

29th May 2008

Corporate Services Panel
Scrutiny Offices
States Greffe
Morier House
St. Helier
JE1 1DD.

Dear Scrutiny Panel,

I write in opposition to the proposed importation of bovine semen.

I have been involved in the Dairy Industry in Jersey for the last eleven years and previously in the U.K. for 25years managing dairy farms.

I am well aware of the financial pressures on dairy farmers in Jersey the industry as a whole has only broken even for the last few years. Farmers who are favour of importation quote an increase in financial gain of approx 4p per litre after a period of 7 to 10 years. This would possibly equate to 3p per litre across the whole industry, which strangely enough is equivalent to the tax, which Government has recently imposed on Milk.

The very best dairies in the U.K. process milk for 16p per litre (i.e. the difference in money which the producer receives to that which the retailer pays.) Jersey Dairy processes milk for 47p per litre at the present time.

I would submit that there is great room for a new dairy to deliver to both the consumer and the dairy farmer and surely the improvement to the dairy farmers return should come here first and perhaps secondly from the GST raised on milk, which after all is a basic food.

There are many more issues than just the financial one but please do not destroy part of our Islands Heritage for a small financial gain.

Yours sincerely

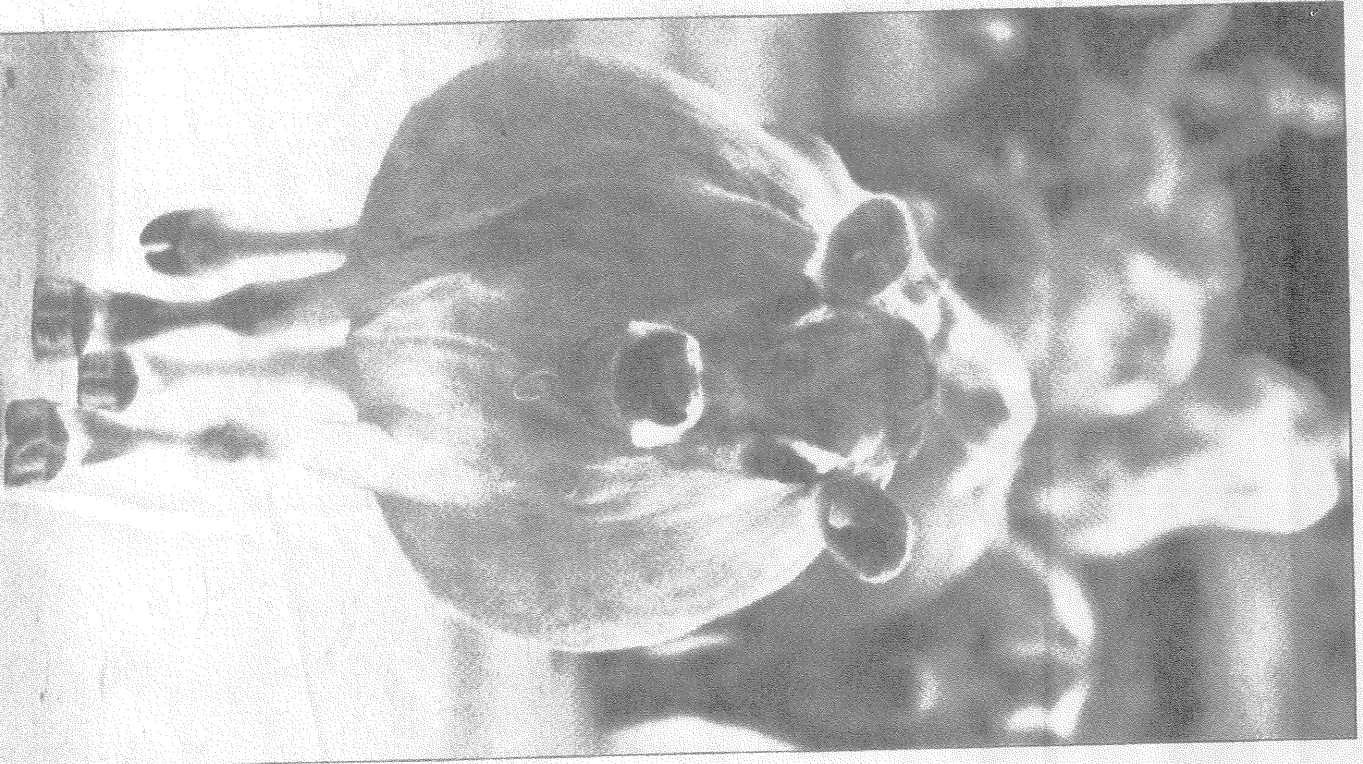


G. H. Walker.

Enclosures:

Foreign

cattle on the way?



The Jersey cow is a symbol of the island, but it could soon find its exclusive place in our fields challenged by new beef cross-breeds

End of semen import ban would let farmers cross-breed for beef

DIFFERENT breeds of cow could soon be seen in Jersey's fields for the first time in Island history.

If a draft bull semen importation law goes through the States this month, the door will be open to breeders to cross Jersey cows with UK beef cattle.

At the moment, the only cows allowed to be reared for meat on the island are Jersey dairy cows, which are much smaller than beef cattle.

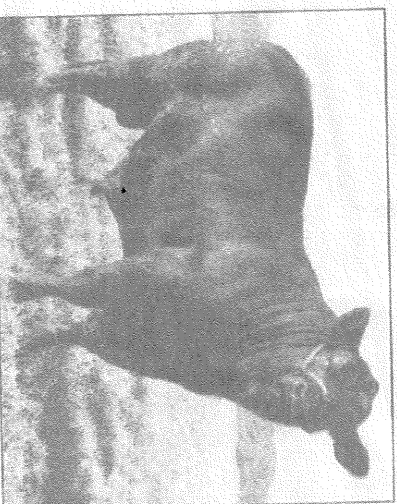
But orders for semen have already been placed in anticipation of the law being passed, which means that

By Ramsey Cudlipp

rcudlipp@leseyevemngos.com

farmers would be able to inseminate Jersey cows with semen from bulls such as Aberdeen Angus, Belgian Blue and Charolais as early as this summer.

The debate over lifting the ban will take place on Tuesday 29 April when Chief Minister Frank Walker will bring the proposition to the States. He has been supportive of the importation since he was first asked by farmers to remove the exist-



The Aberdeen Angus is one of the breeds from which semen could be imported to Jersey

ing restrictions in April 2007.

