

# "Shebbear Farmers Successful Show Season!"

We are proud to pay tribute to our Shebbear farmers who, with skill and stockmanship, have kept the 'Shebbear flag' flying high in the Agricultural Show rings throughout this summer season.

David and Sue Skinner farm at Allacott with their son, Toby, who joined them on the farm last year. David Skinner is the third generation of the family at Allacott following the retirement of his father, Sercombe, in 2005. Rebuilding their stock, after Foot and Mouth, the Skinner family have a fine beef suckler herd of Blonde d'Aquitane cattle.



This has been borne out this year with successes in the show ring. In May at the Devon County Show their 16 month old heifer 'Allacott Anouska' won the breed championship. A similar success was achieved with their 15 month old bull 'Allacott Amos.'

This success was followed up in July at the Royal Show at Stoneleigh, Warwickshire where, against stiff opposition, Anouska was placed first in her class and also Breed Champion Maiden Heifer. ("Maiden heifer" being a young heifer not having had a calf)

More recently, at Holsworthy and the North Devon shows, Anouska was once again placed first in her classes. As she has been judged the best Blonde heifer in the South West she will represent the region in the U.K. finals.

David Skinner says that following this year's success, all being well, (one needs to say that in farming!) in 2007 Anouska will lose her "maiden" status and will produce a calf later on in the year. In the meantime Allacott Amos will be enjoying himself!

The Haste family - Ted, Christine and Andrew, of Stoneleigh have a fine herd of Belgian Blue cattle which was founded in 1983. Their first major show success was in 1986 and they have been successful at various shows over the intervening years. Last year they won the interbreed championship at Liskeard and Royal Cornwall shows.



This year they have been successful with their 30 month old in calf Belgian Blue heifer "Hazelwood Wisegirl."- reserve champion at the Royal Cornwall and best Belgian Blue at Devon County. She was also champion Belgian Blue Female at the North Devon show and interbreed champion at Holsworthy. These successes were repeated at Launceston, Okehampton and also at "Royal Ashwater!"

Showing cattle is very time consuming and the Haste family together with Hazelwood Wisegirl and the other cattle they have shown have had a very busy summer season. As an in calf heifer Wisegirl will be producing her first calf next year - sired by a Bazadais bull.

As will be seen from the photograph, taken at the 2005 Royal Cornwall, Ted, Christine and Andrew have been joined by the next generation - young Gregory Haste has donned a white coat - as they receive the cup from the President of the Show - Bishop of Truro the Rt. Rev. Bill Ind.

Now, at the end of the summer show season Nigel Jenkinson and his family of Alscott Farm scored a major success at the South West Beef and Growing Cattle Show which was held at Hatherleigh Market on September 7<sup>th</sup>. Their steer, which rejoices in the name "Arnie," (named after Arnold Schwarzenegger!) won the supreme championship of the show where there were over 50 entries from all over the South West of England.

"Arnie" is a steer weighing 550 kgs. at the age of 16 months. His mother is a Belgian Blue cross Limousin cow and he is sired by a Belgian Blue bull. At Hatherleigh he won the class for steers weighing under 560kgs. and then went on to be judged the best "owner-bred" beast and also best of the Belgian Blues.

The icing on the cake was, of course, the Supreme Championship at this prestigious event and the Jenkinson family have every right to be proud of "Arnie!" Nigel Jenkinson has norther plans for "Arnie" -he will probably be appearing at some of the Christmas Shows around the country - that is those shows of the "Primestock" variety!



Congratulations to our farming families who have worked so hard to achieve these results. *Perhaps, somewhere out there, is a young farmer who could become the "Agricultural correspondent" of Reflecting Shebbear so that the major industry of our parish is well reported!*