



SCOTLAND

WORKING FOR THE SCOTTISH SHEEP INDUSTRY

NOVEMBER 2021 Edition

www.nsascotland.org

Kindly sponsored by:



CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME

Jen Craig, Normangill, Crawford



Hello and welcome to our new NSA Scotland regional newsletter.

I am glad to be sending out our first edition and hope it will provide a useful way of communicating with our members as to what we're getting up to, but also keeping you informed with what's happening in the wider industry and any important topics we feel you should be aware of.

There is a lot happening just now within the agricultural industry but also within NSA Scotland. We now have the facility to have hybrid meetings allowing committee members who are further afield to join us virtually without the need to travel across the country. Despite the easing covid restrictions, we will still be making use of the virtual facilities in order to allow us to reach as many of our members as possible.

Our newly established NSA Scotland policy subgroup will also be meeting virtually on a regular basis to set our policy positions going forward and feed into the main committee. We anticipate it to be a very exciting group to be involved in and the agenda for the first meeting already covers a wide variety of topics!

As always, NSA Scotland is a member's organisation, and we welcome any feedback you have on the newsletter, suggestions for future content and things that you would like to see in general from us as well. It would be great to get more people involved with NSA Scotland, and especially those from the younger generation. There hasn't been a more important time for young people involved in our industry to have their say on the future, so please do consider getting involved. However little time you may have, your input is important and will always be valued.

NSA Scotland Policy

Coordinator's Comment

Grace Reid



So far 2021 has brought us Covid, disrupted supply chains, Emma Harper's Dogs (Protection of Livestock) (Amendment) (Scotland) Act, Farmer Led Groups, a new Agriculture Reform Implementation Board, a consultation on animal welfare in transit, fantastically high sheep prices, deplorably low wool prices and reasonable weather (compared to recent years). But what lies ahead?

Upcoming change?

COP26 seems to be on most minds and everywhere we look at the minute there is some reference to changing diets, mitigating our carbon footprint, planting trees and increasing the biodiversity our country has to offer. But what does all this really mean? It is clear that Wales, and England in particular are forging ahead with their new farm

Continued page 3...

NSA SCOTLAND

Our Diary

31ST OCTOBER – 12TH NOVEMBER

UN Climate Change Conference UK 2021 (COP26)

3RD NOVEMBER

NSA Regional Managers meeting

15TH NOVEMBER

RSPB meeting to discuss farmland birds and sheep industry

17TH NOVEMBER

Ramblers Scotland, Scottish Paths Map and Landowners meeting

17TH NOVEMBER

Edward Mountain MSP, Scottish Outdoor Access Code

16TH DECEMBER

Farming Roundtable Table Conference

8TH DECEMBER

NSA UK Policy and Technical meeting

15TH DECEMBER

Scottish Government ARD Stakeholder Group meeting

Our events

3rd November

NSA Breakfast Club - One piece of the global puzzle: the lowdown on what COP26 means for UK sheep farming. [Register here](#)

12th November

NSA Next Generation Winter Conference, United Auctions, Stirling Agriculture Centre, FK9 4RN. For more information, [click here](#).

15th -19th November

Sheep Breeders Round Table. [Register here](#).

1st December

NSA Breakfast Club

28th January

NSA Scotland ARMM, United Auctions, Stirling Agriculture Centre, FK9 4RN.

1st June 2022

NSA Scotsheep 2022, Over Finlurg, Tealing, By Dundee, DD4 0QE.

For more information, [click here](#).

OFFICERS | NATIONAL SHEEP ASSOCIATION SCOTLAND

NATIONAL SHEEP ASSOCIATION



WORKING FOR THE SCOTTISH SHEEP INDUSTRY



Jen Craig (Chair)
Biggar, South Lanarkshire

Breed of Sheep: Blackface, Cheviot

Did you know? Jen was an NSA Next Generation Ambassador in 2014 which paved her way towards being elected the NSA Scotland Chair first in 2019 and again in 2021.



Maimie Paterson
(Vice Chair)
Dunblane, Central Belt

Breed of Sheep: Pure Charollais and Beltex, small following of Shetland ewes.