The issue has split opinion across Jersey's farming community. Supporters of lifting the ban argue that Jersey farmers need access to better

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COMMENT

Our Island

Today



NEWS

End to bull semen import ban?

(Cont from page 1)

bulls but opponents to the importation are worried that the appearance and purity of the Island's cows will be lost.

The possibility of importing beef cattle semen is worrying some sections of the industry.

Henry Walker, who is on the board of Island Genetics, said that he is concerned because the larger animals could cause calving difficulties for Jersey cows.

'I know that some farmers have already placed orders for Belgian Blue semen,' he said.

'This animal is double-mus-cled, looks like a rhino and, because it is much larger, the calves could be dangerous to the mother. In the UK they have to

use ratchets to help dairy cows give birth to Belgian Blues but they don't even have that equipment in Jersey.

'Politicians have not been made properly aware of the beef stock issue before the debate in three weeks. I also think that having cows and bulls in fields that look different to Jersey cows will change the Island's image.'

Pedigree

Royal Jersey Agricultural & Horticultural Society chief executive James Godfrey said that imported semen for beef stock posed no threat to the pedigree of the dairy herds in Jersey.

'There simply would not be a

mix-up,' he said. 'The beef stock is a different issue to the breeding of dairy cows. The DNA testing allows us to trace every animal and there is no question of this affecting the purity of the Jersey cow in any way.'

'Guernsey has been importing bull semen for their dairy and beef industries for over 30 years and the integrity of their dairy herd is still completely intact and they produce some of the best cows in the world.'

Mr Godfrey thinks that there would be some farmers interested in producing cross-breeds but that it would not develop into a large market.

'Jersey's beef producers are definitely keen on using semen from other breeds,' he said. 'But

it would probably be a niche product reared to supply the growing interest in local trade. It also shows diversification which is something the RJAHs are behind.'

Mr Godfrey is confident that the beef would be a superior product and that this could be a good opportunity for farmers in Jersey.

'Crossing Jerseys with beef cattle can make for great eating,' he said. 'The fat marbling of a Jersey cow works very well to make good beef. On Rick Stein's Food Heroes TV programme, he found that butchers preferred steaks from a cross breed of Guernsey's - which are very similar to Jersey cows - and beef cattle.'

Belozanne to

Belozanne to

No imports, says dairy farmer

Change of mind after being 'pressurised' into voting in favour

A DAIRY farmer who is strongly against bull semen imports says that he felt pressurised into supporting the idea at a meeting last year.

Trevor Barrette, who runs Home Farm in St John with his daughter Sarah, told the JEP that at a meeting of the RJAHs last autumn he believed that the line given out to dairy farmers was that they might lose their States subsidies if they were not seen to help themselves by supporting semen imports.

He said: "There was certainly a suggestion at that meeting that subsidies could be at risk if we didn't support semen imports. I signed

in favour at that time because I felt we were being pressurised to agree."

Petition

He and his daughter have now signed a petition organised by dairy farmer Darren Guenault which has been sent to all States Members before Tuesday's debate.

The petition, signed by 15 farmers, urges politicians to consider calling for a risk assessment before changing the 220-year-old law.

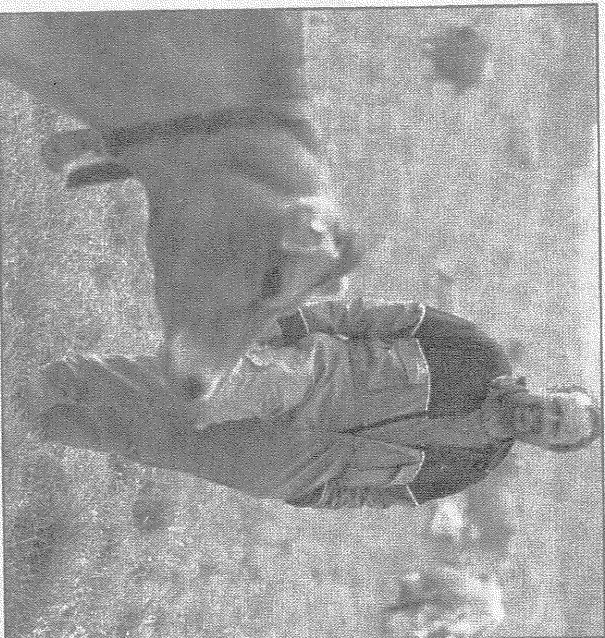
"The proposed law is challenging and there is the

risk that it could lead to live animal imports. I also think that semen imports could result in a decrease in the quality of our cows," he said.

In his view, if the law protecting the Jersey cow was changed in any way, other threats to its future like milk importation — which is currently banned — could become a realistic possibility.

"If milk importation is allowed, the future for dairy farmers like me would be very grim," he said.

Mr Barrette has had a herd at Home Farm for 20 years and his parents had a herd before him at Greve de Lecq. At present, he and his daughter have 250 milking



Trevor Barrette with his cows. Picture: MATTHEW HUTTON (003555508)

cows and more than 100 young stock. He is proud of the fact that theirs has been a three-generation family involved in the dairy industry, who employ staff who are all Jersey residents, and that Sarah will continue to make a living out of it.

Important

"Many of those in favour of importing semen have said that it is important for the future of the Island's dairy industry. Who will be there for the future if the next generation doesn't go into farming?" he said.

He was perfectly happy with the present system and

believed it should not be tampered with in any way. "The Jersey cow is a very efficient food converter with a huge capacity to eat grass and convert it into milk," he said.

If semen was imported, the resultant cows would be likely to need a higher amount of food concentrates which, with oil, wheat and transport costs, were continually rising in price.

Healthy

"To maintain a healthy gene pool, the Barrettes recently bought stock from farmers whose herds had been sold. "These animals are completely new to the genetic pool — no males have been registered from those families," he said.

Mr Barrette believes that those in favour of bull semen importation are trying to have the law rushed through and that the public are not really aware of the full price that will have to be paid by the Island's heritage if they succeed.

"Many people who are not in the industry don't realise that the picture of the true Jersey cow grazing in the fields will be changed. "The lay person doesn't want to see black cows in the countryside," he said.

By Diane Simon

(dsimon@jerseyeveningpost.com)

NEXT week's States debate on the future of the iconic Jersey cow has split the dairy industry down the middle with the farmers against bull semen importation fighting to keep the Island cow's exclusivity.

