NATIONAL SHEEP ASSOCIATION

WORKING FOR THE SCOTTISH SHEEP INDUSTRY

JULY/AUGUST 2022 EDITION

www.nsascotland.org

CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME

Jen Craig, Normangill, Crawford



It's newsletter time again! Time flies when you're having fun and what fun we have had in the last couple of months.

Starting at NSA Scotsheep 2022 and having just about recovered from the Highland Show (with the dreaded Covid catching up with me after all this time) – it is safe to say it has been a hectic few weeks.

NSA Scotsheep was a fantastic day and by far the highlight of my Chairmanship. Over Finlarg looked great, the hosts and organising committee had everything under control and the weather even played nice for us as well. We really could not have asked for better and again I would like to express my sincere gratitude to Robert, Hazel, Kate & Alan for hosting us.

I was totally blown away to be awarded the NSA Scotland Silver Salver at the event and I thank the committee who voted for me and applaud them all for keeping it a secret until right before the opening ceremony – that is no mean feat! The next stop for us was the RHS in our brandnew location down next to the shearing area. Whilst different and with a few improvements yet to make, the new location seemed to go down well with everyone who visited and the exhibitors who made the move with us. It will be a great place to be next year in amongst the buzz of the Golden Shears World Championships that the RHS is hosting. It is now time for me to get some clipping done before Grace and I head south to Malvern for the NSA Sheep Event at the end of the month.

The Committee have some big ideas for what we want to get up to for the rest of the year so watch this space – it's going to be good! I would like to finish by extending a massive thank you to the committee members and friends who volunteered time at NSA Scotsheep 2022 and the RHS to help manning stands, setting up and in general providing a good laugh and to my long-suffering dad who is forever looking after my dogs while I'm flying around the countryside!



Shearwell

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Our Diary WEDNESDAY 27TH JULY

Welfare in Transport - Scottish Stakeholders Catch Up

WEDNESDAY 17TH AUGUST

Scottish Government Sheep Scab Working Group Meeting

Our Events

WEDNESDAY 27TH JULY

NSA Sheep Event – Three Counties Showground, Malvern, Worcestershire. For more information, click here.

THURSDAY 11TH AUGUST

NSA AGM 2022 - Doladron Farm, Pontrobert, SY22 6JR. For more information, click here.

TUESDAY 16TH AUGUST 2022

NSA and Moredun webinar: Scab... it's for the flock's sake. 7.30pm. To sign up to this webinar, <u>click here</u>.



July has come with the hope of hay making weather to fill the sheds with crops for the winter. Many sheep farms will be in the fortunate position of not needing supplementary feeding but with the nature of the sheep industry – there is always someone who does things a little bit differently. Whilst there are ongoing concerns for fertiliser and increased input prices, there are policy changes on the horizon – not to mention another proposed independence referendum.

Land Reform in a Net Zero Nation

On the theme of policy changes, at the start of July Scottish Government launched a consultation ahead of the next Land Reform Bill which seeks to make changes to the framework of law and policy that govern the system of ownership, management and use of land in Scotland. The core aims of the Scottish Government's land reform policy are set out in its Land Rights and Responsibilities Statement which are: to increase diversity of landownership; to bring about changes in land use and to create more opportunities for communities to engage in decision making about the land around them and share in the benefits it brings. Ultimately this comes down to the vision of a net zero Scotland with thriving (and growing) rural and island communities and where more, not less, people live and work sustainably on the land. This consultation sets out proposals for the Bill and seeks views on a range of issues such as: improving the transparency of land ownership including asking who can and should receive public subsidy; how the purchase of land may be restricted; the provision of subsidy to only those registered in the UK and EU for tax purposes and asking what tests should be applied prior to the purchasing of large-scale land holdings. For those who are not large-scale land holdings (i.e. under 3,000 Ha), the consultation paper also outlines how the current system of agricultural and small and holding tenancies creates a number of barriers to those who want to undertake a combination of agricultural and non-agricultural activity within a tenancy. It is proposed that a new form of flexible tenancy, called a 'Land Use Tenancy' is created to help agricultural holdings, small landholding tenants and others to deliver multiple eligible land use activities within one tenancy i.e. woodland management, agroforestry, nature maintenance and restoration, peatland restoration, and agriculture. The land sharing vs land sparing debate continues... NSA Scotland will be discussing this consultation paper at length not only at committee level but also with other industry stakeholders to ensure a rounded response can be formed ahead of the closing date of 25th September 2022.