Did you know? Maimie joined NSA as a member in the 1980's and remains an active part of the NSA Scotland Committee. Having served many years as Treasurer, Maimie stepped up to the role of Vice Chair in 2019. She is also the current Beltex Sheep Society President.



Euan Emslie
(Event Organiser and Secretariat)

Euan joined NSA Scotland in 2003 to organise NSA Scotsheep 2004 (Poldean Farm, Dumfriesshire). He has the sole responsibility planning around the NSA Scotsheep and NSA Highlandsheep events and ensures that everything is kept running smoothly.

Did you know? Euan has also been an Agricultural Event Manager for various organisations over the years.



Grace Reid
(Scottish Region Coordinator)
Clackmannan, Central Belt

Breed of Sheep: Pedigree Texel, Commercial Texel x Rouge/Beltex

Did you know? Grace joined NSA Scotland part-time at the start of 2020 and provides key communications functions as well as logistical and practical support to help with the region's day-to-day work.



Mary Dunlop (Treasurer)
Broughton, Biggar, Scottish Borders

Breed of Sheep: Beltex

An NSA member since the early 1990's, Mary has played integral part breeding performance recorded Beltex tups.

Did you know? Mary has been a previous Beltex Sheep Society President, a past Chairman of Lothian Lamb & Beef and a former President of Biggar Show!



Recent NSA Scotland Committee Meetings

NSA Scotsheep Committee meeting
07 October 2021

NSA Scotland Supplementary Committee Meeting
11 October 2021



your business your future

Coordinator's Comments cont...

policies post Brexit whilst Scotland is seemingly stuck with the handbrake on. If its broke, don't fix it comes to mind but with each passing day our future funding and policy is heading towards conditional support to address the twin pillars of climate change and biodiversity decline – tell us something new. Scottish Ministers have made it clear that they want to stay as closely aligned to the EU as possible whilst establishing ourselves as a global leader in sustainable agriculture. Formal consultations are to be launched next summer ahead of laying a new Agriculture Bill in 2023, which will come into power later in 2024 with a new payment regime for 2026.

Foreseeable future

Talks behind closed doors will all be in vain, if our industry particularly livestock units are not economically viable. There is a considerable time period between now and 2026 which could make or break many of the farm businesses who have previously stood the test of time. What is being asked of us now is uncharted territory. No matter what legislation and framework is in place we have the confidence that the men and women working in our industry today have the commitment and skills to produce superior quality, nutritional and sustainable meat. This not only delivers for the nation in terms of a food source but also caters for a wide range of other intangible benefits which would be sorely lost should they cease to exist.

Stepping up to the challenge

All our farmers are asking for is some certainty and something to work towards that they can budget and plan around. We all know how volatile farming is, through the good years and bad we have stood the test of time. This new challenge differs however, now we have the chance to speak up and put our stamp on it instead - preferably sooner rather than later.

Want to get in touch?

If you have any queries, content suggestions or want to feature in the next edition of this newsletter please contact Grace at grace@nationalsheep.org.uk or 07787 142858.

Did you see us?

On Thursday 21st October, NSA Scotland Chair Jen Craig appeared on STV news reacting to the trade deal between the UK and NZ. The deal poses major concerns for sheep farmers in Scotland and the assurances that farmers would not be 'sold out' seem to have been short lived. For more information, [click here](#).



On Saturday 23rd October Grace and Jen attended the Scottish Smallholders Festival held at Forfar Mart. We would like to thank all who stopped in to see us and enjoyed speaking to you about your sheep enterprises at varying stages of your journeys. There was also an interesting debate held about local abattoirs that provided an opportunity to hear opinions on the matter from smaller scale producers.



Championing COP26



As the global politicians and state leaders prepare to travel to Glasgow for this November's COP26 conference discussing the worldwide climate emergency.



As a finger of blame may once again be pointed to livestock production as a key contributor to climate change. Scotland and the wider UK's methods of sheep production are in complete contrast to some methods of intensive farming found in other parts of the world. We must not think of climate change or nature recovery in isolation, but to consider these things in tandem with the protection of natural resources, heritage, rural economies, the health and wellbeing of people, and sustainable and local food production and consumption. We strive to improve understanding amongst the wider public of the importance of the sheep sector and demonstrating that a more holistic approach to sustainability is required if we are to meet environment, economic and social goals.