On Tuesday, Members will vote on whether to remove a 220-year-old law that forbids the importation of outside bull semen, a law which makes Jersey a unique closed-off breeding ground. The proposition has been brought by the Chief Minister, Frank Walker, who was asked to look into the issue by farmers in 2005.

Farmers who oppose the change have rallied in recent weeks and a petition sent to all States Members this week showed that the thin majority (15 out of 29) were against the change because they want to preserve the purity of the breed and its 'unique and iconic status'.

The case against

Dairy farmer Darren Quénault helped organise the petition and he feels that politicians have to listen to the producers before they make a decision that, he warns, could have a devastating effect on the industry, the countryside and the cows.

'People signed this petition because they want more time spent doing a risk analysis,' he said. 'We are unhappy but we do have a voice and we are the future of the industry.'

The Royal Jersey Agricultural and Horticultural Society, who are backing the importation of bull semen, have used Guernsey as an example of how it would benefit the Island, but Mr Quénault said that Jersey should not follow our neighbour's lead.

'Guernsey have not benefited from changing their law over 25 years ago,' he said. 'Everyone keeps saying how wonderful Guernsey is because they have bull semen imports but there is



Darren Quénault at a demonstration in the Royal Square against the importation of bull semen

a difference between the two islands. Jersey was challenged a few years ago about our monopoly but the EU protected us and said that there could be no derogation to allow companies to import milk.

'At that time Guernsey was charging more than Jersey for milk but because they allowed imported semen, they could not defend against imported milk so they had to drop their price. It still remains lower than the Jersey price and this is because they no longer have a defensible case to keep out liquid milk imports and they must deter outside competitors. If they had a defensible case, they would charge more for their milk.'

Mr Quénault believes that the current system protects the heritage and future of the cow.

'At the moment, a ban on imported liquid milk looks after the Jersey cow and everyone looks after the Jersey cow by paying slightly more for their milk,' he said. 'Jersey is an expensive place to produce milk because of high land and feed prices but we do it because we enjoy it.'

While the RJAHS and most farmers have said that they would only want pure pedigree Jersey bull semen, the proposed importation would allow farmers to potentially import bull semen from any type of bull.

Mr Quénault is worried that this could eventually lead to different dairy cows in Jersey.

'We are trying to protect the Jersey cow in her Island,' he said. 'The way to do that is to leave things as they are. If this is a case of economics, then we will eventually see Friesian cows in Jersey because they are the best cow for converting food

'The consumer wants low-fat liquid milk to drink and Friesians produce milk with three per cent fat. The Jersey cow produces milk with high fat and protein content and eats a lot of food to do so. We can't compete with the UK price of milk because they get 90 per cent of their milk from Friesians.

'The Jersey is popular in the US because it produces a lot of soft cheese but we need it to produce liquid milk, something at which black and white cows are better.'

Mr Quénault said that although everyone says that they will not breed different dairy cross-breeds, there is no guarantee that it will not happen.

'It might take ten years or even longer,' he said. 'But with the global price of wheat doubling recently, who knows what will happen in the future? We have a unique breed and Island herd which is our living heritage. We should not jeopardise that.'

Calving

Henry Walker, a former vice-president of the RJAHS, has claimed that the introduction of beef semen to the Island could cause calving difficulties on some farms in Jersey.

'When I spoke to a Jersey vet about this issue, he said that if the law was changed, he would have to be cutting cows out of stomachs,' he said. 'It's a difficult issue but we can't just dismiss it.'

'Some beef cows wouldn't be a problem, like Aberdeen Angus, but Belgian Blue cross calves would cause a problem. The cows used to rear beef stock would probably be the lower

'We have a unique breed and Island herd which is our living heritage. We should not jeopardise that'

—Darren Quénault

they would put all their energy into producing a bigger calf.'

Neil McHarg is a Jersey vet with vast experience of cattle in the UK.

He said that it would be wrong for Jersey to lose the status that it currently has and agreed that crossing breeds could cause calving difficulties.

'The Jersey cow has a uniqueness and character,' he said. 'Bringing in bull semen will change the traditions of Jersey farming and having big cows coming out of small cows will lead to problems. I have seen it in the UK.'

The future

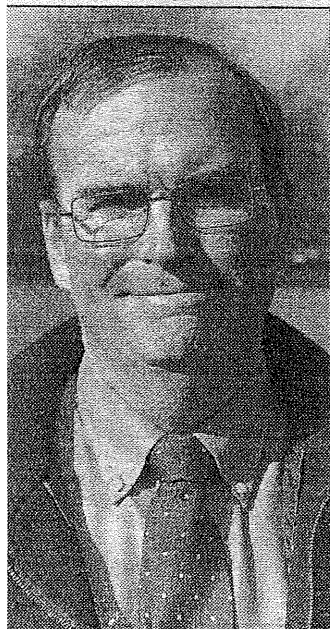
Along with their father David, brothers Peter (22) and Steven (20) Le Cornu own 190 cows at Meadowvale Farm in Grouville. Peter said that he was concerned that lifting the ban on importation could harm their future.

'I want my daughter, who is only 20 months old, to have the option of farming here one day,' he said. 'But I fear this could ruin the industry's future. I don't want to see Jersey without the Jersey cow - it wouldn't be Jersey.'

'I come from a long line of cattle breeders and I want that to be able to continue. The people who want to lift the ban can't guarantee that it will be just Jersey cows. Some people already have beef stock on order which means there will be cows born in Jersey that are not Jerseys. They say there will not be many but just one beef cow in Jersey is bad enough. Jersey will no longer be unique. It will ruin over 200 years of hard work from cattle breeders.'

'We are happy as we are but I think that we may have to import bull semen in the future, maybe in 20 years or so.'

Mr Le Cornu also takes issue with the pro-importation argument that Jersey suffers from a limited supply of bulls and inbreeding among its cows.



Henry Walker has questioned whether the importation of bull semen could bring about calving

Peter Le Cornu, pictured with his brother Stephen (left) at Meadowvale Farm: Jersey will no longer be unique. It will ruin over 200 years of hard work from cattle breeders.

of bull semen and there are enough bulls in the island,' he said. 'Also, I have been told that the minimum amount of cows needed to stop in-breeding is 5,000, so with over 3,500 Jersey definitely has enough. In-breeding is not a problem here.'

