

Young Handlers

The first Beef Shorthorn young handlers competition was held at the judging day at Chapelton.

Thanks to Mrs Jane Landers and her helpers Jim Borland and Ian Matthews for keeping everything running smoothly.



Congratulations to all the youngsters taking part and especially to the winner Mark McCornick seen here being presented with the trophy for the champion handler

Agribition 2009

Congratulations to Bobby Landers on being selected to represent the Beef Shorthorn Cattle Society in the Canadian 4-H and Youth judging competition at Agribition, Regina in November.

I am sure Bobby will do very well and we look forward to reading his report in the journal later in the year

Book for the World Conference

Mike Keeble, the well known agricultural commentator and journalist is writing a book about Shorthorns which will be published in the New Year prior to the World Conference.

Rather than a history of the breed Mike is keen to explore the influence of the Shorthorn in other breeds and the challenges and opportunities which lie ahead for the Shorthorn breed.

The production of the book has been generously sponsored by Mr M Foljambe of Osberton Estates, and proceeds from the sale of the book will go towards the World Conference expenses.

World Conference Year Journal

A reminder that next year is World Conference year so we want to make this next journal extra special. Please send in all your judges and show reports, Adverts and any info or articles you wish to be included **by October 9th 2009**, further info in the enclosed letter.

Postage Cost

Can you please ensure that the correct postage is used on items sent to the Society. We are receiving a considerable number of items with incorrect postage amounts for which the Society has to pay a £1 fine as well as the extra postage.

Dispersal Sale at Perth—October

Due to the sudden and untimely death of Mr. McGregor, Chesterhall Park Farms, the Beef Shorthorn herd will be dispersed at the Perth bull Sales, Stirling in October. The dispersal will include 20 cows, some with calves, 11 yearling heifers and the stock bull.



UPSALL CENTENARY FEMALE- SALE ON FARM

12 September 09 heralds a centenary sale of the oldest Shorthorn herd in the UK,

The Upsall Polled herd,
Sale held on farm at Upsall Farms, Thirsk, courtesy of the Hon Gerald Turton.



Tel: 01845 537202 for further information or catalogues

Birth Weight of Calves

We have included with this newsletter a letter from Simon Farmer, Chairman of the Breed Development Committee outlining the importance of recording birth weights.

The free weigh tape will be sent out shortly under separate cover.

AUGUST 2009 NEWSLETTER

Perth Bull Sales—October 2009

With the move from Perth to Stirling, we have booked a new venue for our social evening on Sunday 18th October 2009, and have also negotiated a special room rate for people wishing to stay. We will be having an evening meal at the Golden Lion Hotel, 8-10 King Street, Stirling FK8 1BD tel. 01786475351 and the special room rate for our members is £37.50 bed and breakfast per person sharing a twin/double room and £55 per person single room.

If you wish to book a room please book directly with the Golden Lion Hotel and **be sure to mention that you are staying with the Beef Shorthorn Cattle Society, otherwise you will not obtain the discounted rate.** We have a limited allocation of rooms so please book early to avoid disappointment. As in previous years we have booked an evening meal at the hotel to which everyone is invited. The cost of the evening meal is £15 per person and this **MUST BE BOOKED through the office by Monday 12th October.** The hotel has indicated they need a week's notice of final numbers.

World Conference -

A semen /embryo sale will be held at the Perth Bull sales in October to raise funds for the 2010 World Shorthorn Conference. We have several lots of semen already pledged and in order to catalogue the lots for sale we are asking anyone who has semen/embryos they are willing to donate to fill in one of the enclosed forms and return to the office, as soon as possible so that it can be catalogued in the Perth catalogue. Many thanks to those who have already pledged semen and thanks in anticipation to those yet to do so.



Amended Itinerary

The amended itinerary, following the loss of the Royal Show, can be seen on the website. The Royal Highland Show will now be the only show the tour will visit so it is important that we put on a great display of cattle at the Royal Highland Show in 2010. In order to help exhibitors the Directors have agreed a travel subsidy of **£300 per exhibitor** for those taking cattle to the 2010 Royal Highland Show. If there are more than 20 exhibitors the subsidy will be reduced pro rata.