Case Study: Sybil McPherson

Brackley Dalmally, Argyll

The land our family has farmed for 180 years is permanent pasture, almost entirely designated as rough grazing, without opportunity to improve.

It has remained 'traditional' for these reasons and works in harmony with the environment – the climate and the topography around us. We farm almost 9900 acres (4000) very extensively, running 1759 ewes and 75 hill cows. A balance is crucial for the benefit of all, farmed animals and the wide variety of biodiversity which depend on the land use. We have trialled different livestock breeds over the years and have concluded that native breeds forage and utilise the poor quality grazing on our land far better than others. Thus enhancing all environmental aspects without damage of over grazing some areas and under grazing others.

Changing traditions

Over a number of years several changes have been made here, some out of our control, that have demonstrated the importance of sheep farming to the environment in this area. 50 years ago most of the farms in the area were cleared of livestock and the people who tended them. The lower ground planted with predominantly Sitka spruce and the higher hill land abandoned. This impacted greatly on the farms that were left, in terms of management and environmentally. I believe that it is clearly demonstrable by comparing the previously farmed land that surrounds us with the land still used by agriculture that the grazing of sheep improve biodiversity. This farm supports a wide range of species from invertebrates through to large predators, which are now absent from ground no longer grazed by sheep. The farm provides habitat for many red listed species of birds, including Golden Plovers, Black Grouse, Ptarmigan, and many others. We are home to Mountain Ringlets, Peacock butterflies many species of dragon fly, Mountain hares, deer, fox, badger, Pine marten and Red squirrel.

Social Connections

As well as wildlife, the area attracts large numbers of tourists, and for these, the farm provides a wide range of public goods. By managing the hills and mountains for agricultural production, we allow access to walkers, and provide them with ease of access compared with fighting through forestry plantations or rough impenetrable scrub on abandoned land etc, grazing livestock has maintained the visual benefit which so many visitors cherish. However, everything requires a balance to the benefit of man and beast, and great care must be taken to preserve and enhance our wonderful resources and opportunities. Therefore alterations to land use, species reintroduction, population distribution etc all require the greatest of care and deliberation. This I believe must be done with the considered opinions of those who currently have responsibility and experience of the land which they tend and understand. I have been involved with visiting schools, colleges and the like over a number of years as I believe we must take the opportunity to promote what we do in our varied role of land managers and custodians, food producers, wildlife carers, environmentalists, etc



I feel that nothing could be further from the truth, that farming is to blame for many of the myths being banded around regarding our negative impact on the climate. I hope and believe that in the near future information will become available to illustrate just the opposite. I'm convinced that we are actually part of the solution rather than as is currently portrayed. We have so many positive aspects across such a wide range aspects of sustainable life.

SOLUTION not the problem

Agricultural production in this country is tiny in a worldwide context, but I believe is hugely important and must be maintained and recognised for the wide range of benefits which it undoubtedly delivers. Not only to critical sustainable food production, but environmentally, culturally, maintaining rural communities, tourism, and to society in its entirety. This type of farming story should be made more available to the general public, helping create a more accurate picture of food production and its impact than is currently available. The consumption of meat raised sustainably in this country, utilising vegetation from land unsustainable for cultivation, meets many desirable outcomes.

A Consultant's View Carbon - What does it all mean?

John D Fyall FIA FAAV, Director, Highland Rural Ltd



One of the most frequently asked questions posed to agents at the moment is about Carbon.

Many farmers will have had approaches from companies, agents or speculators looking to acquire Carbon rights within the client's land holding. It can seem like money for old rope, but comes with many caveats and puts constraints on the property in some cases for centuries.

I will keep this article basic and can expand at a later stage as there is a huge range of understanding.