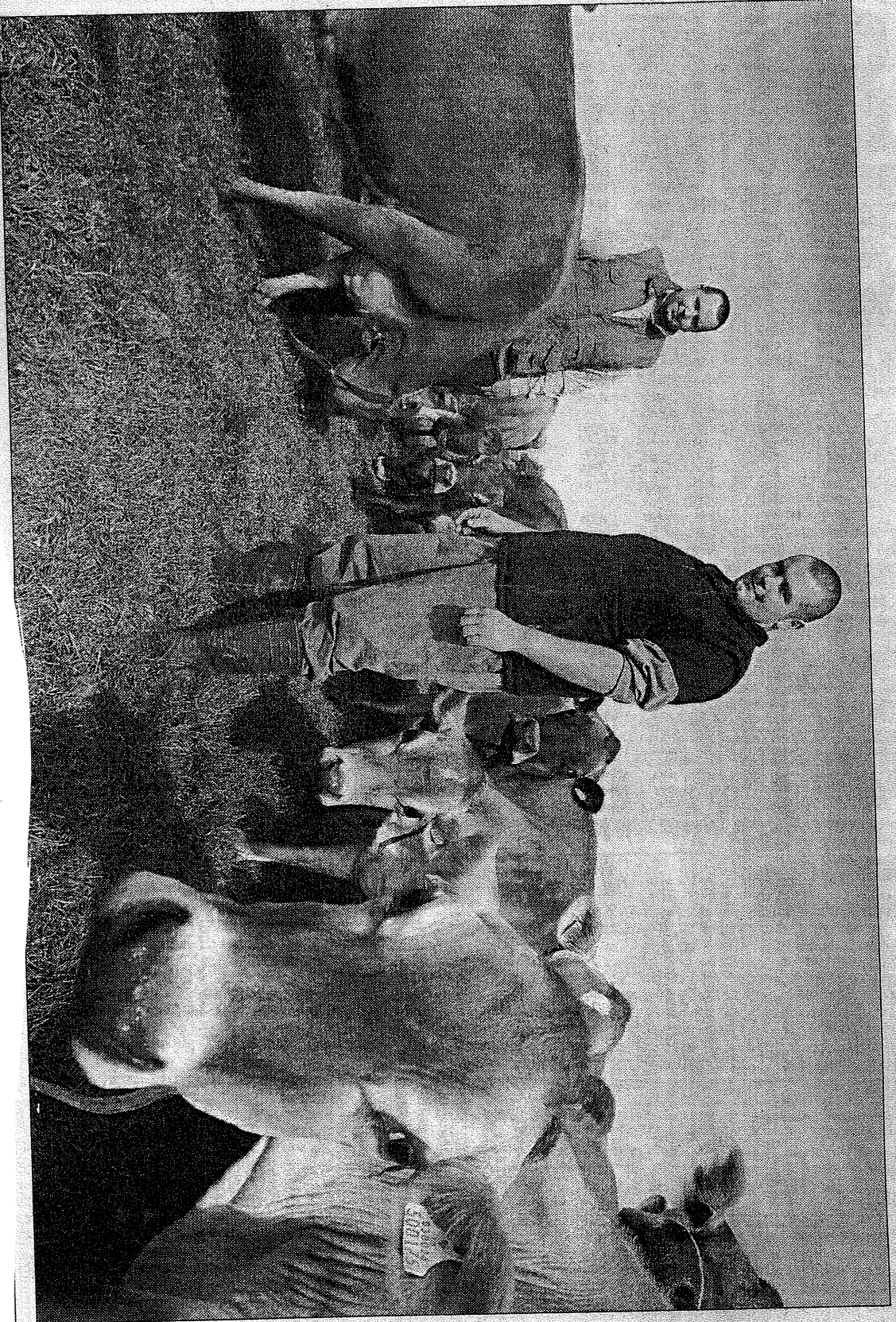
'There is a prize-winning bull in the US that has sired over 1,000,000 cows. That is much more likely to lead to in-breeding than in Jersey where cows are not likely to serve more than 30 or 40.'

'No in-breeding'

Sadie Rennard, who has a herd of about 80 cows, does not think that bull semen importation is needed because the cows are good enough already.

'We don't see a problem with our cows,' she said. 'Some don't give vast amounts of milk but that is because they are not forced. They are talking about using semen from cows in the US that are fed a lot more and injected with hormones to beef them up.'

The lobbyists for the lifting of the ban have warned of future in-breeding in Island herds as the numbers dwindle and the gene pool shrinks but Mrs Rennard said that they are scaremonger.



they are living in a dream world. But once they have opened the floodgates, it will be too late.'

Mrs Rennard has contacted many politicians but said that she has received only about 15 replies.

'Three were for the importation and 12 were against it,' she said.

have two bulls that I use for my cows and that is fine but if this stupid rule comes in they won't have a clue what is coming into the Island.'

She also rubbishes claims that improved genetics will allow Jersey to re-enter the cow export market.

'They will not be able to export cows because it is so expensive to get animals out of the Island,' she said. 'They have also said that they will be able to make £20,000 a year after six years but I don't believe that. I just don't think that anyone has thought about the actual cow.'

'Also, they can't guarantee that they will import pure Jersey bull semen and

farmer Laurence Le Ruez said that he is 'old enough to have sense and experience'.

He has been outspoken against importation for over 30 years and is concerned that all of his hard work developing the Jersey cow through his career will be ruined.

'People don't realise that if importation comes in, the Chief Minister will be doing a great disservice to the people of Jersey,' he said. 'The public have a right to claim the Jersey cow as a treasured part of their heritage.'

Mr Le Ruez was involved in the industry for most of his life and said that there was nothing more enjoyable than breeding cattle. He does not understand why some farmers want to import outside bull semen.

'The bloodlines of the cows in Jersey are as good as ever,' he said. 'At the 2007 Cattle Show, the overseas judges, some who had 40 years of experience, said that they were amazed at the dairy quality and structure of the cattle. What more do you want?'

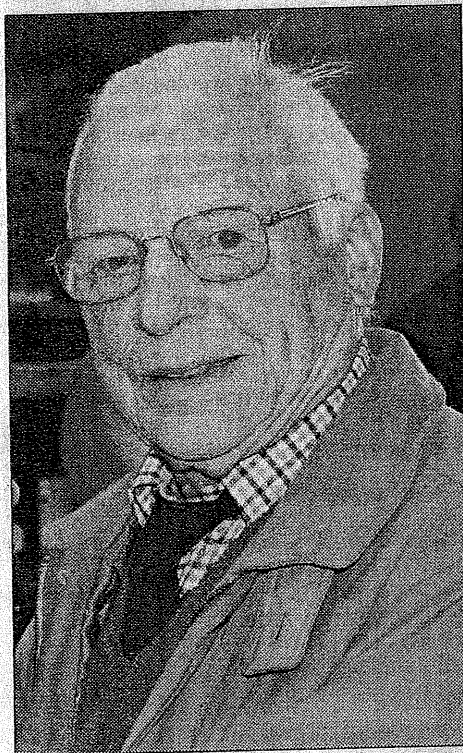
He is worried that the characteristics of the Island cow will be lost and rejects the idea that the bull semen will be 'pure'.