Animal Health and Welfare

A meeting took place with industry stakeholders, Scottish Government, Defra and Welsh Government in mid May to discuss last year's consultations on animal welfare in transit by Defra and Scottish Government. At the time, there had been no major conclusions or actions made as to how the consultations would progress and it is hoped that a meeting due at the end of July will provide suitable outcomes. To look at journey times in isolation simply cannot be done. Nor can the same be said for headroom, space allocations or trailer conditions. It is however clear that considerably more evidence is needed from industry to be analysed by Government before any strides forward can be made.

OPA Update

The first and second meetings of the OPA (Ovine Pulmonary Adenocarcinoma) Working Group chaired by NSA Scotland have now met by the end of June. Dr Chris Cousens gave a presentation on the work of Moredun and revealed the estimated number of infected sheep produced is less than 5 per million sheep, but this is grossly underestimated and it is thought that the figure it is more likely 1% of the sheep population. In addition to this, leading independent vet specialist Dr Phil Scott has been working extensively on OPA screening and has been scanning up to 15,000 sheep a year. These sheep may then go to Moredun for postmortem examination should they be deemed to have OPA. Sue Tongue (SRUC) also gave a presentation on the work of SRUC and surveys carried out over the years. The meeting concluded with a discussion taking place surrounding the need for scanning and training certification of vets, further awareness by vets and improved research and diagnostic provisions.

Access taking in Scotland

NSA Scotland continue to sit as corresponding members of the National Access Forum which was established by NatureScot to advise on national issues linked to Scottish access rights. Whilst the prevalence of issues seen in lockdown times may not occur as often we recognise that any incident is one too many no matter the severity. Thus, we continue to support those who are affected by sheep worrying by dogs incidents and many other access related issues as and when needed and persevere to raise awareness at all levels of the consequences of irresponsible access taking. Should any member encounter any issues relating to this subject and need support, please do not hesitate to contact us.







Veterinary Corner Ed Hill - Thrums Vet Group



The warmer summer months bring an elevated risk of blowfly strike, and certainly over the last two years we have seen more problems than we would normally expect to see with strikes. This is probably due to climatic change, with warmer and wetter weather predominating. There are a number of chemical pour-on products available for the prevention of strikes, with a variety of duration of action and withdrawal periods depending on what class of stock you are treating and how great the risk is.

Whether ticks need to be controlled also needs to be considered. When we get asked to investigate a case of treatment failure, the most frequent cause is that the product hasn't been applied in the correct fashion, so it's really important to be familiar with the instructions and use the correct applicator gun for pour-on products. And whilst we can't always predict the weather perfectly, a heavy downpour shortly after application will reduce the length of time the product works for, so be prepared for the possibility of early retreatment if required if this occurs.

At the time of writing I am involved in a few flock investigations into Borders Disease. This is not a disease we see a lot of, so has taken us a little by surprise! Borders Disease is closely related to BVD in cattle, where a persistently infected animal spreads the virus. If the virus encounters a nonpregnant animal this is usually inconsequential, but if a pregnant animal is infected this will have a number of effects. In the flocks I am involved with, the effects we have seen have been slightly different in each. We've seen a high number of ewes that were scanned in lamb fail to lamb, we've seen weakly lambs and abortions and we've seen lambs born unable to stand with a tremor. Control either relies upon mixing of young replacement sheep with adult sheep well in advance of mating, with the intention of stimulating natural flock immunity, however, this can have unpredictable results. Better control is to aim for eradication by blood sampling to identify and culling the persistently infected animals. Infection is typically introduced through bought in animals, which to my really mind emphasises the importance of quarantine and screening of purchased animals for a number of diseases - including Borders – a few pounds spent in testing during quarantine could save thousands later – never mind the impact of these diseases on flock health and production.

