

# BEEF SHORTHORN

DECEMBER 2006 NEWSLETTER



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

## On Line Registration Fees

The online registration facility was launched in August 2005 and has proved very successful. The feedback from members is that it is easy and convenient to use and from the office point of view, it is quicker and easier to administer.

In the first 12 months of on line registrations, 27% of the registrations were done online. This is a very encouraging start and to persuade more members to try it, the Directors have decided to offer a discount on the registration fee for all registrations done on line.

From January 1<sup>st</sup> 2007 on line registrations will be **£18.00** per animal, a **discount of £2.00** off the normal registration fee.

## Health Certificates

**NB: Please remember that from the 1<sup>st</sup> January 2007 pen cards, displaying an animal's health status, will be obligatory for all animals entered for Society sales.**

This sends out a very clear message to all prospective purchasers that Beef Shorthorns offered for sale at Society sales will be of the highest health status. Vendors who are members of a recognised health scheme will already have the required information available, and will not require any further testing. They will be able to request a pen card from the health scheme. The pen card is designed to provide uniformity of health information so that the purchaser has a better understanding of the health status of the cattle he is buying.

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 – Not recommended
- Have a blood test taken by a vet who will send the sample for testing to an approved laboratory. The farmer must specify which tests he requires. The vet will then fill in an application form and if the sample is sent to SAC, Hi Health or Biobest laboratories he can request a sale card to be produced complete with the results. SAC will also accept test results from other recognised laboratories provided they are accompanied by a completed TB 52 form. Blood samples should be submitted at least 4 weeks prior to the sale. (The simplest way is to send the sample to one of the three labs listed below and they will also provide a completed pen card for the sale.)

## Recognised Herd Health Scheme

**Biobest Herdcare:** Biobest Laboratories Ltd, Charles Darwin House, The Edinburgh Technopole, Bush Estate, Penicuik EH26 0PJ, Tel. +44 (0)131 440 2628

**Hi Health Ltd:** Unit 5, Orkney Auction mart, Kirkwall,

Orkney KW15 1FL tel. 01856 878293

**Premium Cattle Health Scheme:** SAC Veterinary Services, Greycrook, St Boswells, Roxburghshire TD6 0EU tel 01835 822456

## DNA testing for meat tenderness

The results of the trial organised by NBA to test the maternal qualities and tenderness of meat using DNA samples were received last year and individual members had the results sent to them. These results in isolation were not very meaningful, but the averages obtained from the whole sample were assessed by Dr John Wooliams, and his findings were that the genes responsible for milking ability were inherent in the breed and whilst the genes for meat tenderness did show some variation the vast majority of the breed were in the same category.

The feelings from the meeting with Dr Wooliams was that whilst individual animals may show good DNA values for meat tenderness which could be a valuable marketing tool, to use it as a selector for breeding decisions would be impractical as there was not sufficient variation in the breed.

## Perth – February Bull Sales

The programme for the Perth Bull Sales is as follows

Sunday 4th Feb. am – Inspection of bulls  
Sunday 3.00 pm: - AGM at Perth Auction mart  
Monday 5th Feb. am- show of Beef Shorthorns  
Monday pm - sale of females (27)  
Monday 7.30pm: Annual dinner and prize presentation  
Tuesday 6th Feb. pm- sale of bulls (60)

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

## Annual Dinner

**A**nnual Dinner will be held at the Royal

George Hotel, Perth on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> February. The room is only just big enough to accommodate our increasing numbers so I have to say –

**WE CANNOT GUARANTEE A MEAL UNLESS IT HAS BEEN BOOKED WITH THE OFFICE BY WEDNESDAY 31ST JANUARY**

If we receive more bookings than can be accommodated in the main hall, extra tables will be laid in the conservatory and places will be allocated in order of booking so early booking is advisable. The cost is £20 per person.

Please send cheque to office for meals booked prior to the event. With the numbers involved, collecting money on the night has become unmanageable.

We have also again arranged a preferential room rate at The Royal George (01738624455) for Beef Shorthorn members, of £70.00 per room in a double/twin room or £50.00 per room single occupancy bed and breakfast, for the weekend of the February Bull Sales.

If you wish to avail yourselves of this offer you **MUST** ask for the special Beef Shorthorn room rate when booking.

## Rare Breed Survival Trust

**D**ue to the increasing numbers of Beef Shorthorns in the country, the breed is no longer listed as a rare breed with the RBST. This is wonderful news and a testimony to the dedicated breeders who continued with Beef Shorthorns through the difficult times when the numbers of Beef Shorthorns dropped to such a low level. I would also like to inform members that this does not affect the breed from participating in the Traditional Breeds Meat Marketing Co Ltd. who will continue to welcome the offer of well finished animals. The General Manager of TBMM Co is Richard Lutwyche who would be pleased to give details of the scheme to any of our members. His contact details are on the web at [www.tbmm.co.uk](http://www.tbmm.co.uk)

## Chelford Sale

The change of day for the Chelford sale from Friday to Saturday proved to be very successful. The vendors were able to bring cattle into the market much earlier and the sale attracted a large crowd of potential purchasers, so the sales for 2007 will continue to be held on the Saturday

# YEAR LETTER 2007

## 'A'

## 2005 HERD BOOKS - NOW AVAILABLE

### East Anglia Tour May 2007

**T**he Shorthorn Society has over the last three years held a Spring tour visiting farms and other attractions. This year they are visiting East Anglia and are including visits to two Beef Shorthorn herds in their programme of events.

Any Beef Society members who wish to join the tour would be very welcome, and a more detailed itinerary is included with the newsletter. I can thoroughly recommend the tour, which is always very enjoyable

### TH Status

**F**ollowing on from the letter sent out to all members in October, more research has been done on tracing pedigrees back to the original Deerpark Improver and a couple of bulls which have been in use the UK for a long time, appear to have unbroken links back to Deerpark Improver. The two bulls concerned are T Bar Done Deal and Kenbar Renegade. This does not mean that these bulls were carriers but we would recommend progeny of these bulls be tested, as there is no information currently available on the TH status of these animals.

### HARRISON & HETHERINGTON LTD

would like to wish all breeders  
a Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year

### CARLISLE OFFICIAL SOCIETY SHOW AND SALE FRIDAY 25th MAY 2007

Open show and sale  
for all classes of Bulls and Females  
entries close Friday 27th April For further details  
contact:  
Pedigree Sales & Marketing Team - 01228 640924  
[www.livestock-sales.co.uk](http://www.livestock-sales.co.uk)

### Shorthorn Books,

Elizabeth Leiper has for sale books collected by her late father as follows:

- The Leading Shorthorn Tribes by Rev W Holt Beever
- The History of Shorthorn Cattle edited by James Sinclair
- The History of the Improved Shorthorn cattle and of the Kirklevington herd from the notes of the late Thomas Bates (Published 1871)
- Guenon on milch cows a treatise upon the bovine species in general by Thomas J Hand (illustrated) (published 1888)
- Thomas Bates and the Kirklevington Shorthorns, a contribution to the history of pure Durham cattle by Cadwalider John Bates (published 1897)

Contact her on 01664 444266 if interested

