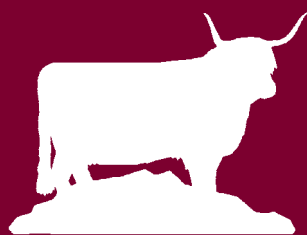


April 2009



Highland Cattle Society

Newsletter

HIGHLAND CATTLE SOCIETY OFFICE, c/o UNITED AUCTIONS, KILDEAN, STIRLING, SCOTLAND FK9 4UB

Whats in this issue!

Results & Reports from

- Results from Oban October Show and Sale February 2009
- Council Corner
- AGM Information
- Invite to Canadian Highland Cattle Society AGM
- and much more



Registered in Scotland, Company No: SCO13974

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An Invitation

Canadian Highland Cattle Society – Annual General Meeting

The Canadian Highland Cattle Society would like to extend a very warm welcome to all the members of The Highland Cattle Society to join us for our 45th Annual general Meeting which will take place from Friday July 31, 2009 to August 2, 2009 in Drumheller, Alberta. Activities include tours of the Hoodoo's, Suspension Bridge, Red Deer River Valley, and the internationally acclaimed Royal Tyrrell Museum of Paleontology. On Saturday morning an open panel discussion will be held to discuss everything Highland. Join the panel of expert Highland breeders or challenge them with your questions. On Saturday evening a western-style BBQ will be provided at Homestead Coulee Hall courtesy of Barb & Ian Proudfoot. Enjoy a leisurely stroll through the CHCS archives or view the cattle from the Highland Heritage Farm which will be on display.

And on Sunday morning following our AGM, there will be more time to visit the local attractions before our AGM banquet and silent auction. The weekend promises to be an exciting event where we all have the opportunity to meet new friends, catch up with old ones and talk about the Highland cattle that we are all so passionate about.

We hope you will be able to join us.

Warmest regards.

Terri Barr, Secretary-Manager, CHCS highland@chcs.ca www.chcs.ca

Advertising Deadline

The deadline is drawing near for this year's advertising space in the journal. Please contact Carol Jeffrey at the Scottish Farmer on 0141 302 7754 or carol.jeffrey@thescottishfarmer.co.uk.

The deadline for advertising in the Journal is 17th April 2009. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our advertisers old and new who have supported the journal in the previous years.

Website Advertising

Sell your animals on the website for only £5 plus VAT for 3 months – contact the office at info@highlandcattlesociety.com.

Reminders

Judges – please let the office know of any judging engagements this year.



Diamond Q Awards For Harrogate Butcher Presentation by TV Chef Lesley Waters

Elite Meat of High Street, Starbeck, Harrogate, have won two overall Diamond Awards for best sausage and best cooked meat in the 2008 Smithfield Awards.

The awards, run by the Q Guild, the organisation that represents some of the best butchers in Britain, are among the most prestigious in the meat industry and a true indication of excellence. More than 400 products from Q members throughout the UK were assessed by an independent panel of experts at the meat technology department at Leeds Thomas Danby College.

The winning products – Ploughmans Sausage and Rare Roast Highland Beef - were two of a clutch of four gold and one bronze awards won by Elite Meat. In addition, Rare Roast Highland Beef won the EBLEX Award for best English beef product - a repeat of last year when the product was a double supreme winner.

Other gold winning products from Elite Meat included Roast Free Range Yorkshire Ham and Yorkshire Corned Beef.

At a special lunch and awards ceremony in Butchers Hall, London, (November 11), TV chef and cookery school proprietor Lesley Waters presented Gordon Atkinson with the Diamond Award trophies and his other awards.

Gordon said: "We are absolutely thrilled to win the diamond awards. To win two in a row with one of our most popular products is a great achievement. We normally do well in product evaluation but 2008 has been the pinnacle and a wonderful promotional opportunity for the business."

Even the name has changed! Highland Fling Town and Country Fair - 3rd and 4th May 2009

The Highland Fling Town and Country fair includes the NEHCBC club show and is now in its sixth year. During this time it has developed greatly during this time in to a major show circuit contender. This year the changes are not stopping! The event has been extended to two days, which will take place over Sunday the 3rd and Monday 4th May, at Graves Park in Sheffield. This will allow more classes to be scheduled for seasoned exhibitors, as well as novices of any age and experience.