Essentially selling Carbon means that an emitter elsewhere now or in the future who needs to find zero emissions from a product or service or wants to reduce Carbon emissions will try to produce less carbon but may find they are still generating too much emissions. Some industries such as aviation will never produce net zero in the near future. The global agenda means that as long as that carbon is being soaked up elsewhere they can achieve net zero. An average return flight to New York from Heathrow will produce a carbon footprint of 1 tonne CO₂ per passenger on a 300 seat flight. Neatly, this is what can be expected to be locked up from the environment from rewetting a dried out peat bog. This 300 tonne or unit will be laid down over 100 years; a long time for a 7 hour journey.

The reality of carbon emission and the science behind it is often scorned but we do have to make changes. Morally it may seem odd an emitter can buy a right to land and keep on polluting, but it is for the moment the market and my purpose here is not to discuss but to explain the market. There are 3 major areas of interest at the moment and no doubt more will emerge.

CHANGING PRACTICES - The first major area is in arable and grassland practices; many companies are now entering the arena for min-till, hydrogen driven tractors, on farm solar and batteries etc, and we may even see payments for changing protein levels in diet or more efficient breeding of animals for weight gain and conversion capability. It is my own opinion that any payment for changes in operational procedures should not be sold on, or at least

not sold on long term arrangements, until we see if the industry might require to carbon account in house. There is no point selling off benefits if they have to be bought in again. Agricultural change is coming fast and the next agricultural revolution will be on input and efficiency; this could be a win-win for low ground farmers and sheep breeders but where the hill shepherd may have few changes open to make they will perhaps score on carbon annually laid in the pasture underfoot. Future subsidy and perhaps even quality assurance or very right to farm will come down to achieving targets so be very wary of selling off any benefits to a third party yet.

PLANTING NATIVE WOODLAND - The second area is forestry sequestration. Very crudely, the rights to the woodland are sold to a carbon buyer for a period of 40 to 100 years and in this period the wood is either left in a natural state or the trees harvested must be put into perpetual use e.g a house build or permanent framing. It cannot be used for burning or short life products. There are ways to manage woods to allow native planting to be commercially useful such as well managed dense Scots pine but much of the planting will be native and natural woodland. This may be a good option on livestock farms where farmers have not been the best of woodland caretakers. Small woods, riparian belts or inaccessible areas may be better suited to wild woodland for Carbon Capture.

PEATLAND RESTORATION - The third area with massive potential is peatland restoration. I was recently walking a hill with a farmer who said the peat hags have been there for all his Seventy years. We came across an area on a destocked hill where the sheep seldom graze and a fence post was floating on the wires 5 feet above the ground. The post was put in in living memory and the farmer had to rethink the movement, erosion and evaporation of peat and its carbon. These deep ruts in the peat are getting drier and deeper with alarming speed and there is plenty proof of it as the hilltops warm and erode; the peat is definitely shrinking. There are two parts to peatland restoration funding. The first is the ScotGov war chest and the dedicated free advisory network which is The Peatland Restoration Fund. This is not meant to make anyone rich but is providing a useful income for projects to restore habitat.



Again, very generally the project aims at peat over 50cm deep that is still going to benefit from improvement (some mosses must be present and the area likely to be successfully dammed or sealed) and provides funding for the physical process and labour needed as well as changing management of habitat. Separately from this there is the Peatland Code which will Validate a project and quantify the carbon that will be locked up. This can then be sold on to a willing buyer with assurance it meets international standards and will deliver a return.

“Natural Capital” investing spurred on by Carbon riches is now big business with Brewdog (having already launched a well publicised forestry and peat scheme on their Loch Lomond property) buying another estate in the Highlands and Standard Life last month sealing the purchase of 1500 hectares in the Cairngorm National Park at over 3 times the value of what the land may have made 10 years ago. What some buyers of estates and indeed buyers of Carbon rights do not fully recognise is that Carbon cannot really be bought and sold in existing habitats or existing practices. In order to be accredited and to give assurances to the market and certifying authorities farmers and landowners shouldn't really be benefitting from carbon sales but from opportunity cost and their effort and changes to create more Carbon Lock-up. That is why a new shelter belt on a heavily grazed hill or a sheep rubbed peat bank are worth far more than a wet bog or native woodland that already exist and are effectively performing well in sequestering Carbon already. The money is not money for old humous- it is a payment to create conditions which will lock Carbon.