Scald in lambs also rears its head at this time of year. Lambs are more likely to take scald where there is a Footrot problem in the ewes, so a holistic approach to lameness control is really important.

When scald does occur, I find that the best treatment is spraying all four feet with antibiotic spray. When large numbers of lambs are affected this can be a daunting task and sometimes more challenging to identify affected lambs once gathered into a pen, so foot-bathing might be more appropriate. If foot-bathing is chosen as a treatment option, then this should be done as close to "gold standard" as possible – if done incorrectly it can actually make the problem much worse. Things such as foot-bathing on a wet day, gathering lambs into a mucky patch and turning them out onto something similar, or using chemicals that are at the wrong concentration or have degraded, should be avoided. Scattering some hydrated lime on high traffic areas on entry and exit from the handling system may well help. If the current set up isn't great, a small investment in improving the underfoot conditions and foot-bath set up can pay dividends in the long run.









Jen Craig (Chair) Biggar, South Lanarkshire



Maimie Paterson (Vice Chair) Dunblane, Central Belt



Euan Emslie (Event Organiser and Secretariat)



Grace Reid (Scottish Region Coordinator) Clackmannan, Central Belt

Find out more



Wednesday 1st June 2022 Over Finlarg Farm, Tealing, By Dundee, DD4 0QE

Celebrating NSA Scotsheep 2022

A record-breaking crowd flocked to Over Finlarg for the long-awaited NSA Scotsheep 2022, where thousands of farmers, industry enthusiasts and school children gathered for a well-deserved day out in the Angus countryside.

After being postponed on three previous occasions due to Covid 19, host farmers Robert and Hazel McNee, were delighted to finally open their farm gates to visitors who travelled the length and breadth of the UK and indeed from Canada, Australia and New Zealand. The event, with Virgin Money as major sponsors, featured 40 breed societies and individual breeders, 160 trade stands and various competitions and seminars which were held throughout the course of the day, with the farm tour proving extremely popular.

It was former United Auctions executive chairman David Leggat MBE, who officially opened the event and congratulated the McNee family on how well the farm was looking and the high-quality pedigree and commercial livestock that they produce each year. He also praised Scottish agriculture, in particular Scottish beef and lamb, but urgently called for more government support to help develop the farming industry beyond 2024.





"The main responsibilities of government include food security, food supply and food safety so we cannot ignore farmers' roles as providers of food for the nation," he said. "Significant support must be given to production and infrastructure as it's essential to maintain the critical mass of both Scottish beef and lamb."

With focus on carbon and greenhouse gas emissions, a full farm carbon audit on Over Finlarg was conducted by main sponsors Virgin Money, in a bid to encourage more farmers to make use of new technology to improve efficiency. Simon Haley, director of Carbon Metrics commented, "Over Finlarg was very efficient and that total emissions for both the beef and sheep enterprises were well below Agrecalc averages."

The sale of ewe hoggs at the closing of the event attracted its usual crowd of spectators which saw a new NSA Scotsheep record of £2,000 apiece paid for a pair of Badgerface Texels from Stuart and Wendy Hunter of the Hunters from West Cairnhill, Insch. Sired by Cleenagh Biggy, and bred from their foundation ewe, they were purchased by Lancashire breeders, Caroline Brown and Sheila Mason. The couple also topped the Blue Texels, selling a pair for £1500

to Ayrshire breeder David Alexander, from Millside, Galston. One is by Lyles Eagle, with the other being sired by Hunters Deerstalker.

Robbie Wilson's Milnbank flock from North Dorlaithers, Turriff, produced the overall champion pair with two Texels by Castlecairn Doodlebro, which sold to David Pickford, Cheshire.

Kate McNee's black North Country Cheviots made £1300 each to Dean Anderson, Smallburn Farms, Elgin, with all proceeds being donated to Prostate Scotland.

The family also sold Texel cross hoggs with Beltex lambs at foot to a top of £250 per head twice.

A shepherd's crook made by John Fotheringham from Ardler, Meigle, was sold prior to the sale of ewe hoggs, raising £400 for Scotland's Charity Air Ambulance.