There will be extra classes spread throughout the two days, with a Society sash and rosette as well as exceptional prize money for the show Champion of £150. Further sponsorship is being sought, to make the prize money for all classes higher than previous years (expected to be £50 for 1st, £30 for 2nd and £15 for 3rd). We are pleased that Hazel, who had much praise for the show last year, will be attending the event again to represent the Society. Iain MacKay, of Cnoc-na-sith fold on Mull, has been asked to judge the event and as usual I'm sure he will add a great deal to the show.

A full list of classes and the schedule will be available soon, along with the entry forms so keep a look out! In addition, on the Sunday night we intend to organize a NEHCBC club meal, which all exhibitors are welcome to attend. This will be held close to the show ground.

Details of the show and meal will be distributed can be distributed to those interested. With 20,000 members of the public attending last year and 30 cattle present, the show already has a good following, which will surely be surpassed this year. We hope you will support the NEHCBC club show.

If you are not a member of the NEHCBC and are interested in receiving a schedule and entry form then please contact;

Ian – email: ih01mes@yahoo.co.uk
tel: 07947881942

Claire - email: ch01mes@yahoo.co.uk

Peter - email: fletcher_pr@hotmail.com

Laura - email: lilygreenfold@hotmail.co.uk

SAC Premium Cattle Health Scheme (PCHS)

Consultancy Services

Disease Control & Eradication for

- Johne's
- BVD
- IBR
- Leptospirosis

CHeCS licensed / all tests ISO 17025 accredited



- Remove costly disease from your herd.
- Provide health assurance for your customers.
- Safeguard the health status of your herd.

Premium Cattle Health Scheme



Contact: SAC Veterinary Services
Greycrook, St Boswells, Roxburghshire, TD6 0EQ
T: 01835 822456
E: vcstboswells@sac.co.uk
www.sac.ac.uk/cattlehealth

SAC has over 20 years experience in providing livestock health schemes and the PCHS is the largest cattle health scheme in the UK.

PCHS is CHeCS licensed and is the only scheme with all tests accredited to UKAS 17025 standard.

Scheme members have access to vets with post graduate qualifications in cattle health and are actively involved in diagnosis, consultancy and research into scheme diseases.

Health declarations at sales are issued free of charge to PCHS members.

The four diseases covered by PCHS are Johne's, Bovine Viral Diarrhoea (BVD), Leptospirosis and Infectious Bovine Rhinotracheitis (IBR). Clients can test for one or more of these diseases.

Disease control is essential for our industry as the ramifications of disease outbreaks can last for several years and cost producers thousands of pounds. An outbreak of BVD could cost a 100 cow suckler herd £46,000 over a 10 year period. In a dairy herd it could be twice this figure. In severe BVD outbreaks over half the calf crop could be lost.

Have you a persistently infected (PI) animal in your herd spreading the virus?

Infertility, abortion, deformed calves and lowered immune response resulting in pneumonia, scours and calf deaths can all be associated with BVD.

The risk is not worth taking. Improve productivity and profitability will also improve.

Johne's disease is being diagnosed more frequently and is also a cause of substantial losses and the breeding life of cows and bulls will be drastically curtailed. It is often remarked that the cost of Johne's testing is high as all cattle over two years of age have to be tested. But, if a cow is identified early and culled, her value will be high. If she is kept and rapidly loses condition she will be worth little. This early identification of one cow will certainly go a long way to pay for scheme costs.

The aim of PCHS is five fold

- eliminate specific diseases
- identify herds free of disease
- prevent introduction of disease to disease free herds (biosecurity)
- certification of health status
- improve herd health on a national basis

PCHS is working with farmers to control infectious disease.

Do you know the status of your herd? Now is the time to act.

*Ian Pritchard,
Commercial Manager,
SAC Health Schemes*

AGM Information

AGM

Oban Show and Sale

Following the Annual General Meeting the Oban Show and Sale will be held on Sundays and Mondays. This was decided by a vote at the meeting.

Honorary Membership

Anne Barugh from the Easton Fold was made an Honorary Life member of the Society. She has been a great supporter of the breed for a number of years and her most recent success was the championship at the Great Yorkshire Show 2008.

New Council Members

The new council members elected were Charlie Bruce, Bogside, King Edward, Banff, Aberdeenshire, Duncan Buchanan, Shenavallie, Ledaig, Connel, Argyll, H Alun Garton, The New Farmhouse, Ardormie, Alyth, Perthshire and Hugh Hoather, Oak House, Hassalls Lane, Bridge Trafford, Chester, Cheshire.

