



## DECEMBER 2008 NEWSLETTER

### \* IMPORTANT NOTICE \*

#### Compulsory Health Testing for Society Sales

From **January 1<sup>st</sup> 2009** all Beef Shorthorn Cattle sold at Society sales will be required to display a **completed** Health Pen Card, provided by SAC, Biobest, Hi Health, Nationwide Labs, or AFBI. No other health information will be allowed to be displayed. Vendors who are members of a CHeCS accredited health scheme will need to notify their relevant scheme which cattle are entered for the sale at least one month prior to the sale. Individual blood tests will need to be taken and displayed on the pen card for EBV lepto and IBR if these are not covered by the vendor's health scheme. Vendors who are not members of one of the three aforementioned herd health schemes will need to have the animals blood tested at SAC, Biobest, Nationwide or AFBI laboratories for BVD, Lepto, IBR and a health pen card obtained which will also display TB status of the herd and whether or not the herd is Johne's accredited. If you have any questions about this requirement please contact the office for more details.

#### **ANIMALS ARRIVING AT A SALE WITHOUT A COMPLETED HEALTH PEN CARD WILL NOT BE ALLOWED IN THE SALE**

#### Compulsory health testing from Jan 1<sup>st</sup> for sales

The decision to apply compulsory health testing for all animals at Society sales is a huge step forward for the Beef Shorthorn breed which is advantageous for both the vendor and the purchaser, and it will give people confidence that cattle bought at Beef Shorthorn Society sales are of a known health status. The cost of a blood test is small in comparison to the potential damage an infected animal could cause to a herd. I am sure that all vendors will benefit from this forward thinking approach.

Nobody wants to bring disease into their herd through purchasing cattle and likewise nobody selling cattle would want to sell infected cattle to another herd. It is for these reasons that the Directors have decided that from January 1<sup>st</sup> 2009, all cattle sold at Society sales must be blood tested for BVD, Leptosporosis and IBR, and the results displayed at the sale on a health pen card provided by a CHeCS approved health scheme.

**This does not mean that every herd has to be a member of a health scheme** it means that every animal entered for the sale, unless from a herd with accredited status for the relevant disease, has to be individually blood tested and the results displayed as stated above.

There is an article in this journal from the staff at Biobest explaining how to interpret the health pen cards and there will be an explanation included in all future sale catalogues.



**MERRY CHRISTMAS  
TO ALL MEMBERS, THEIR FAMILIES  
AND ALL FRIENDS**

The message we are giving out for 2009 is **“Don't buy infection in to your herd, know what you are buying, buy with confidence at a Beef Shorthorn Society sale.”**

The CHeCS accredited health schemes which will provide pen cards 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

**Nationwide Labs:** Gate Way Drive, Yeadon, Leeds LS19 7XY tel.; 01132507556

**AFBI:** AFBI Headquarters, Newforge Lane, Belfast, Northern Ireland tel. 02890255689

#### Annual Dinner

The Annual Dinner and prize presentation will be held at the Royal George Hotel, Perth on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2009. As in previous years early booking is advisable, as the main room is only just big enough to seat all our members. This will be the last time we are at the Royal George and we have provisionally reserved all the rooms for our members so that everyone can stay together. The hotel is again offering a special rate of £75 per room for a double/twin room and £50 for a single, but please book early as the rooms will not be held indefinitely. The cost of the meal will be £20 per head

#### Perth Bull Sales Feb 2009

Timetable

Sun 1<sup>st</sup> Feb.

12.00 noon Bull Inspections

3.00pm AGM

Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> February

Am – show of Shorthorn bulls and females

Pm – sale of Shorthorn females (32 head)

7.30pm – Annual Dinner and prize presentation at Royal George Hotel

Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> February

Pm – sale of Shorthorn bulls (51 head)

Catalogues can be viewed on line at [www.shorthorn.co.uk](http://www.shorthorn.co.uk)



## 2007 HERD BOOKS AVAILABLE

### Shows holding Beef Shorthorn Classes in 2009

The list is not exhaustive and if any breeder knows of a show not included that is holding classes for Beef Shorthorns please let the office know.