Jennifer Craig, chairperson of NSA Scotland, was awarded the NSA Scotland Silver Salver for outstanding contribution to the sheep industry. Ms Craig farms at Normangill, Crawford, Biggar, and is currently in her fourth year as chairperson of the organisation.

NSA Scotsheep 2022 – Competition Results

NSA Next Generation of the Year Competition

Sponsor: Texel Sheep Society

- 1st Ewan Runciman, Huntington Farm Cottages, Lauder, Berwickshire.
- 2nd Freddy Fulford, Erracht Lodge, Banavie, Fort William.
- 3rd Billy Gray, Sornbeg Farm, Galston, Ayrshire.
- 4th Ruaridh Lawrie, Westerton Farm, Balintore, By Kirriemuir.
- 5th Harry Gemmill, Ifferdale Farm, Saddell, By Campbeltown.
- 6th Catherine Pringle, Saughland Farm, Pathhead.
- 7th Joint Ian Armstrong, Brae Farm, Kintore, Inverurie.
- 7th *Joint* Thomas Smith, Dairy House Kells, Southwick, Dumfries & Galloway.



Highest placed under 21 Freddy Fulford.

Sheep dog element of competition

Sponsor: The International Sheep Dog Society

- 1st Freddy Fulford.
- 2nd Catherine Pringle.
- 3rd Thomas Smith.
- 4th Ewan Runciman.
- 5th Rebecca Clarke, West Whitecastle Farm, Biggar, South Lanarkshire.
- 6th William Fotheringham, Bankhead Farm, Forteviot, Perth.
- 7th Rebecca Duncan, Lands of Drumhead, Balfron Station, Glasgow.

Fencing Competition

Sponsor: Tornado & James Jones & Sons.

- 1st HVB Fencing, Waterhouses, Stoke-on-Trent (Simon Gibbs & John Morgan).
- 2nd Knoxfield Estate Services, Milton of Collace, Burrelton, Perthshire (Mark Stewart & Matthew Gray)
- 3rd Samson Fencing, Parkgate, Dumfries (Rory Samson & Duncan Samson).



Invitational Sheep Dog Trial Competition

Sponsored: McCaskie Agriculture

- 1st Elinore Nilsson, Ardormie, Alyth, Perthshire, with Kid.
- 2nd Neil Campbell, Quarry Cottage, Fossoway.
 3rd Michael Gallagher, Ardormie, Alyth, Perthshire.
- 4th Stephen Alexander, Easter Auquhollie, Rickarton, Stonehaven.
- 5th A Cameron, 17 Monteith Crescent, Callander, Perthshire.
- 6th Stewart McFarlane, Ashmore Estate, Bridge of Cally, Perthshire.
- 7th Ian Rimmer, Ashmore Estate, Bridge of Cally, Perthshire.
- 8th Scott MacCauley, Connachan Farm, Crieff, Perthshire.
- 9th Alistair McKenzie, Blairnairn Farm, Glen Fruin, Helensburgh.
- 10th Rory Hood, Glenarm Farm, Glen Clova, Angus.

Best Outrun & Lift – Stewart McFarlane.

Best Pen & Shed - Neil Campbell.



Stock Judging Competitions

Sponsor: Galloway & MacLeod.

Open

ζrd

- 1st Kevin Laing. 1st John Graham.
- 2nd Anna Smith. 2nd Gavin Law.
 - Harry Gemmill. 3rd Muriel Forbes.

YFC

Sheep Shearing – Quickshear Competition Sponsors:Blackface SBA, Luing Cattle Society,

TagFaster – Datamars UK, Scottish Woodlands & Scruffy Dog Cider.

- 1st Hamish Mitchell, Glenfarg 29.6 seconds to shear one hogg.
- 2nd Archie Paterson, Isle of Bute.
- 3rd Michael Dagg, Scottish Borders.
- 4th Brian Simpson, Blairgowrie.

Best Trade Stand Competition

Sheep Breed Society

- 1st Bluefaced Leicester Sheep Breeders' Association.
- 2nd North Country Cheviot Sheep Society.
- 3rd Rough Fell Sheep Breeders' Association.



Indoor Trade Stands

- 1st Logie Durno Sheep, Inverurie.
- 2nd Luing Cattle Society.
- 3rd Parkside Veterinary Group, Dundee.