'That is absolute nonsense,' he said. 'They will bring in the American-type cows which are bigger animals. Our cow is very special in structure and must not be interfered with.'

He feels that the future of the industry has already been secured because there are young farmers in the Island who do not want to use imported bull semen.

'It is encouraging to see these youngsters,' he said. 'But most of those who want to import bull semen are past it.'

'I also know that some of the people behind importation already have cows and bulls in the US. My advice to them is to buy a one-way ticket and go and feed them there.'



Laurence Le Ruez: 'People don't realise that if importation comes in, the Chief Minister will be doing a great disservice to the people of Jersey'

the famous beast that bears its name

► Should Jersey cow's gene pool be boosted?

► Half of dairy farmers oppose semen imports

David Sharrock St Helier

The Jersey cow has made its island home famous throughout the world, but now the tiny Crown dependency is split about the future of its most famous export.

Last month islanders named the small nut-brown cow, which produces rich, golden milk, an ambassador for Jersey. But, after decades of concern about its future breeding potential, a vote is imminent in the island's parliament on whether to end a 220-year tradition of maintaining a closed herd, rigorously protected from the outside world.

On Tuesday, the 53 members of The States Assembly will decide whether the time has come to permit the import of bull semen. In this age of globalisation, to many it may seem like an uncontroversial proposal, but in Jersey it has inflamed passions.

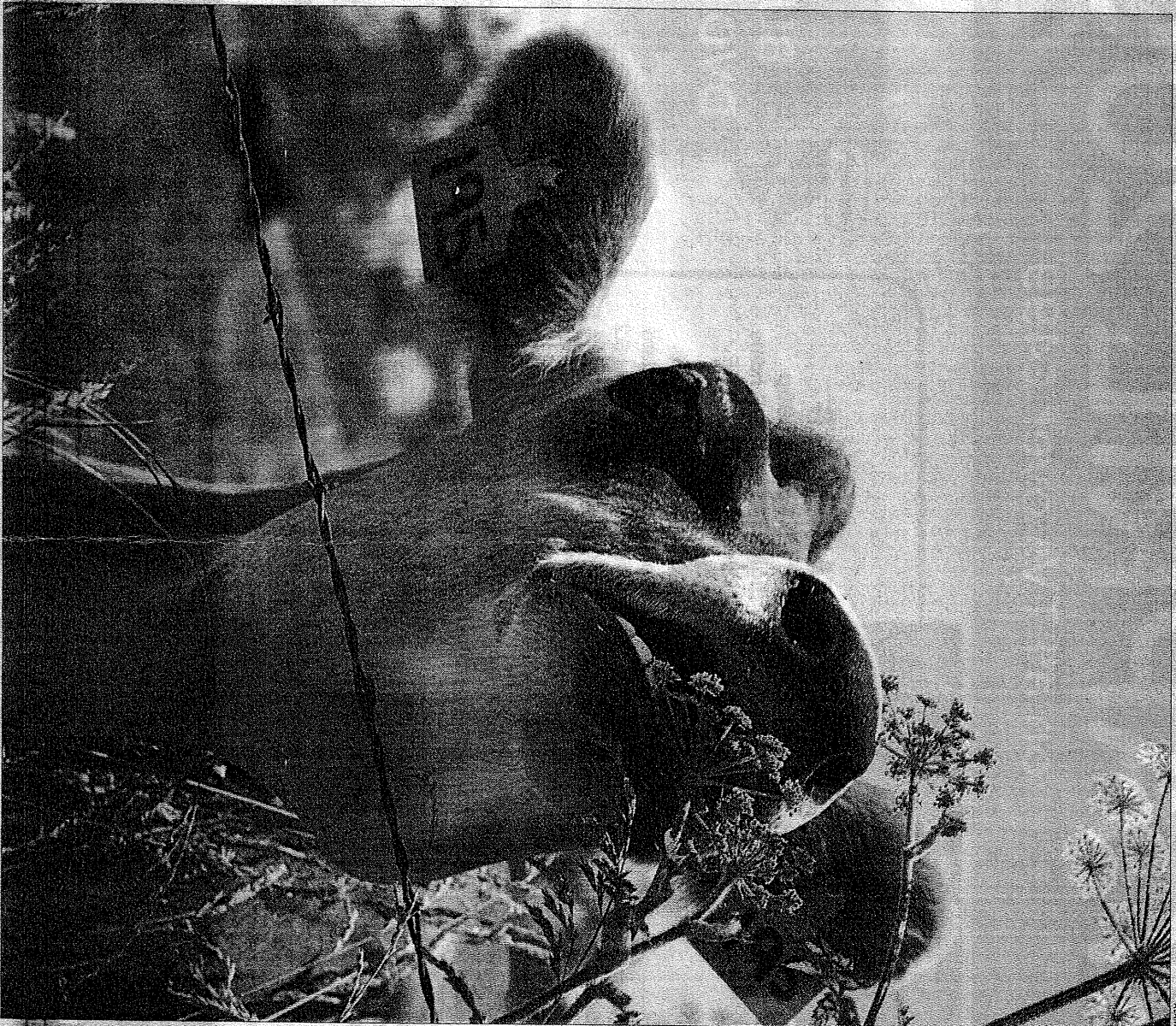
You have only to listen to Darren Quenault, at 41 the island's youngest dairy farmer. "My family came over here in 1525 from France, and I believe our forefathers made the Jersey cow the world's smallest pure dairy breed," he said. "The one thing that she needs is protecting in her own island home and the best way to do that is by maintaining our unique closed herd."

Opposing Mr. Quenault is the Royal Jersey Agricultural and Horticultural Society, founded in 1833 to promote, among other things, "the improvement of agriculture and breeding of cattle."

The society says that the importation of semen will safeguard the future of the domestic herd and improve efficiency. Otherwise, it argues, the local gene pool risks becoming too narrow.

Nicholas Blampied, a retired government vet, disagrees. He says that the case is far from proven and that Jersey will tamper with its cows at its peril.

