof of pedigree can be transferred onto a UK registration certificate.
- All animals must be registered within 45 days of birth. Any registrations made after this time will require DNA which incurs further charges.
- All our registrations are completed through Holstein UK, with breeders able to complete registrations either by telephone or on the internet.
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