RETURNS - The market is still emerging and changing rapidly. It is very difficult to state what a peatbog or wood may sequester or how much may be made without knowing the volume of timber/ depth of peat, the type of project and the work needed and potential returns given up to bring the project to completion. A well established young wood or a previously drained and eroding peatbog now wetted and populated with sphagnum and other mosses and sedges may generate a capture of 3-4 Carbon Units per annum. Peatbogs tend to be very long term sales while woods may be shorter but terms can be negotiated and contracts can be on an annual basis or more typically 40-100 years. The market started around £5/ Carbon Unit but has now opened up a bit including for the first time in 2021 auctions where the price has started hitting the mid £20s. Carbon trades as high as £40 have been quoted but this is like the lamb chop on the shelf, not the price to the farmer and land projects will be judged on quality and added value with often a story helping to sell; Scotland may again command a premium to its diaspora and romantic followers.

CAUTIONS - When selling off carbon rights it must be noted that with the temptation to sell the carbon capture on the poorest acres on the farm for a few thousand per acre comes a commitment that will be still be on your grandchildren or successors to adhere to your deal. We do not know how easily such rights will be in future years to insure, or what happens if a changing environment, a compulsory purchase or a wildfire means the benefits are lost which someone has paid for. There may be maintenance liabilities, and will the Carbon sale devalue your title. There are few legal tests yet on what happens when the property is sold, or who holds the rights in a secure or crofting tenancy and this is a new market for everyone. We are assessing the opportunities for land managers and then taking the opportunities to funders and specialists to get the right people and arrangements for each individual proposal but we need to be careful. The market is rising and looks like it will continue to do so, but there is a small but notable risk that heavier regulations on emitters or a change in policy might see this emerging market come to a stop at any time. I feel there is momentum and the market (like oil and blue chip's early trading days) is starting to develop standards and quality premiums and canny Scots farmers could be at the top end. As with so many things, the early bird can get the worm, but in this case, it may be the second mouse that enjoys the cheese.

John, a former Chair of NSA Scotland is a director of Highland Rural, a new land agency in the Highlands. John's focus is farming matters, agricultural valuation (including Carbon and Energy potential) and acting on behalf of owners and occupiers negotiating with developers and statutory acquirers. He also keeps a few sheep to keep he and his collie Sue grounded.



A Word on Waders

*Doug Telfer (Clyde Valley Waders Chair)
Glendouran, Crawfordjohn*

Well, that's us into more Autumn-like weather, having had one of the driest summers ever!

The farm work falls into place – marketing fat lambs, getting store lambs away to better low ground grazing, ewe lambs dosed and tagged and off to the various wintering's, as grass in the fields is needed for tugging time.

I always feel there is an emptiness around the farm at this time with all the various birds that return each year, all gone again, with only the sound of geese heading south.

Habitat Improvement

This year we have been working with the RSPB, in conjunction with neighbouring farmers, trying to improve the habitat for many of these beautiful birds, all of which are in real trouble – not just due to the weather but, more recently, we have a major problem with badgers!! I never saw a badger 10 years ago but now they are all over the place, raiding the nests at night!

Taking stock

Sadly, this year, there were only two lapwings that got to flight! The curlew situation in this area is dire – for the first time ever there have been no young curlew anywhere on the farm. I don't think the general public realise just how destructive these animals are!

I managed to get a photo of a meadow pipit's nest (as shown) – I do hope she managed to get them hatched and away!

For more information on the Clyde Valley wader initiative, please [click here](#).





Next Generation Matters

Michelle J Bruce, Meikle Tillyeve, Udney, Aberdeenshire

For me, it all began with a few orphan lambs and now it's turned into a 750 ewe flock breeding replacement ewe lambs and store lambs, with 2 collies keeping it all in order (more about them later). With the flock split into 3 – the A flock (the best performing and weaning efficient ewes) who go to the Lleyntup to breed replacement ewe lambs from, the B flock (the poorer performing ewes) who go to a Suffolk or Texel and their lambs are sold as store, and the ewe lambs who go to the Lleyntup or Logie tup.