International Gathering

Angus Mackay proposed that the society should hold an international Highland Gathering in 2010. The council has proposed that we provisionally hold the International Gathering at the end of September/beginning of October in 2010 with the base being Glasgow – please check www.highlandcattlesociety.com for further details.

New Market Opening

Ian Duncan proposed that the first animal through the market at United Auctions should be a highlander. See page 10 in the newsletter.

Open Days on the West Coast of Mull

Visit the naturally reared highlanders at the following folds

**Dunmor
Cnoc Na Sith
Cailaich**

Clach Na Gruagach

The doors are open to all on
**Saturday 12th September and
Sunday 13th September**

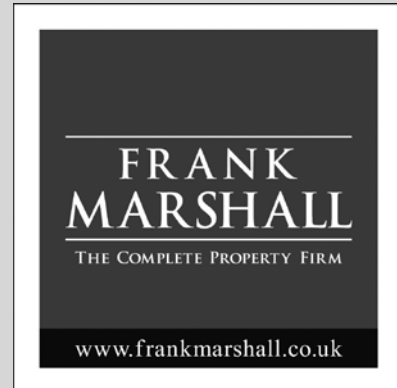
For further details please contact
Iain Mackay on 07775 875860

**Book accommodation early
to avoid disappointment.**

Perth Show and Sale

Perth Show and Sale is taking place on Friday 15th May 2009 in Perth Auction Mart, East Huntingtower, Perth. T: 01738 626183. The judging starts at 10.30 a.m. followed by the sale.

This year's show will be judged by Liz Shaw of the Cir Mhor fold in West Kilbride.



Chelford Show and Sale

Chelford Show and sale is taking place on Saturday 25th April 2009 at Chelford Auction Mart, **Chelford Agricultural Centre**, Chelford, Macclesfield, Cheshire, SK11 9AX, Tel: 01625 861122, Fax: 01625 860079 e: chelford@frankmarshall.co.uk.

The show starts at 9.00 and the sale is at 11.00 a.m.

This is being judged by Archie McArthur of Ormsary Estates.

St Andrew's Abattoir Company Limited Tel: 01334 477313

As from 1st April 2009 we are licensed to slaughter cattle from 30 months to 48 months maximum under the existing regulations.

We hope that this will prove to be of value to customers, as both the cutting plant on site here operated by Wholesale Meat Company and Highland Drovers in Perth are licensed to handle these carcasses and remove specified material (vertical column)

For further details please contact
Brian Imrie – Manager on 01334 477313

Roisbheinn bull leads at 14,000gns

Averages:

Nine senior bulls, £3197.25 (+£2066.30); 16 two-year-old bulls, £2754.15 (+£260.15); seven yearling bulls, £882 (+£192); 13 senior heifers, £1323 (+£51); 12 three-year-old heifers, £1139.25 (+ £71.25); 13 two-year-old heifers, £1029.81 (+ £389.81); 42 yearling heifers, £633 (-£55).



Lasgaire



Fergus Ruadh 2 of Knockendon

WITH OVERSEAS buyers purchasing a third of the entry and willing to pay top dollar, including the day's best price of 14,000gns, Highland breeders left Oban on a high on Monday evening.

Some 37 head were bought by breeders from Italy, Germany, Denmark and Estonia, which helped push averages up considerable on the year. "The strong overseas demand coupled with some solid home trading made it the easiest sale I've had to conduct in selling Highland cattle in Oban, over the last seven years," commented Caledonian Marts' auctioneer, Ally Logan.

By the end, only six out of 120 forward for sale failed to find a buyer and it was noticeable that, for the first time in some years, there was a tremendous demand for stock bulls, from both home and abroad.

It took a real international deal to secure the services of the champion bull and the sale's top price, Lasgaire of Roisbheinn, from Alan and Mary-Anne Blackburn, who have recently moved from Roshven, near Lochailort, to be nearer their family, and based now at Braecock Mill, Caputh, Dunkeld.

The German Highland Cattle Society's president, Falko Steinberg, who lives near Hamburg, put his bid in via Ormsary Estate's farm manager, Archie McArthur's mobile phone from holidaying in Grenada, in the Carribean, beating off the challenge from several interested parties to get him for 14,000gns.