"There are a lot of dangers in import-



ALAMY

ing foreign semen." Mr. Blampied said, "We have a responsibility to all of the Jerseys worldwide."

The 29 Jersey-cow farmers left on the island are split over the issue — 15 have signed a petition urging the politicians to carry out further research before making a decision. The royal society's own vote in February showed that 175 were in favour of importing bull semen and 115 against — the halves the result of a disagreement between a husband and wife running a dairy farm.

Whatever the outcome, James Godfrey, the society's chief executive, believes that the debate shows how passionately both sides believe in the preservation of the breed.

"They just differ on how to go about it," he said. "I think you have to be a Jerseyman to fully appreciate the passion which our cow generates. It's a technical issue — I'm often asked how is it possible that we can talk for so

GM

Jersey pure-breds around the world

long about semen — but there is also a strong public interest element. It is loved by the island population, it provides all our local needs and its wellbeing is deeply entwined with our own story."

Imports of foreign cattle to Jersey were banned in 1789 to prevent a collapse in its export price. Britain levied no import duty on cattle imported from Jersey, so French farmers were shipping their own inferior cows via Jersey to England, in the process bringing the price down and damaging the reputation of Jersey cattle. In the last century thousands of Jersey bulls were exported from St. Helier.

Mr. Quenault believes that heritage should take precedence in the debate. "Jersey will never compete on a world front, but she's the perfect cow for our requirements. If we open it up we become the same as anywhere else in the world."

Jersey's Assembly could vote to import foreign semen, ending a 220-year tradition of maintaining a closed herd

Bull semen imports are not a plague to be frightened of

● From Frank Poskitt.

I WOULD like to respond to articles in the Jersey Evening Post against the importation of Jersey cattle semen.

After reading these articles, the reader may be seduced into thinking that the importation of semen would result in monstrous cattle of dubious parentage, expensive to keep and producing oceans of milk. This is just not so.

Over time, and responding to heavy investment in the modernising and upgrading of the dairy industry, herds have got larger and breeders fewer. In fact, there are only 28 producers at present compared to 52 in 1998, thus changing the breed structure and breeding patterns.

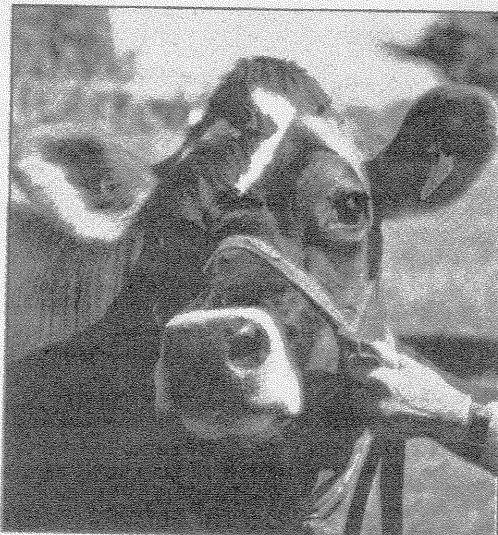
Exporting animals from Jersey has always been a feature of Island breeding, but the demand is no longer there. The loss of younger breeders over recent years must also be a concern.

Jerseys in the UK, on the other hand, are reaping the benefits of increased popularity, with demand outstripping supply. One of the reasons for this is the type of cow being bred. This is not necessarily for size, but more importantly for dairy quality, refinement and dairy strength, without compromising conformation, as some would have us believe.

That cow is therefore utilising expensive foodstuffs more efficiently.

Over recent years, American genetics has had a major influence in this development. Indeed, the three top herds in the UK are based on Island bloodlines and are successfully breeding this way.

The Island is unique, and it may continue to be so by controlling the importation of semen through selecting only a few of the best breeding bulls avail-



In the UK the demand for Jerseys outstrips supply

able. To open the doors fully would be a mistake. In fact, bringing bloodlines back home is an exciting prospect.

No, the importation of semen is not the plague that everyone should fear. After all, breeders are not being forced to use it.

We cannot live in the past (although we do not disregard it), just as we cannot ask the Island breeder to stay put - just in case.

Is it so wrong to want Jersey breeders to be at the forefront in cattle breeding - where they belong - and to enjoy and prosper from the increased popularity of the breed? After all, they have given so much.

I have supported the Island cow for more than 40 years and I shall continue to do so. More importantly, I shall continue to support the Jersey cattle breeders, many of whom I am privileged to call friends.

**14 Auster Bank Avenue, Tadcaster,
North Yorkshire.**

Don't lose the cattle bloodline – at any cost

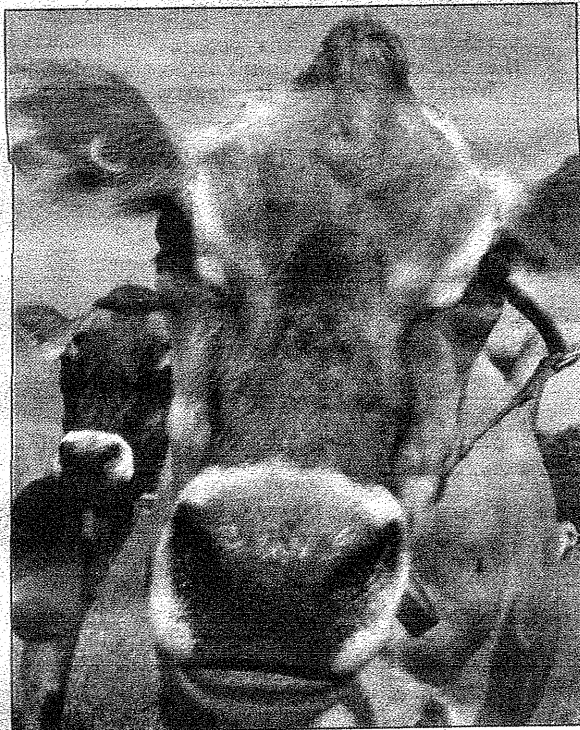
● From H du Feu.

I DEPARTED the land of my birth at the age of 15 in 1946, having formerly lived at Waverley Farm, and still keep an interest in some aspects of the activities in Jersey.

I was shocked and appalled at some very disturbing news recently in the JEP. I just wonder if the RJAHS have taken leave of their senses, proposing the very idea of foreign semen being imported to contaminate the unique breed of Jersey cattle.