You can reach me at [@insta_glamb](https://www.instagram.com/insta_glamb) on Instagram and “[Aberdeenshire Sheepdogs](https://www.facebook.com/AberdeenshireSheepdogs)” or “[Michelle J Bruce CSJ Specialist Canine Feeds Stockist in Aberdeenshire](https://www.facebook.com/MichelleJBruceCSJ)” on Facebook .



The ewes are all performance recorded to allow the best decisions to be made about them to improve the replacement ewe lambs and lambs which are sold as store. I work part-time as a Land Agent off farm, with the rest of the week taken up at home. I also sell CSJ Dog Food to folk with working dogs, I really enjoy selling the dog food and hearing how other folk are getting on.

Sheepdog Diversification - I have 2 working dogs, one is a 4 year old kelpie x collie bitch who is my main work dog and I have a 10 month old registered collie bitch who has just started her training, she is a really nice pup to have around and her training seems to be going well.

A few years ago, Aberdeenshire Sheepdogs was established to provide a base for

people to train their dogs here using ‘dogged’ sheep and to also run training clinics with experienced trainers. In 2020 during lockdown, a log cabin was built to allow people to have a social tea & cake after training their dogs. It's great hearing snippets of information from other people for my new pup being trained and also to see other people's techniques for training their dogs. Another diversification project recently added to the farm, is providing sheepdog demonstrations for tourists. I love working the dogs, and often people will stop and watch you moving sheep or just having a training practice. It will be a great opportunity for people to be up close and meet the dogs and sheep, whilst also getting to watch them work.

Looking towards the future - Each year farming is changing and altering. We need to learn to be able to adapt and diversify as necessary. Farming is so rewarding and an industry we can't be without, so I would suggest joining your local young farmers club and meet in with likeminded individuals, join NSA and attend their webinars. Or even ask your neighbours if you can help out or rear their orphan lambs or help at lambing time! If you put your mind to something it is possible to achieve it.

If you are aged between 16 and 35 and have a passion for the sheep industry.

Come along to our NSA Next Generation Winter Conference, to be held at United Auctions Stirling on Friday 12th November. To have a look at the conference programme and available workshops, please [click here](#).



LOVE LAMB WEEK PHOTOGRAPHY WINNERS

This year, Love Lamb Week took place from the 1 -7 September. To help celebrate this campaign, NSA Scotland ran its first ever Love Lamb Week photography competition on Facebook. There were a large number of entries, which were spread out over five different categories. Our congratulations go to the overall and category winners, with our sincere thanks to all who supported the competition.

[Full list of winners.](#)

Overall

OVERALL
1st



Elliot Bowman

OVERALL
2nd



Kenneth Maclean

OVERALL
3rd
JOINT



Jane Macdonald



Emily Duncan

Young Handlers

YOUNG
HANDLER
1st



Leisacome Aliwarden

YOUNG
HANDLER
2nd



Inga Linklater

YOUNG
HANDLER
3rd



Gillian McLarty Robb



SRUC Veterinary Round Up

Things to look out for

Based on the last few weeks the most important issues to look out for at the moment are parasitic gastroenteritis and cobalt deficiency. There have been outbreaks of autumn nematodirosis in different areas of Scotland suggesting that the affected lambs didn't get sufficient exposure to this worm in early summer to develop good immunity to it. Diagnoses of nematodirosis in Scotland consistently peak in June but it has been suggested from other parts of the UK that disease in autumn is becoming more common. We have also seen deaths due to infection with other worm species in both hogs on their holding of birth and bought in store lambs.

Trace elements - the number of submissions of blood samples from lambs to check trace element status (copper, selenium, cobalt) is increasing. Cobalt deficiency is always common in autumn and often occurs at the same time as PGE. When investigating poor growth rates collecting both faeces and bloods is useful to check worm egg counts and trace element status at the same time.

Remember!

Dosing gun injuries and injection site reactions are most common during the months of October and November. It is never too late to address your administration technique and if you think it is being incorrectly carried out, take the time to check what the manufacturers guide to best practice is.