When the Blackburn's moved from Lochailort, they retained only four cows but they knew they had a potential star in Lasgaire, a red bull which was champion of champions at the Road to the Isles Show, at Arisaig and second at the Highland last summer. He is by Ninean of Benmeanach, a Coll-bred stock bull which was bought after he had finished his work at Meggernie.

The reserve male champion followed in price order, taking the second-top price of 6200gns. That was

Fergus Ruadh 2 of Knockendon forward from Ron and Frances Fergie, Knockendon, Dalry, Ayrshire. A son of their 1200gns stock bull, Romach Rob of Torloisk and out of the bought-in heifer, Diorbhail of Oliver, this brindle bull was another to head abroad after being bought by Kairo Pilviste, who already has 32 highlanders back home in Estonia.

Making his first pilgrimage to the home of the breed, Mr Pilviste had purchased a trailer with which to take his new cattle home, only to be disabused of the plan by animal health officials. They will have to go through the usual quarantine and health checks prior to export.

Sir William Lithgow's Ormsary herd, from Lochgilphead, is never far away from the top action, starring in both the bull and heifer sections this time.



Achadh Chuilter of Ormsary

The Ormsary cattle, brought out by Archie McArthur and Alan Bosomworth, sold to 5800gns for a first prize two-year-old bull, Achadh Chuilter of Ormsary. This one is off to work for Tom Nelson, on Glengorm,

on the Isle of Mull, where the sire, Hamish Mhor 2 of Callachally, was bred by Hugh MacPhail.

The same sire was also at the back of the 2100gns Nighean Ruadh 25 of Ormsary, the reserve senior heifer which sold to John Lihre, from Denmark, and also the female champion, Bhan Og 15 of Ormsary, which was taken to the 2000gns mark by Hamish Porter, West Carrabus, Islay.



Bhan Og 15 of Ormsary



Gaisgeachist of Culfoich

Also heading home with the Porters was Kayren of Achterneed, a four-year-old heifer forward from Andrew Macphee, Highfield, Strathpeffer. She's a daughter of Tommy of Achterneed and was champion at the North Club's show at Leys Castle last year. Valued at 2200gns, she is in calf to Ross of Tordarroch.

Another fold to do well in both male and female sections was Jimmy and Moira McConachie's Culfoich prefix from Culfoichmore, Grantown-on-Spey. Their top bull was Gaisgeachist of Culfoich which was sold for 5600gns to Will Davis, Gwrhyd Uchaf, Rhiwfawr, Swansea. The breeding behind this includes the 4200gns former stock bull, Donnachadh Ruadh 1 of West Merkland, which has since been sold on to Judy Garner, in Worcester. That was also the sire of the McConachie's 8000gns sale topper last year and is a former male champion at the Highland.



Banarach 1 of Culfoich

Out of the same home came two heifers which jointly led the female sale at 3000gns apiece.

Included at that price was the champion three-year-old heifer, Mairi 1 of Culfoich, which won a kist-full of rosettes last summer. She is by Cuairtear of Balmoral and out of Lorna Ruadh 5 of Hope, and is another to go through quarantine after being bought by Lorenzo Muller, from Italy.



Ruairidh of Mottistone

Will Davis added to his fold with the 3000gns purchase of the top two-year-old show heifer, Banarach 1 of Culfoich, which is by the West Merkland sire. She was also out on the show circuit last season, taking two show championships and two reserves.

Retired Scottish Office grandee, David Dickson, Hamilton Hall, West Linton, was involved in both sides of the auction equation, paying 5000gns to acquire a new stock bull and seeing one of his breeding making 3000gns for Haydn Garton, from Alyth, before getting 1800gns income of his own for a heifer.

Mr Dickson's purchase was Michael Poland's Ruairidh of Mottistone, which made the long journey to Oban from its home in the Isle of Wight. This red

continued over

three-year-old is by Ruairidh of Glengarnock, a former male champion at the Highland.

Just a few seconds earlier, Mr Garton had sold the three-year-old Dickson-bred red bull, Stuart of Lyntoun for 3000gns to R McLean, Corntown, Conon Bridge, Inverness. This bull was champion at Fife and Angus shows during 2007 and appears to be passing that style on to his stock as one of his sons was first at last year's Glasgow Show.

The Lyntoun heifer to make the money was Carol of Lyntoun, a daughter of Bentalla of Glengarnock, which was bought by Caroline Cuthbertson, from Peebles, for her Jedderfield fold.