Outdoor Trade Stands

- 1st GP Smart & Son, Alford.
- 2nd ATV Services Scotland, Ayr.
- 3rd Ogilvy Spirits, Glamis.



Show & Sale of Pairs of Ewe Hoggs

Champion Pair Sponsored by Algo Robert Wilson, North Doralithers, Turriff with a pair of Texel hoggs by Castlecairn Doodlebro, £1,600 pph sold to David Pickford, Macclesfield, Cheshire.



Class 1 – Bluefaced Leicester

Sponsor Parkside Veterinary Group.

1st A & J Adam, Newhouse of Glamis, Forfar. £350 pph

Class 2- Scotch Mule

Sponsor: Kidd Veterinary Centre

- 1st Moir Livestock, Newmill Rathen, Cairness, Aberdeenshire. £200 pph
- 2nd Moir Livestock. £200 pph

Class 3 - North Country Cheviot

Sponsor: Harrison & Hetherington

1st RM Adam & Son, Auldallan, Kirriemuir. £450 pph

Class 4 – Scottish Blackface

Sponsor: Savills

 $1^{\rm st}~$ W Brady, North Amulree, Dunkeld. £200 pph

Class 5 - Suffolk

1st Essie Suffolks, Adziel, Strichen. £700 pph

NSA Scotsheep 2022 – Competition Results Continued

Class 6 - Texel

- 1st Robert Wilson £1,600 pph
- & Champion
- 2nd Richard Close, Nethermill, Langbank, Port Glasgow. £600pph
- ζrd Robert Wilson. £1,100 pph sold to H Hunter, Braehead, Huntly.

Class 8 - Any Other Continental Breed

Sponsor: Thornton Law LLP

- W.J & M Hunter, West Cairnhill, Insch, 1 st Aberdeenshire. Blue Texel £1,500 pph sold to David Alexander, Millside, Galston, Avrshire.
- 2nd W.J & M Hunter. Badgerface X Texel £2,000 pph (An NSA Scotsheep record price) sold to Caroline Brown and Sheila Mason, Clapham, Lancaster.
- Ian McConnell, Crawfordhall, Kirkmahoe, ζrd Dumfries. Rouge

Class 9 - Any Cross Bred

- 1st Moir Livestock. Texel X (Ex Scotch Mule) £200 pph
- 2nd Moir Livestock. Suffolk X Texel £200 pph

Guess The Tag Competition

£50 Harbro voucher and bottle of Ogilvy Vodka Winner: Sarah Martin, Tealing, By Dundee.

Online Ticket Sales Prize Draw

Class Axion 960 with front loader toy tractor sponsored and supplied by Sellars Agriculture Winner: Rhona Sharp, Nether Logie Farm, Eassie, Forfar.



The sale conducted by mainline sponsors of the event, United Auctions started off with the sale of a shepherd's crook made by John Fotheringham, Ardler, Meigle which made £400, with the proceeds donated to Scotland's Charity Air Ambulance, followed by two black North Country Cheviot ewe hoggs from the McNee family that made £1,300 per head to Dean Anderson, Smallburn Farms, Elgin, with the proceeds donated to Prostate Scotland. The McNee's also sold thirty Texel hoggs with Beltex cross lambs at foot in seven lots, to a top price per head of £250 twice. Other leading

prices included £1,100 per head for a pair of Badgerfaced x Texel hoggs from James Scott, Forfar which sold to Howells of Gelli Farm, Cymmer, Port Talbot, Wales.

NSA Scotland Silver Salver

Jen Craig, Normangill, Crawford, Biggar, currently in her fourth year as NSA Scotland Chair, is this year's recipient of the NSA Scotland silver salver and was presented at NSA Scotsheep 2022 by host farmer Hazel McNee. The silver salver is presented annually to an individual or organisation for outstanding contribution to the sheep industry. The award demonstrates the appreciation NSA Scotland has for its hard-working members and the exceptional people who make up our sheep farming sector. It is a small step towards

thanking those who have had lifetime commitments to further advance the Scottish sheep industry who may not have had the recognition they deserve.

