

SHORTHORN

BEEF

APRIL 2008
NEWSLETTER

List of Shows with Beef Shorthorn Classes

North Somerset Show	5	May
Balmoral Show	14/16	May
Surrey County Show	26	May
Royal Cornwall Show	5/7	June
South of England Show	5/7	June
East of England Show	13/15	June
Lincolnshire Show	18/19	June
Royal Highland Show	19/22	June
Royal Norfolk Show	25/26	June
Royal Show	3/6	July
Great Yorkshire Show	8/10	July
Royal Welsh Show	21/24	July
Todmorden Show	June	
Rydale Show	July	
Aylth Show	June	
Perth Show	August	
Fife Show	May	
Turriff Show	August	
Dumfries Show	August	
Nidderdale Show	September	
Beef Expo—Perth	21	May

Sale Dates.

Carlisle	23	May
Chelford	7	June

Judging Day, Saturday 31st May 2008 at Podge Hole Farm, Thorney, Peterborough PE6 0QH

The judging day this year will be a very similar format to the first judging day held at Upsall in 2004. There will be a general discussion on judging Beef Shorthorns, led by Mr D Biggar OBE, highlighting the important physical traits to consider when judging cattle, and this will be followed with an opportunity for everyone to have a go at judging a class of six yearling heifers and then giving reasons for their placings over the microphone.

We will also look at judging breed championships and the points to consider when trying to compare young heifers with old bulls.

It will not be a competition as such and nobody should feel embarrassed about taking part. It is an ideal opportunity to practice giving reasons over a microphone to an audience.

After the judging has been completed there will be an opportunity to view the Podgehole Herd. Charles and Sally Horrell are very kindly providing a Hog Roast lunch, and it has been suggested that donations towards the cost of

lunch should be given to the World Shorthorn Conference fund to go towards hosting the next World Shorthorn Conference in 2010.

If anyone wishes to stay Friday night there is a Travel Lodge (Peterborough Eye Green) which is on the A47 two miles from the farm with a Little Chef attached for breakfast, Tel: 0871 984 6097, and there are numerous hotels in Peterborough which is only about 6 miles away.

If anyone requires an evening meal on Friday night the pub in Thorney village is the Rose and Crown and this offers very good evening meals/bar snacks. If people wish to meet up for a meal and a drink I suggest we book individually to eat say 7.00 to 8.00pm. The telephone number is 01733 270546

PE6 0QH is here



Chelford Sale

The Chelford sale on Saturday 7th June is being planned as a split sale between Beeston and Chelford similar to November's sale. The Bluetongue zones can alter, however, at any time so the sale will be catalogued as normal and the venue for each vendor's stock will be decided in the weeks prior to the sale.

Please note there will be no catering facilities on the Friday evening prior to the sale, but there will be cheese and wine provided at Beeston

Please Note: Shebeg Model Bull

Mr Harper of the Shebeg Gallery has notified us that no models will be made until October, as he is in semi-retirement and wishes to have the spring and summer months off from work.

The year letter for 2008 is 'B'

TH Testing

Unfortunately we have still not received the import/export licence from Dr Beever to enable samples to be sent for testing. I have spoken to Dr Beever on the telephone and emailed him on a weekly basis, but have still not received the licence even though I was told I would have it by the end of January. I realise this is causing considerable inconvenience to members and we are doing everything we can to obtain the licence as quickly as possible. Looking to the future I have also spoken to Dr Beever about the possibility of him licensing the test to another company so that we could have the tests done here in the UK and obviously I will keep you informed of any developments. In the meantime I would like to thank members for their continued patience and cooperation

Health Pen Cards at Society Sales

The Directors are very keen to establish a high health status for the breed. At the AGM in February, the President announced that the Directors were considering compulsory health testing for all animals entered for the Perth Bull sales in February 2009. The response received from members was very positive and the Directors will make a final decision on this matter at their next meeting in May. This would mean that every animal entered for the sale would have to have had a blood sample tested at one of the CHECS approved laboratories listed below and the resultant pen card would be displayed at the sale. The laboratories offering this service are:

Biobest Herdcare: Biobest Laboratories Ltd., Charles Darwin House, The Edinburgh Technopole, Bush Estate, Penicuik EH26 0PJ Tel. 01314402628

Hi Health Ltd: Unit 5, Orkney Auction Mart, Kirkwall, Orkney, KW15 1FL tel. 01856878293

Premium Cattle Health Scheme: SAC Veterinary Services, Greycrook, St Boswells, Roxburghshire. TD6 0EU tel/ 01835822456

In order to clarify the current requirements, the following conditions apply to all Society sales at the moment: All cattle entered for Society sales must display a herd health pen card. Vendors who are not members of a recognised Herd Health scheme will still be required to display the pen card and will have the following options:

Not have the animals blood tested in which case the pen card will be blank.

A blank pen card will be provided by the Society. This signifies to the buyer that the animal has not been health tested. In order to ensure that all health information displayed is consistent, vendors own test results will not be allowed to be displayed.

This option is not recommended by the Directors Have a blood test taken by a vet who will send the sample for testing to one of the approved laboratories.

The vet will then fill in an application form and if the sample is sent to SAC, Hi Health or Biobest labora-

tories he can request a sale card to be produced complete with the results. **Blood samples should be submitted at least 4 weeks prior to the sale.**

Performance Recording

Over the last three years the number of herds which have been performance recorded with the ABRI Breedplan system has increased more than four fold with 53 herds now included in the scheme.

The Society has also introduced in the latest BLUP run a new 'Self replacing index' as described in the last journal to evaluate the breed's maternal traits such as milkiness, calving ease and gestation length, whereas the emphasis in the past has been on terminal sire traits of growth rates and carcass characteristics.

More and more commercial buyers are looking for performance recording figures when purchasing stock and this is reflected in sale prices.

At the Perth bull Sales in February, bulls with performance figures averaged £3591 and bulls which had not been performance recorded averaged £2403.

If you want more information on performance recording please contact the office, or ring Barbara Webster of Pedigree cattle services on 01738622478

HERD BOOKS & other Shorthorn Literature

Mr MW Wright has around 100 herd books of varying volumes. Contact him on 01874 750990

Mrs J Allday of Cumbria has Shorthorn Breeders guides from 1927/28, 31/32, 35-37

Breeders Review 1937,1939

Shorthorn Journals Vol 8 1939-Vol 17 1948 inc Contact her on 01900 85 282

Mr T Sinchett has herd books from 1930's Contact him on 01296 720 256

New Shows Holding Beef Shorthorn Classes
North Yorkshire County Show held on 15th June
and Stokesley Show held on 20 September are both holding classes for Beef Shorthorn for the first time.

For further details contact the web sites:

www.northyorkshireshow.co.uk

www.stokesleyshow.co.uk