I have travelled in many parts of the world, including the Middle East, Malta and Cyprus while serving in the RAF and subsequently the USA and many European countries, and whenever I mentioned Jersey, people always commented on the unique breed of cattle.

Even in the Second World War, when we were occupied by the Third Reich, the Germans realised what this unique breed meant to the Island and never in-



The Jersey breed is unique – and must remain so

terfered with it.

For those of you with pride and respect for Jersey, do not be tempted by a financial return for the loss of this bloodline.

9 Thorncroft, Hornchurch, Essex.

Is this what we want?

What next for the Jersey cow in her home island?

● From Peter Fraser.

I HAVE been involved with the Jersey cow, both here in the UK and in Jersey, for some 60 years and therefore take considerable interest in what goes on within the breed.

I was recently sent cuttings from the JEP regarding the debate on bringing cattle semen into the Island. While I accept that we all live in the 21st century, one has to ask what is the future for the Jersey cow in her Island home?

I first came to work in the Island in 1949. The average herd - and there were hundreds of them - was about ten cows, liquid manure was hand pumped into a large horse-drawn container and spread onto the land in the spring, potato-planting ploughs were either horse-drawn or pulled by a small caterpillar tractor and flat fields of potatoes were ridged with a hand ridger - one man pulling and one pushing, and most

cows were tethered.

Together with Ken Richardson, I ploughed the cotts at Les Pieces and neighbouring farms with a winch fabricated by that clever engineer Don Pallot.

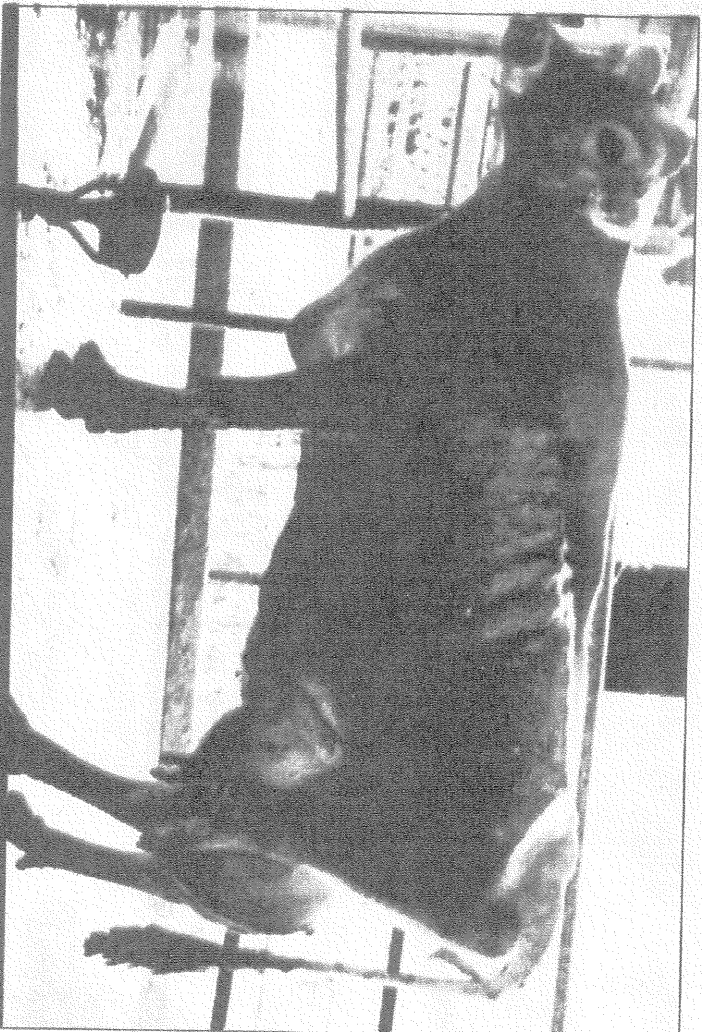
These activities are a thing of the past but what of the future?

When one sees what has happened to cattle breeding and the changes that have taken place within certain breeds, one has to ask, what next?

The stature of the Aberdeen Angus has risen by about 18 inches in two generations, the Brown Swiss is 11% the more than a slate grey Holstein. Remember that a pedigree is only as good as the integrity of the person who writes it.

Fortunately the Jersey cow has been protected by the prohibition of importing dairy cattle or semen into the Island.

Even the Germans during the Occupation recognised the importance of this.



A Jersey heifer-in-milk, pictured in the United States - somewhat different in conformation and stature to those in the Island

I note that Jersey Dairy chairman Andrew Le Gallais thinks you need to make genetic improvement to produce more milk so that the States can dole out more money in compensation for having done so.

When I judged the Island herd competition, Mr Le Gallais stated that his herd was represented by 52 different bulls, so it has a good broad base to work from and if, as he suggests, there is little or no difference in

conformation and stature between the Island Jersey and the American, then it sure is time for him to visit his optician!

I enclose a picture, taken in the USA, of a Jersey heifer-in-milk - ie first calver - whose sire is Highland Magic Duncan, the sire also of the world renowned Duncan Belle. I accept that they are extremes of conformation but they are both by the same sire. Now, is this the kind of

breeding that Derrick Frigot, having escorted breeders to the States, wants to introduce into the Island?

When I showed this picture to Johannes Van Eeden, the current president of the World Jersey Cattle Bureau, his immediate reply was 'I could take you to whole herds of cows like that in the States'.

Spring Meadow, Five Ashes, East Sussex.

Letters to the Editor

FOCUS ON: Importing cattle semen

The Jersey breed: Quality, not quantity

● From Mr and Mrs J Heath.

HAVING recently spoken to a prominent Jersey Island breeder, we were disappointed to hear that the Island of Jersey is intending to import cattle semen. We understand that the reason behind the decision is to increase the milk yield and the size of the cows.

While it is a fact that importing this semen will increase the size of the cow and possibly the milk yield, this will come at a cost. This type of cow is bred to consume large quantities of concentrates, which at £200 per ton in the UK would be considerably more after being shipped to the Island.

A few years ago we were led to believe that Jersey had an excess of milk and quite a number of herds were shipped from the Island to alleviate this problem. Would this not occur again if these larger and heavier milking cattle were introduced?

As for breeding larger cows, we have seen problems in the UK when the Holstein cattle were introduced. Notably, these cattle did not fit into standard-sized cubicles, which caused welfare problems.