In 2018 NSA Scotsheep was held at Kings Arms farm, Ballantrae (Robert & Caroline Dalrymple), 2016 - Blythbank, West Linton (Glenrath Farms Ltd), 2014 - Quixwood, Berwickshire (Macfarlane Farms Ltd) and in 2012 at the Morrisons Farm, Dumfries House.

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Royal Highland Show 2022

NSA Scotland would like to thank all visitors, exhibitors, volunteers and contributors for their support this year at the Royal Highland Show.

2022 saw the NSA marquee move to Avenue M directly beside the MacRobert Shearing Theatre with many changes and improvements planned ahead of 2023. This year, we ran two competitions in conjunction with the newly added seminars which took place on Thursday afternoon on the shearing stage.



The first seminar saw a focus on animal health and welfare where sheep scab was discussed by Grace Reid (NSA Scottish Region Coordinator), Stewart Burgess (Moredun), Neil Wilson (IAAS) and Nigel Miller (Livestock Health Scotland). Main takeaways surrounded the progress being made in Scotland and across the UK as a whole to help reduce the prevalence of scab alongside the advancement of diagnostic tests to identify this very contagious parasitic disease. Questions focussed on diagnostic agility in terms of time between infection and finding out test results, testing costs, onus and responsibility of infected flocks to help spread awareness and how communities or groups of farmers may be able to work together to reduce the occurrences of scab.



Straight after this NSA Scotland and SAYFC ran a joint seminar to explore the future of the flock and the opportunities for young people in the sheep industry. A panel of Grace Reid (NSA Scottish Region Coordinator), Karyn McArthur (NSA Next Generation Ambassador) John Fyall (Highland Rural), were chaired by Scott Anderson (SAYFC) and ably answered questions posed by a very engaged audience. Many questions surrounded the sustainable nature of meat production alongside the possible rejuvenation of wool sales and how to encourage younger generations particularly from non-farming backgrounds. This seminar had a very positive outlook in terms of the passion of all involved however it was clear that there were many close looming threats to overcome.



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Competition Results

NSA Scotland Stock Judging

Class One: Beltex Gimmers, **Class Two:** Beltex X Texel Rams from Corstane Farm, Broughton, Biggar by kind permission of Mary Dunlop.

Prize money kindly sponsored by Galloway and Macleod.

Open

1st Jake Palmer 2nd Ben White 3rd Iain MacEachan

YFC 1st Helen Forbes 2nd *Joint* Jane McGowan 2nd *Joint* Arabella Dunn

NSA Scotland/RHASS Lamb Dressing

Judge: Andrew Morton, Lochend, Denny.

1st £60 & Michael Dun Memorial Trophy. Finlay Barclay (11), Mid Brockloch, Maybole; Zara Wood (13), Kingledores, Broughton & Katie Aiken (15), Proctors Farm, Lancashire.

2nd £30 - Cameron Barclay (11), Mid Brockloch, Maybole; Struan Wood (10), Kingledores, Broughton & Robbie Aiken (13), Proctors Farm, Lancashire.

3rd £20 - Cohen Neil (6) & Kirsty Neil, Carnoustie, Angus.

4th £15 - Ewan Clark (8) & Alexander Clark (10), <u>Meikle Glengyre</u>, Stranraer.

5th £10 - Hayden Whitelaw (12), Park Place Lockerbie with friends Harry & Innes.

6th - John Duncan (11), Burnfoot Farm, Muirkirk with friends Mark & Fletcher



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NSA Scotland Newsletter

Remember to have a look at the previous editions of the NSA Scotland Newsletter on our website.

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CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME

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For further information please contact Grace Reid - Scottish Region Coordinator Tel: 07787 142858 Email: grace@nationalsheep.org.uk Jen Craig - Scottish Region Chairman Tel: 07585 604385 Email: j.normangill@hotmail.co.uk

Maimie Paterson - Scottish Region Vice Chairman Tel: 01786 823129 Email: auchenlay@gmail.com



www.nsascotland.org



Keep an eye out on the NSA Next Generation website for updates on exciting opportunities for young people in the industry!

Click here.

Or if you would like to feature yourself in this section, get in touch with grace@nationalsheep.org.uk

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