

## AN DROIMFHIONN DONN DÍLIS

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A dhroimeann donn dílis, a shíoda na mbó, cá ngabhann tú san oíche is cá mbíonn tú sa ló ? Bíonn mise ar na coillte is mo bhuachaill i m' chomhair agus d'fhág sé siúd mise ag sileadh na ndeor. Níl fearann, níl tíos agam, níl fionta ná ceol, níl flatha i m' choimhdeacht, níl saoithe ná sló Ach ag síoról an uisce go minic sa ló agus beathuisce agus fíon ag mo naimhde ar bord. Dá bhfaighinnse cead aighnis, nó radharc ar an gcoróin Sasanaigh a leidhbfinn mar a leidhbfinn seanabhróg Trí chnocaibh is trí ailtibh, is trí draighneach lá ceo agus siú mar a shaorfainn mo dhroimeann donn óg.

### The Droimeann Donn Dílis

O droimeann donn dílis, O flower of the lea, Where are you by nighttime, where are you by day ? 'I'm confined to the woodlands, my minder in tow, and it's there that he's left me, in tears, lying low. I'm bereft of a homestead, land, music and wine, attendants and princes are no longer mine, I've nothing but water to fill my poor cup, While on whiskey and wine my foes gaily sup. Could I get access to, or sight of that crew, I'd dispose of the Sasanach like a battered old shoe.' Then thro' hills and thro' bogs, and thro' places of thorn, Is how I will guide you, my young Droimeann Donn .



## The Droimeann Cattle Society

Founded on 11<sup>th</sup> September 2016 at a meeting held in The Firgrove Hotel, Mitchelstown by a number of breeders and non-breeders interested in the preservation of the breed. Full membership open to breeders in possession of at least one pedigree female recognised by the society as pure. Associate membership open to those who do not have any cattle but are interested in the breed and feel that they may have a role in the preservation of the breed or are just interested in the breed. The following method statement was adopted at the meeting;

**To promote the preservation of the Droimeann Breed of cattle with the aim of maintaining a viable population of purebred animals to preserve their genes as a genetic resource, while at the same time doing all that is necessary to promote the commercial attributes of the breed.**



The society operates as a co-operative affiliated with the Irish Co-operative Society and the Register of Friendly Societies. Some genetic testing was undertaken on Droimeann Cattle by Weatherbys on an ad hoc basis before Paul Flynn completed a thesis on the breed in 2009. A subsequent genetic study was undertaken in 2013, followed by tests in 2015, 2016 and samples are currently being prepared for analysis. These studies show the level of purity of the cattle as well as the level of co-ancestry, which allows for the optimal selection of stock bulls for individual herds. The results are promising, revealing cattle of up to 100% purity. To date over 300 cattle have been tested. From here on out testing will be conducted on an annual basis on newborn calves.

The society will, in the next month or so, commence works on drafting pedigree certificates for individual cattle and by the end of the Summer we hope to submit our data to the dept. of agriculture in the expectation that we will be allowed to open a herd book as a fully recognised breed. Our herd book rules have already been approved by the dept.



The society is actively seeking new members and sponsors and are in the process of undertaking a number of initiatives such as the setting up of a website, getting bulls into A.I., acquiring a certification mark and promoting the breed. Following the anticipated recognition of the breed by the dept. of agriculture we hope to avail of any supports, such as grants and to ensure the eligibility of the breed for participation in schemes such as GLAS etc. and we intend to actively market produce from Droimeann cattle.



The Droimeann cattle Society have a facebook page and the General Manager of the society, Tom Keane, can be contacted for more information on the breed at [droimeanncattle@hotmail.com](mailto:droimeanncattle@hotmail.com) or 087 4109978.

Droimeann is an Anglicisation of the word Droim Fhionn which can be translated as white backed. While the classic colour associated with droimeann cattle is a speckled or mottled black and white cow with a white stripe running the length of the back, a variety of colours are present in the breed, plain black, white or red as well as black and white or red and white and also some blue animals.



Traits associated with droimeann cattle are good maternal qualities, and very good fertility with heifers being fertile from about five months of age and cows frequently in calf within seven or eight weeks of last giving birth. They are a hardy breed, often out-Wintered by farmers and can subsist on land that would be unsuited to continental cattle. They are long living and while they were traditionally a dairy breed they also perform well as suckler cows as they have plenty of milk to rear a calf and are known for ease of calving.