New breeders, Jeremy and Catherine Garrett-Cox, from Edzell, bought their new stock bull, Coirneal 3 of Lagg, from Connie Lawrie, of Savalbeg, Lairg, for 4000gns. Buying through society fieldsman, John Redpath, they get a son of Philip 1 of Tullach Ard.

Glengorm got some of its outlay back when its black stock bull, Skean Dubh 2 of Mosscairn, attracted a bid of 3600gns from Frank Carr, Skipton, Yorkshire. This one has black on all sides of his pedigree and is by Angus Dubh of Invercassley.

That price was almost matched by another black bull, Lochlan of Sorne, from Ken Headspeath jnr, from Kirriemuir, in Angus. This Coinneach of Borland son will now head to Sir William Lithgow's Inver fold on Jura.

John Mackie, West Merkland, Strathaven, topped up his growing fold with a 2200gns purchase, Dileas 2 of Dunmor, from Mull-based Bert Leitch, Laganulva. A two-year-old, she is by Brogach of Craigowmill and out of a Strathmashie-bred dam.

Leading a strong yearling trade was the black heifer, Fraoch Cas Fhionn of Ardbhan, which is from Angus MacDonald's organic fold at Ardbhan, on North Uist. She's used to fending for herself, having been born on the uninhabited island and Vallay and was bought by R Tedbury, 2 New Cottage, London Road, Pulborough. The breeding mix was Gille Dubh 2 of Killochries on to Fraoch of Ardbhan.

Promoting the Beef

by **Charlie Bruce**

It has been our pleasure to help promote the Highland breed and Prime Highland Meat in 2008.

The beef is available from our farm shop 52 weeks of the year, like many others within the society; we sell and promote the finished product at farmers markets.

Farmers Markets are very important, making contact with large numbers of people in a short space of time maximises output, provided your stall is efficiently staffed. The paying consumer does not like waiting in a queue even if you are handing out free samples of burgers and sausages.

The direct contact at the markets is I believe very important, the customer can let you know what they require and you can try to preach the gospel of the Highlander being high in flavour and iron while being lower in cholesterol than other inferior breeds.

The society had stands at most of the major shows the length and breadth of the UK trying to help promote the breed, in 2008 we were privileged to be asked to help at the Beef Expo in Perth Market in May. The event was attended by an estimated 2500 people, most would have been farmers but there was considerable interest in the live animals and the prime beef which was displayed at the event and the Minister for Agriculture for Scotland tasted and bought sausages (still not guaranteed my vote).

The taste of Grampian food event held at Thainstone Market in Inverurie annually draws crowds of 10-15000 people. This was the third year the North of Scotland Highland Cattle Club has put up a display and we have handed out samples and sold our meat, we also supplied two of the celebrity chefs with fillet steak for one of their demonstrations. Council member Jim Mcconnachie and Hazel deserve credit and thanks for organising the stand and also a big thanks should go to Jim and Sheila Fraser and Pat Mcwilliam for their efforts to sell the breed to the general public.

While we all expect the council and society staff to carry out the main burden of promoting our highlanders, we as society members and breeders should also carry some of the responsibility by showing stock to best advantage at all shows and sales. Providing best quality meat and processed product to the end consumer (repeat sales are the best).

New Honorary Member

Anne Barugh of the Easton Fold, East Yorkshire was made an honorary member of the Highland Cattle Society at the Annual General Meeting. Anne has had Highlanders for over 30 years and one of her highlights was selling a Highland bull to Her Majesty the Queen back in the eighties.





Pfizer Animal Genetics – April 2009 Newsletter

Pfizer Animal Genetics – the new face of livestock DNA testing

As many of you may be aware, in 2008 Pfizer made a significant investment in the future of DNA technologies in the livestock industry by acquiring Catapult Genetics who had a presence in Australia, NZ and Europe and also Bovigen that operated in the Americas. Through this acquisition Pfizer established a significant starting position in livestock DNA testing.

For the last 2 years, Innovis Ltd has been the distributor for the Catapult Genetic products and services in the UK, however from April 1 2009, these will all be taken back 'in-house' by Pfizer Animal Genetics. Innovis will still manage sending out of the DNA test kits, sample and payment receipt and reporting of results for an interim period until a changeover is complete.

