

## **Blondes exported to Southern Ireland**

Following the change in Blue tongue status in GB and the lifting of export regulations on 5<sup>th</sup> July, forty British Blonde cattle were exported from the UK this week going to Southern Ireland.

The three purchasers, Dessie Donohoe from Co. Meath, Martin Lyons (Co Mayo) and Francis Donohoe (Co Westmeath) travelled around Scotland and the North of England looking at many of the top herds in those areas. After travelling several hundreds of miles they selected thirty nine females from Jim Frame (Gala herd) in Lanarkshire, Fred Saunders (Maidenlands) from Cumbria, Alison Watt (Strathisla) from Banffshire and P Weightman and son (Hallfield) from Co Durham. Strathisla Egor, a two year old bull sired by the Highland show champion Strathisla Sorrel was the only bull amongst the females that travelled.

Dessie Donohoe who runs the Baltra herd which has a over fifty head of Blondes said he was delighted with the cattle which had travelled well and have since settled in to their new holdings. He was also delighted to get such a large number of quality stock in one consignment.

Martin Lyons who runs the Mountbrown herd purchased thirteen cows from the Strathisla herd three years ago and was keen to have more. One that caught his eye was a cow called Strathisla Beverley, out of a Whiteleys dam which had originated from the renowned Marshall Dougalls herd in Stirlingshire.

Breed Secretary Caroline Jackson said “ It is very encouraging to have such a strong consignment being exported to the south of Ireland so soon after Great Britain becoming Blue tongue free. I fully expect this to be the first of many such enquiries from both Ireland and other EU countries”