

# Alun and John Hopkins

## Ceunant

## Pisgah, Ceredigion



are benefiting from the Welsh Beef Quality Improvement Project



Alun Hopkins and his son John keep a suckler herd consisting of Limousin x and Hereford x Fresian cattle. John joined the Welsh Beef Quality Improvement Project (WBQIP) to enable him to access the grant to purchase a top sire for his herd. John was already aware of the benefit of Estimated Breeding Values (EBVs) and had used them in the past. His last bull was also purchased on EBVs and scored highly for ease of calving and fast growth rates. EBVs are objective measures of an animal's genetic merit for a range of different traits. Purchasing a bull with values in the top 10% can help improve beef profitability.

John bought Walden Court Apache, a Charolais bull, from Welshpool Market for 2600 guineas. This particular bull qualified for the WBQIP on Calving Value of CH1C (average) and Muscle Depth of 4.9 (top 5%). Without the 40% grant towards the cost of the bull John would have been reluctant to buy him. John said: "The WBQIP has allowed me to purchase a bull with much better figures and worth approximately £1000 more than I could otherwise afford". Walden Court Apache has already been used on 22 cows and his first progeny are due in early September.

The WBQIP also offers up to £500 towards recording weights of calves. John has put this money towards purchasing a weigh crate and is finding it extremely useful to help him monitor growth rates.

### Factfile

- 222 hectares in a 'Severely Disadvantaged' area. Mostly Improved Hill and Upland. Rent a further 20 hectares of better land classified as Disadvantaged.
- Farms beef and sheep
- Forty Limousin x and Hereford x Fresian cows
- Cattle sold as Stores between 12 and 16 months at Tregaron Market

**Calves sired by bulls with superior genetics such as Walden Court Apache are capable of producing calves worth an extra £40 - £60 a head. This could be worth an extra £1600 a year for John if 40 store cattle achieved this premium. Over four seasons this could mean an extra £6,400. This shows the benefit of investing slightly more money in and animal with superior genetics.**

### WHAT STEPS TO TAKE

1. Register with HCC on 01970 625050
2. Complete Part 1 of the training course
3. Select & purchase an eligible bull **before 31st December 2007**
4. **Immediately** register the bull with HCC
5. Complete the training course
6. Receive 40% of the purchase price back, 9 months after buying your bull (£2500 maximum)

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### yn elwa o'r Prosiect Gwella Ansawdd Cig Eidion



Mae Alun Hopkins a'i fab John yn cadw buches sugno sy'n cynnwys gwartheg Limousin x a Henffordd x Friesian. Ymunodd John â Phrosiect Gwella Ansawdd Cig Eidion Cymru (WBQIP) er mwyn gallu cael y grant i brynu tarw o'r radd flaenaf i'w fuches. Roedd John yn ymwybodol eisoes o fanteision Gwerthoedd Bridio Tybiedig (EBVau) ac wedi eu defnyddio yn y gorffennol. Cafodd ei darw diwethaf hefyd ei brynu yn ôl EBVau a sgoriodd yn uchel o ran rhwyddineb lloia a chyfraddau twf cyflym. Mae EBVau yn fesurau gwrthrychol o rinweddau genetig anifail ar gyfer amrediad o nodweddion gwahanol. Gall prynu tarw â gwerthoedd yn y 10% uchaf wneud cig eidion yn fwy proffidiol.

Prynodd John darw Charolais, Walden Court Apache, ym marchnad y Trallwng am 2,600 gini. Roedd y tarw hwn yn gymwys ar gyfer WBQIP ar sail Gwerth Lloia o CH1C (cyffredin) a Thrwch Cyhyrau o 4.9 (5% uchaf). Heb y grant o 40% tuag at y gost o brynu'r tarw fe fuasai John wedi bod yn gyndyn i'w brynu. Dywedodd: "Mae'r WBQIP wedi rhoi cyfle i mi brynu tarw â gwell ffigurau o lawer ac sy'n werth tua £1,000 yn fwy nag y medrwn ei fforddio fel arall". Cafodd Walden Court Apache ei ddefnyddio eisoes ar 22 o fuchod ac mae disgwyl i'w epil cyntaf gael eu geni ddechrau Medi.

### Ffeil Ffeithiau

- 222 hectar mewn ardal 'Dan Anfantais Fawr'. Y rhan fwyaf yn Dir Mynydd ac Uchel. Yn rhentu 20 hectar arall o Dir gwell Dan Anfantais.
- Yn cadw gwartheg cig eidion a defaid
- Pedwar deg o fuchod Limousin x Henffordd x Friesian
- Gwerthu Gwartheg Stôr 12 – 16 mis oed ym Marchnad Tregaron

Hefyd, mae'r WBQIP yn cynnig hyd at £500 tuag at gofnodi pwysau lloii. Mae John wedi defnyddio'r arian i brynu cawell bwys - sy'n ddefnyddiol iawn ac yn ei gynorthwyo i arolygu cyfraddau twf.

**Gall defnyddio tarw â geneteg uwchraddol fel Walden Court Apache olygu bod y lloii yn werth £40 - £60 y pen yn ychwanegol. Gallai hyn fod yn werth £1,600 y flwyddyn yn ychwanegol i John pe bai 40 o wartheg stôr yn denu'r premiwm hwn. Dros bedwar tymor gallai olygu £6,400 yn ychwanegol. Mae hyn yn dangos y fantais o fuddsoddi ychydig yn rhagor o arian mewn anifail â geneteg uwchraddol.**

### CAMAU I'W CYMRYD

1. Cofrestrwch gyda HCC ar 01970 625050
2. Cwblhewch Rhan 1 o'r cwrs hyfforddi
3. Dewiswch a phrynwch darw cymwys **cyn 31 Rhagfyr 2007**
4. Cofrestrwch y tarw gyda HCC **yn syth bin**
5. Cwblhewch y cwrs hyfforddi
6. Derbyniwch 40% o'r pris prynu yn ôl, 9 mis ar ôl prynu'ch tarw (uchafswm o £2500)