GeneSTAR MVPs – a new age in DNA-marker technology

Included with this newsletter is some hot of the press information regarding the new GeneSTAR tests. GeneSTAR now provides a new 56-marker panel that delivers more genetic information with greater reliability. The GeneSTAR MVPs™ or Molecular Value Predictions are a measure of the molecular breeding value for the traits of Feed Efficiency, Marbling and Tenderness. Pfizer Animal Genetics is the first in the industry to report DNA-marker test results in units of the trait (eg. Marble Score, kg Shear Force and Net Feed Intake) with an associated reliability value.

You will notice that all of the GeneSTAR tests for Marbling, Tenderness and Feed Efficiency have been independently validated in both Australia and the US. We believe this is a very important step in the commercialisation process to give customers confidence in the products.

Pfizer Animal Genetics – a full-service genomics provider

Pfizer Animal Genetics will continue to offer SireTRACE DNA Profiling and Parentage testing. SireTRACE can be used to verify parentage in multi sire mating situations and by pedigree breeders for breed society registrations. All samples received will be stored for future potential testing and we are developing test 'packages' to make it more economical to conduct other tests at the same time such as the GeneSTAR tests for Marbling, Tenderness and Feed Efficiency or other tests such as coat colour and genetic defects

If you have any questions about any of the Pfizer Animal Genetics products or services, please contact me on 07973 509 346.

Regards

Deanna Leven

Pfizer Animal Genetics UK

ANIMAL REGISTRATION FEES

Birth Notifications

Female	£6.90	(£6.00 + 90p vat)
Male	£3.45	(£3.00 + 45p vat)

Registrations

Female (up to 6months)	£13.80	(£12 + £1.80 vat)
Female (6mths to 12mths)	£20.70	(£18.00 + £2.70 vat)
Female (12mths to 18ths)	£28.75	(£25.00 + £3.75 vat)
Female (18mths to 4 th birthday)	£57.50	(£50.00 + £7.50 vat)
Female (4 th birthday upwards)	£115.00	(£100.00 + £15.00 vat)
Appendix 'B'	£34.50	(£30.00 + £4.50 vat)
Male (14mths to 2yrs)	£69.00	(£60.00 + £9 vat)
<i>Please note bulls cannot be registered until 14mths – they must be DNA tested)</i>		
Male (2yrs and over)	£138.00	(£120.00 + £18.00 vat)

Transfer Fee

Transfer Registration	£34.50	(£30.00 + £4.50 vat)
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Beef Expo 2009

The Three Counties Showground at Malvern in Worcestershire is the venue this year for the National Beef Association's annual flagship event, Beef Expo 2009, which will be held on Thursday, May 21.

The UK's national beef event, which each year attracts thousands of beef farmers from throughout the UK and Ireland as well as from overseas, is being sponsored for the second year running by Lloyds TSB Agriculture.

Adopting the theme, "Beef up your Returns", the event will follow the successful format developed in recent years and will include an extensive trade stand area, beef breed demonstrations and educational and advisory exhibits focusing on both beef from the suckler herd and beef from the dairy herd.

Practical demonstrations of livestock equipment will include cattle handling systems, feeder wagons, telescopic handlers, straw chopping and bedding machines and mill and mix machines.

On the day before the event – Wednesday, May 20 – visitors will have the opportunity of visiting two or three leading Herefordshire farms followed by a two hour beef conference addressed by top industry figures starting at 4.00pm and the pre-event dinner in the evening. Both the conference and dinner will be held in the Severn Hall in the showground.

A major feature of this year's event will be three livestock competitions – the National Spring Spectacular for continental and native breed pure and cross-bred beef cattle with a prize pool of £4700, a show of pedigree calves, again open to both continental and native breeds, and a young handlers cattle presentation competition for youngsters aged 14 – 20 years of age.

The event is attracting strong support from beef breed societies and the trade and the introduction of a new concept of themed areas including animal health, beef from the dairy herd, grassland/environment, livestock equipment/machinery, meat/marketing, nutrition and general will make it easier for visitors to find what they want to see. A series of "short, sharp" seminars will take place throughout the day linked to these areas.

The cost of admission to Beef Expo is £10 (£5 for NBA members applying for tickets in advance and free of charge to juniors under 16 years of age) and £34 for the conference and dinner or £5.75 for the conference only. Prices include VAT. Costs for the farm tour will be available shortly.

