

# Crossbreeding

When crossed with a beef breed, breeder's benefit from a high value product (the crossbred calf) from a low maintenance unit (the Shetland cow) resulting in a high profit margin.

They generally produce a low birth weight calf – typically 40kg – that grows at a rate expected of a beef breed. Even without creep feeding DWLG are achieved in excess of 1.4kg (steers) & 1.3kg (heifers) with 200 day weights of 320kg (steers) & 290kg (heifers).



Photo: Shetland x Limousin calf – 4½ months old

*'The Shetland has proven to be a fantastic suckler cow with exceptionally good traits which performs incredibly well in our commercial system. They are underestimated due to a lack of awareness of the breed's capabilities.'*

SE, Derbyshire

# Hybrid Cow

Farmers are crossbreeding the Shetland with other beef breeds to produce hybrid breeding stock, mixing the Shetlands strong native traits with continental traits to give impressive results.

A three way cross - Limousin bull on a Shetland x Simmental Cow - produces a calf weaned at the same rate as the cow. The calves consistently achieve a U3/U4L carcass classification with dead-weights in excess of 360kg at 14 months old.



Photo: Shetland x Limousin Cow

*'The Shetland is as important a factor in all this as the Simmental & the Limousin – as I say, my little nuggets of gold'*

ND, Norfolk

# SHETLAND COWS

For Commercial Farmers



*A breed from the past with*

*a place in the future*

**Profitable Suckler Cow  
with Exceptional Traits**

# Economic, Low-Maintenance Suckler Cow

The Shetland evolved as a dual-purpose cow, being required to provide a plentiful milk supply for both its calf & the household. This milk yield explains the high growth rate of their progeny.

Their udders are exceptionally neat & tidy with teats that remain small throughout their lives.

They are good-natured, low maintenance cows that perform well in a variety of farming businesses ranging from extensive to intensive situations.



Photo: Shetland cow - 5 years old

*'Sensibly sized, milky & even-tempered cow, economical to keep whilst producing a large well-fleshed calf at weaning'*

CM, Ayrshire

Shetlands are famed for their ease of calving helped by their pelvis width, which is second only to the Jersey. They calve quickly & easily, rarely requiring assistance, with calves eager to get up & feed.

They are renowned for their high fertility, can maintain a tight calving pattern & continue to breed into their late teens.

Shetland beef is of the highest quality, scientifically proven to be high in conjugated linoleic acid & with excellent marbling, giving wonderful flavour & texture.



Photo: Shetland x Charolais calves

*'The Shetland's attributes allow me to benefit from environmental payments as well as producing credential beef. This amounts to a better margin than three times as many continental breeds'*

TM, Wiltshire

# SHETLAND COWS

For Commercial Farmers

## Key Traits

- Superb mothers with good milk yield
- Easy calving with calves that are born full of vigour
- High fertility & calves consistently into its late teens
- Calm & easy to handle
- Relatively small (average 450kg) requiring less feed & reduced damage to wet ground
- Natural foraging ability & excellent feed conversion
- One of the hardiest of breeds with minimal foot & udder problems
- High carcase yield and quality tender meat

More information can be found at:

Shetland Cattle Herd Book Society  
[www.schbs.co.uk](http://www.schbs.co.uk)

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