The Island of Jersey is unique in the cattle-breeding world. There is no other country where the purity of the Jersey



There is no other country in the world where the purity of the Jersey cow can be guaranteed that all the benefits that the Jersey cow has over the other countries would be lost for the sake of so called 'fashionable' cows. We urge the powers that be to give this situation serious thought. Ravenfield Farm, Cowden, Hull, E. Yorkshire.

The result of immigration and development policies will be the concreting of the countryside

● From Christopher McCarthy.

COMING from overseas afresh, it seems to me that the underlining message from ministers to come out of the Imagine Jersey 2035 conference is to find any excuse to pursue immigration to fill the

the countryside (as set out in accordance with the Island Plan's Waterfront Development Framework 2000 which was generated from real public debate).

The ministers' immigration policy is to rebalance the number of

than one dependent. Surely such policy in support of immigration will only make the numbers worse.

The result of the ministers' immigration and development policies will be to concrete over the countryside and the near commercial site

such a 'great insane robbery' of our environment and heritage.

Let's now restart the 2035 vision debate, beginning with the important social, economic and environmental role St Helier has in serving

(which include the Waterfront and La Collette), as identified from the St Helier character appraisal compiled with the public and signed off by the States more than two years ago. From the development framework of each village.

Letters to the Editor

FOCUS ON: The Jersey cow

Last bastion of the bloodlines

So why is Jersey even contemplating the importation of bull semen?

● From K Filmer.
I HAVE noticed from various news items that the RJAHs are contemplating allowing bull semen from other countries into Jersey. As a former Jersey cattle breeder, dairy farmer, Jersey judge and buyer from

the Island of Jersey, may I be allowed to register my protest in this matter?

The Island is the last bastion of pure Jersey bloodlines and as such is completely and uniquely invaluable. If imports of semen were allowed, you would be in cloud

cuckoo land if you thought it would help the Jersey breed at all.

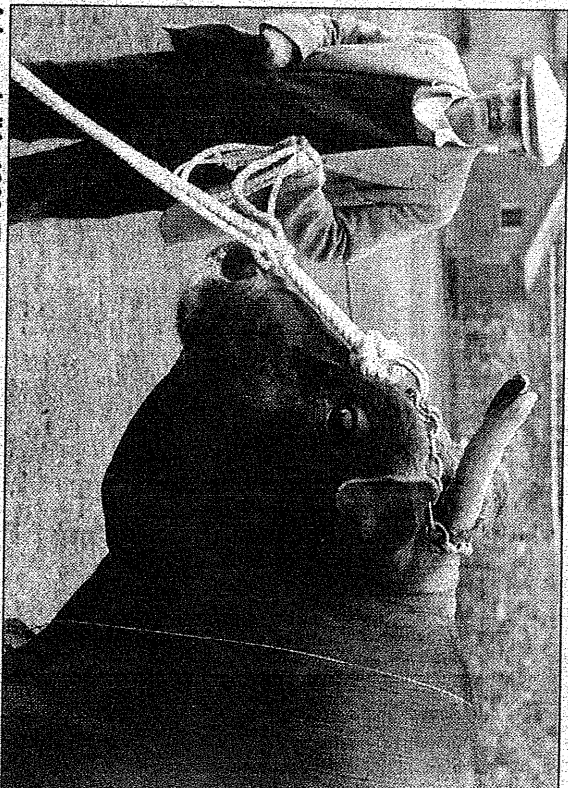
It would destroy this heritage of your lovely Island breeding in one stroke.

More than that — it would take many decades to right a wrong and re-establish

the worldwide confidence that the Island breed enjoys today.

Therefore, with due respect, I am asking you to reconsider before taking this disastrous step backwards.

Chansay, Bridell, Cardigan, Wales.



A Jersey bull in 1939. The Island bloodline has a long history

Imagine Jersey? Oh no... please don't

● From Nellie Magon.
WE are advised by Senator Frank Walker that the only alternatives to our ageing population problem are the

for — the current practice of bringing in UK people is scandalous. If a Jersey person is capable of the job, he should get it.
● The five-star Philanth

Helier Clement



Nannies: Let's go

It is not an enviable decision for States Members to have to make. Before even attempting to wrestle with the scientific pros and cons of the argument, though, they should consider the deeply unsatisfactory manner in which the proposition has been brought so hastily to the House and insist on more time for fuller consideration.

This is not just an agricultural or economic issue. It is, in fact, primarily a cultural and environmental one in which everyone with a love for Jersey, its countryside, its character and its heritage has an interest and a right to a say!

It is remarkable, therefore, that the proposal should have reached this stage with so little public debate, no public meetings and no public consultation. As a result, States Members are in danger of being rushed into an irrevocable decision without a full appreciation either of the possible consequences in terms of the quality and numbers of Jersey cows that would be seen in Jersey fields in future, or of the wishes of Islanders on a matter very clearly of Islandwide concern.

There is no need for a hasty decision on a highly complex issue that has been neither satisfactorily examined by politicians nor satisfactorily aired in public. Both things must happen, starting but not ending with the help of the new States Scrutiny process, before the States can even contemplate taking a calculated risk of this magnitude. The skill and dedication of generations of breeders has left Jersey with a very precious gift. For the States to gamble with it on the basis of the current campaign would be premature, ill advised and irresponsible.

At the heart of Island life since 1890

TELEPHONE	Editorial	611611
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We must not gamble with our heritage

TOMORROW, the States will be asked to make an historic decision with profound implications for Jersey's heritage.

The fact that so little fuss and fanfare has preceded this hugely important debate is testament to the skill of the campaign run largely behind the scenes by the small group of businessmen intent on removing the ban on the importation of foreign cattle semen, thus ending the 220-year-old tradition of breeding Jersey cows in their home Island only through local lines.

In the run-up to this latest attempt to open up the Island dairy industry to new strains by allowing the importation of semen from countries around the world where the Jersey cow has been established and developed, opinions have once again been deeply divided.

The advocates of reform claim that with new genetics there can be no economic expansion for dairy farmers and thus no long-term future for the Jersey cow in her own home island. They insist that the incidental introduction of beef cattle crosses would be a minor side issue and that the Jersey cow itself - the iconically beautiful animal which has become so inextricably linked with the Island's heritage and rural landscape - would look no different to the layman's eye, while becoming more productive through modern genetic development.

In the opposing camp, those who want the import ban to stay in place argue that neither the long-treasured purity of the breed nor its continued protection from imported diseases could be guaranteed if it were to be lifted. They maintain that locally bred bulls can provide all the quality and variety required for development and warn that, once a decision to allow semen imports is made the historically successful status quo can never be restored.