Full information and an application form for tickets can be viewed on the Beef Expo web site – www.beefexpo.co.uk – or by contacting the organiser, Euan Emslie, at 3 Briar Close, Newport, Brough, East Yorkshire. HU15 2QY. Tel: 01430 441870. Fax: 01430 448432. Mob: 07718 908523. E-mail: Euan@AppliedRemedies.co.uk

Highland Cattle Society will have a stand at the event – come and support your society!



Seeking Highlander as first beast through Stirling Agricultural Centre

Following on from Ian Duncan's suggestion at the AGM, I approached David Leggat and Neil McLean of United Auctions to proceed with the enquiry.

I am delighted to inform you that the offer of a Highlander as the first animal through the brand new Stirling Agricultural Centre was received with open arms!

The animal will be auctioned to the highest bidder as part of the Centre's official opening on Tuesday 14 July 2009 with all the proceeds from the sale going to a charity of the guest of honour's choice.

The council and society are grateful for this opportunity to market our breed on a national platform and we welcome the donation of a top quality two- or three-year-old heifer from a member for this auction. The opening of the market will attract much publicity and will be attended by around 3,000 people.

David Leggat, Executive Chairman of United Auctions, said: "We warmly welcome this fitting gesture from our new neighbours at the Stirling Agricultural Centre. The new mart is progressing very quickly and we're looking forward to the official opening as a chance to celebrate with all the people who have supported us through the years."

Anyone interested in donating an animal should contact me on hazel@highlandcattlesociety.com or 01786 446866 by Friday 24 April 2009. All animals will be viewed and, if successful, will be included in the draw out of a hat.



Council Corner

NEW COUNCIL MEMBERS



Alun Garton



Charles Bruce



Duncan Buchanan



Hugh Hoather

**The Highland Cattle Society
invites you to its Open Day on
Wednesday 19th August 2009.**

“Back to Basics”

- The Highland Cow • Maternal • Milky
- Hardy • Versatile Forager • Easy Calving
- Adaptable to all conditions

Find out what the Highlander can do for you!

In the morning visit Castles Estate for a chance to view the 50 strong Highland Cow fold, all with spring born cross shorthorn calves. In the afternoon visit Dalmally Market to view the excellent selection of animals promoting the benefits of using the Highland Cow as the foundation animal.

Listen to the experts speaking on subjects from nutritional advice, conservation and environmental information and stock management and talk to breeders working with the commercial end of Highland Cattle.

Refreshments and lunch will be available.

More information will be available at
www.highlandcattlesociety.com

Oban Show and Sale

It was agreed that all bulls from 1st January 2008 shown at a sale under the auspices of the society must have a permanent ring. All older bulls must either be ringed or snitched.

All animals sold at the sale must be left with a serviceable halter and lead rein where applicable. All animals must be watered after the sale.

DNA Testing

The council would like to encourage all members to DNA test their animals – this will allow the society to build up a library of all animals.

New Fieldsmen

Angus MacGillivray, Iain Mackay and Geoff Spawton have been added to the society fieldsmen list. This list will be reviewed every 3 years – this gives each fieldsmen an opportunity to stand down if he or she wishes.

New Judges

The following are now on the Highland Cattle Society judges panel

Jim Ayres, 36 West End, Northwold, Thetford Norfolk

Alan Blackburn, Braecock Mill, Caputh, by Dunkeld

Charlie Bruce, Bogside, King Edward, Banff, Aberdeenshire

David Cameron, Severie, Doune, Perthshire

Hugh Hoather, Oak House, Hassalls Lane, Bridge Trafford, Chester, Cheshire

Phil Kettles, 8 Maw Street, Buckminster, Grantham, Lincs

Stewart McKay, Torosay Cottage, Craignure, Isle of Mull

Training Days

In the interests of clarity each club will receive 2 payments of up to £500 in its lifetime and on the condition that a fieldsmen attends the event. This decision may be reviewed in the future.

Prizewinners



L to R: Alan Bosomworth, Stockman in Charge of Female Champion, Archie McArthur, Jim McConachie, Alan Blackburn, Mary-Anne Blackburn (seated).



First time first prize winner – Heather Long was delighted when her yearling heifer Mairi of Peathaugh was the female yearling champion at the Oban Show in February. Mairi is seen here being shown by Liz Shaw.



Connie Lawrie winner of the Douneside Bowl with her great grandson.



Retiring Council Members from L to R: Jim Ayres, John Lacey, Jim McConachie, John Redpath.



Thirsty work – Mary-Anne Blackburn enjoys the spoils of winning!