We are also talking to the Highland Show to try and persuade them to remove the limit to the number of animals which we can exhibit in our World Conference Year, and we are requesting extra classes. We will keep you informed of the outcome.

This will be the first opportunity for many years to show overseas visitors the quality of our cattle and hopefully persuade them that UK genetics have a part to play in other Countries breeding programmes.

We are working hard on sponsorship for this event in order to make the event affordable, enjoyable and educational. We hope you will take part in some of the activities, visits, and conference next year and meet other Shorthorn breeders from all over the world. Booking forms will be available towards the end of the year.

TH Testing Now in the UK

We are pleased to announce that Pfizer Animal Genetics have now obtained a licence to do the TH testing and they are able to extract the **DNA from a hair sample**.

We have arranged with Pfizer that all future TH tests required by the Society will be collected and submitted by the Society. The results will be returned directly to the Society and we will notify members of the test results.

The cost of the test is **£20 plus VAT** and the Society will invoice the member. Hair sample collectors, submission forms and instructions will be sent out by the Society. This new arrangement with Pfizer Animal Genetics should make the TH testing simpler and cheaper.

As this service is administered by the Society free of any administration charge it will only be available to members of either the Beef Shorthorn Society or the Shorthorn Society.

FORTHCOMING SALES

UPSALL SALE 12 SEPT
PERTH BULL SALES
(STIRLING) 19 OCT
THIRSK 24 OCT
CHELFORD 7 NOV
EAST OF ENGLAND
14 NOV

Breedplan Tip Sheets

EBV's are not always easy to understand so Breedplan have produced a whole range of tip sheets to help to explain performance recording and EBV's in particular.

Some of the information is only relevant to Australia but much of the information is relevant to all Countries which use EBV's as a means of genetic evaluation.

These tip sheets can be accessed through the website by selecting the animal database navigation button on any of the pages and then clicking on Breedplan tipsheets.

There is some very useful information on these sheets in an easy to read format.

Naming Convention

The Directors are concerned that some members are not continuing the family name when naming their calves.

Ideally the prefix should be followed by the family name followed by the animals name or number if required.

If this naming convention is followed then it is easy for animals to be identified as descendants of particular female lines.

This is also advantageous for the owner as some customers actively seek out certain female lines.

Contrived names may seem clever or funny at the time but the novelty soon wears off and can in fact devalue the pedigree value of the animal.

The Beef Shorthorn has a long proud tradition of family names so please try to respect that tradition when naming calves.

Protected Names

These are names that can only be used when the name is following the female family line.

Many of these name trace back to the original herd book in 1820's.

We have a list of restricted names, if you require one, we can send you one

Health Pen Cards at Society Sales

I am sure everyone is now fully aware of the requirements for animals to be blood tested prior to Society Sales and the results displayed on a health pen card at the sale. This is a very positive move and benefits both vendors and purchasers alike. If you have any doubts at all about the requirements please contact the office. **We are here to help.** Do not arrive at the sale without the correct health pen card as you will not be able to sell your animals.

Advisory Checklist for vendors

- 1. Blood test all animals bound for sale (including calves over 1 month old which need only be tested for BVD) no more than 3 months prior to the sale.**
- 2. Send the blood samples to Biobest, SAC, Nationwide or AFBI (details on website) stating that tests are required for BVD (antibody and antigen), IBR and Leptospirosis and request a health pen card stating clearly that the animals are entered for sale at a Beef Shorthorn Society Sale.**
- 3. Make sure you have received the cards before you arrive at the sale and check that all the relevant information is displayed on the card.**

IT IS THE VENDORS RESPONSIBILITY TO ENSURE THE CARDS ARE CORRECT

Herd Health Declarations

In order to give prospective purchasers as much information as possible about the health status of cattle for sale, we are introducing a Herd Health Declaration. A form will be sent out with the entry forms which can be completed and returned to the auctioneers with the entries. This information will be printed in the front of the sale catalogue under the vendor's name. This information is entirely voluntary and **must not** be confused with the individual animal testing requirements.