Show	Date	Contact for schedule.
Fife	16 May	01334 880518
Surrey County	25 May	01483 890810
Royal Bath & West	27-30 May	01749 822200
Royal Cornwall	4-6 June	01208 812183
Rutland County	7th June	01162 597466
South of England	11-13 June	01444 892700
North Yorkshire	14 June	01609 779546
East of England	19-21 June	01733 234451
Todmorden	20 June	01706 815648
Alyth Show	20 June	01828 632348
Royal Highland	25-28 June	01313 356212
Royal Norfolk	1- 2 July	01603 748931
Royal	7-10 July	02476 696969
Great Yorkshire	14-16 July	01423 541000
Royal Welsh	20-23 July	01982 553683
Nairn	25 July	01667 459156
Ryedale	28 July	01653 602142
Perth	August	01738 623780
Dumfries	1 August	01461 201199
Turriff	2-3 August	01888 568830
Keith	9-10 August	01542 882978
Nidderdale	21 September	01969 650129

## World Conference

Arrangements for the 2010 World Conference are well under way. We would like to have as many cattle as possible forward at the Royal Highland and Royal Shows to show the rest of the world the quality of our Shorthorns. Directors are currently looking at the possibility of a grant towards travel to help members to exhibit at these two shows, so start planning now for 2010.

In order to raise money for the World Conference we are having an auction of semen and embryos to take place in February at Perth for the beef semen/embryos and in June at Chelford for the dairy semen/embryos. If anyone has any semen or embryos they would be willing to donate for this auction please let us know. If anyone wants to put a restriction on the use of the semen donated eg. only to be used for single pregnancies this can be arranged.

We are looking for sponsorship from a wide range of companies to help finance the Conference so if you know of any potential sponsors, there are details of various sponsorship packages available on the website, or let us have contact details and we will contact them.

## Do you speak Spanish?

Do you know anyone who speaks Spanish who would like to spend some time in June/July 2010 travelling with the World Conference tours and helping to interpret the language for our Argentinean and Uruguayan delegates? We are looking for several people who would be prepared to accompany the tours for all or part of the time and help to interpret for our Spanish speaking delegates. You are guaranteed an interesting and enjoyable trip and will meet some very nice people from many different Countries. If you can do this or know of anyone who can please let Frank know at the office.

## British Cattle Breeders Conference

The British Cattle Breeders Conference takes place on 19th to 21st January 2009 at Telford Golf and Spa Hotel, Great hay drive, Sutton Heights, Telford, Shropshire with a theme of "Bringing Science to the Field." A full programme and application form can be downloaded from the website at [www.cattlebreeders.org.uk](http://www.cattlebreeders.org.uk) or by contacting Lesley Lewin on 01409241579

During the year we have updated the database with a programme which identifies all animals "at risk" of transmitting the TH gene ie. All animals whose pedigree contains an unbroken line to known TH carrier. This has greatly simplified the identification of "at risk" animals We have also monitored the number of test results obtained for progeny of specific sires which are now dead and so can not be tested, and on the advice of Professor John Beever The Directors have been able to identify some animals who, by virtue of the number of descendants tested, are not now considered at risk of transmitting the TH gene. These animals have been identified on our genetic defect list as THH and include T Bar Done Deal and Fingask Jupiter. Progeny of these animals are not now considered "at risk" and so can be registered without testing and sold at Society sales. These measures will undoubtedly help to eliminate the defective gene from our herdbook. as quickly as possible.

## Change in VAT rate

As the VAT rate will return to 17.5% next year we are not sending out new standing order forms for membership subscriptions. The difference of 75p will be credited to your account and set against future purchases. (Thank you Alastair Darling!). If you do not make any purchases in the next year arrangements can be made for repayment of the 75p on request.

## Judging Day 2009

The judging day will take place on Saturday May 23<sup>rd</sup> at Messrs Biggar's, Grange, Castle Douglas. This year the discussion will be led by Mr Paul Harrison. Paul is probably better known for his skills in judging dairy cattle but he is very accomplished at composing and delivering a set of reasons and can be quite controversial at times. His judging seminars are always interesting and informative, and often designed to challenge any pre conceived ideas you might have about judging cattle. It is an event not to be missed followed by an inspection of the Chapelton herd. It will take place the day after Carlisle sale so why not book now and make a weekend of it!



## YEAR LETTER 2009

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