Veterinary Corner

Ed Hill – Thrums Vet Group

Recent Occurrences

This past month is always a really busy one in the sheep vet calendar as attention starts to turn towards the breeding season ahead. The principle task for us has been routine fertility checking of tups prior to service. This involves a physical examination, coupled with analysis of a semen sample, and is now common place on many of our units for every tup every year. So far this year we have tested dozens of tups, with about 20% identified as not fit for service. We typically find about 1 in 5 or 6 tups to be sub-fertile; for some a retest is advisable, but removing the poor performers should help achieve a good result come scanning day!

Causes for concern?

We have still been picking up some pretty high worm egg counts, perhaps not surprising; good grass growing weather is also good for worms too! Going into the back-end worm burdens can obviously depress growth rates in lambs, but can sometimes underlie a pastuella outbreak, as worms have a depressive effect on the immune system. Monitoring worm egg counts is always advisable and this is the time of year I start to advise my clients to use one of the newer wormers in the "orange" or "purple" groups as a knock-out drench, to remove any resistant worms that may have built up in the grazing season so far.

Flock MOT

One thing to think about this month may be the health of your cull ewes that will not be going back to the tup this year. What are the major reasons in your flock for premature culling? Lameness, mastitis and poor body condition will tend to be the major causes of premature culling for many of the flocks under my care. Your sheep vet should be able to help you embark on a lameness reduction strategy or pick apart a mastitis problem. Where poor body condition is prevalent I tend to advise a "cull ewe screen", where we take samples to look for diseases like Maedi Visna and Johnes, parasites such as liver fluke or gut worms and scan the lungs for OPA. If you are able to identify these diseases early, it can make future control much easier, cheaper and effective.



Save the Date!

NSA Scots Sheep will take place on Wednesday 1 June 2022 by kind permission of Robert and Hazel McNee, Over Finlarg, Tealing, Dundee, DD4 0QE. For more information, please visit the [NSA Scots Sheep website](#).

Find us on

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DONATE A LAMB

#LambforStAndrewsDay



PLEASE CONTACT YOUR
LOCAL AUCTIONEERS FOR
FURTHER DETAILS



As we near St Andrew's Day at the end of November, NSA Scotland is urging members to consider 'banking a lamb' to help tell the positive story of sheep farming and promote eating lamb for St Andrew's Day. Following the success of 2020's project, which saw 1.2 tonnes of lamb delivered into schools, the Institute of Auctioneers and Appraisers in Scotland (IAAS) has created a Lamb Bank to give even more children the opportunity to taste, eat and cook with Scotch Lamb on the patron saint's day on Tuesday 30th November.

Members selling sheep via an IAAS mart can donate the funds from the sale of one or more sheep into the Lamb Bank, which will be used to supply Scottish schools during the week of November 30th.

Be a winner with an NSA membership



NOT AN NSA MEMBER?

Sign up today for your chance to win a Solway Recycling prize. Membership starts from just £30 a year.



ALREADY A MEMBER?

Thank you. Your support is vital to our work. Refer a friend to sign up and you'll both get a chance to win.

FOUR CHANCES TO WIN

Winners can choose from a Solway Recycling lamb adopter, lamb warming box or deluxe sheep pens.



Visit the website to join today
www.nationalsheep.org.uk/membership

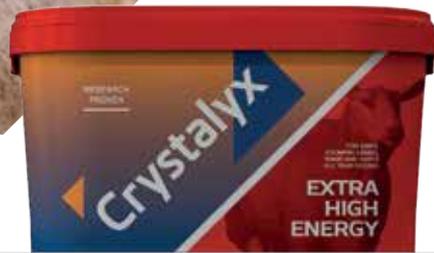


Time to place your lambing adverts

The NSA Lambing List is open for members to place adverts for lambing placement students for the 2021/2022 season. Guidelines and advice to write an attractive advert are [available here](#). Once the list is populated with a range of lambing adverts, in early November, it will open to agricultural and veterinary students seeking a work experience placement.

RESEARCH
PROVEN

Crystal^x



EXTRA HIGH ENERGY

HELP MAINTAIN EWE CONDITION DURING PREGNANCY, FOR BETTER LAMB PERFORMANCE AFTER BIRTH.

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 - Enhances ewe milk production and lamb growth rates
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