

SCOTLAND

WORKING FOR THE SCOTTISH SHEEP INDUSTRY

JUNE 2024 EDITION

www.nsascotland.org



All roads lead to Aikengall in June



CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME

by Peter Myles, NSA Scotland Chair

A wee trip to Spain

Early this year an invitation came through to speak to Spanish sheep farmers at their Future of Extensive Livestock Farming conference in Cordoba in Andalusia, southern Spain. So, I thought what the heck and since they were to contribute to travel and accommodation, I felt nothing ventured nothing gained. It was to be held at the end of April which isn't the best time for Scottish sheep farmers. Fortunately, my last ewe lambed the day before I was due to head off, so, all was good.

Despite the obvious language barrier, the issues discussed were remarkably similar to us. From an overly bureaucratic and unwieldy CAP policy, health, welfare, and a shortage of local abattoirs. They also felt pressurised from the green lobby and an anti-meat agenda, with restrictions on the number of days sheep can be allowed to graze beneath olive trees and

what they felt was grossly undervalued was the contribution grazing livestock make in preventing wildfires.

With the help of some slides from NSA, The Stratification Group and QMS, I told the attendees a little about NSA and the sheep industry in Scotland and those attending were generous in their appreciation. After all, give us a stick, sheepdogs, a checked shirt and bunnet, and there is not much difference between us you know.

As the third largest sheep producer in Europe after UK and Romania I was eager to find out more about this powerhouse of sheep production on the Iberian Peninsula. I learned a lot in these two days only to whet my appetite to find out more. I've made some good contacts now, so hopefully it will allow Scottish / Spanish sheep cultures to flourish. After all, nothing ventured nothing gained.



Our Events

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

WEDNESDAY 5TH JUNE 2024 NSA SCOTSHEEP

By kind permission of the Hamilton Family, Aikengall Dunbar, East Lothian

WEDNESDAY 19TH JUNE NSA, SCOPS AND MOREDUN WEBINAR

'The importance of understanding and controlling parasites in sheep'
[Click here to register](#)

THURSDAY 20TH JUNE – SUNDAY 23RD JUNE NSA SCOTLAND AT THE ROYAL HIGHLAND SHOW

Ingliston, EH28 8NB

TUESDAY 30TH JULY NSA SHEEP EVENT

Three Counties Showground,
Worcestershire.

WEDNESDAY 14TH AUGUST NSA, MOREDUN AND SCOPS WEBINAR

'Reducing the risk of reproductive diseases next year' [Click here to register](#)



FAST cultivates support at Holyrood for Scotland's agriculture supply chain

On Wednesday 22nd May leading figures in agriculture, primary food production and land management in Scotland came together with MSPs at Holyrood at a parliamentary reception sponsored by Elena Whitham MSP.

The reception, attended by more than 130 guests, was hosted by the newly constituted Food and Agriculture Stakeholder Taskforce (FAST) and sponsored by Ms Whitham, MSP for Carrick, Cumnock and Doon Valley, to stimulate discussion and understanding with Members of Parliament about what is needed to promote sustainable and profitable agricultural production in Scotland.

Next generation farmers Nicola Wordie from Aberdeenshire and Cameron Wilson from Ayrshire were the main speakers, detailing what they want to see for the future of the sector and what those in the room can do to help them and the wider industry achieve this. The guests were invited to sign a pledge board to champion the industry in the future. During the evening, FAST Chair Neil Wilson emphasised the significance of the multi-faceted agricultural and primary food production supply chain to Scotland's economy and the importance of pragmatic policy for its sustainable future (see graphic below).

Neil comments, "Agriculture generates more than £3.3 billion for Scotland's economy and there are some pivotal decisions being made in parliament in coming weeks that will impact the future economic success, or otherwise, of the nation's agriculture and sustainable food production. At a time when food security, cost of living and environmental pressures put the industry at the heart of matters, last night at Holyrood was an excellent platform to launch FAST as a formalised group and to have direct conversations with those who will be influencing future policy developments."

Jim Fairlie, Minister for Agriculture and Connectivity also gave an address highlighting the important UK Government deliverable of Scotland retaining at least 17% of the total farm budget going forward.

FAST has been providing information to MSPs ahead of the amendments being considered at Stage 2 of the Bill in the Scottish Parliament during May. This reflects the group's desire for policy that supports agricultural businesses and communities and ensuring a robust level of expert scrutiny from the sector. Since its formation, FAST has aimed to be included at the sharp end of forming policy and how to best support Scotland's rural economy and people to thrive. In addition, the most effective proactive and reactive action for the industry in response to opportunities and threats affecting Scottish food production and farming through changing policy must be identified.

The 16 founding organisations of FAST are: Agricultural Industries Confederation (AIC), Institute of Auctioneers and Appraisers in Scotland (IAAS), National Beef Association (NBA), National Sheep Association Scotland (NSA Scotland), NFU Scotland (NFUS), Quality Meat Scotland (QMS), Royal Scottish Agricultural Benevolent Institution (RSABI), Scottish Agricultural Organisation Society Ltd (SAOS), Scottish Association of Meat Wholesalers (SAMW), Scottish Association of Young Farmers Clubs (SAYFC), Scottish Beef Association (SBA), Scottish Craft Butchers, Scottish Land & Estates (SLE), Scottish Pig Producers (SPP), Scottish Quality Crops (SQC), Scottish Tenant Farmers Association (STFA).

Scottish agriculture in numbers

ECONOMIC

£3.3bn

Scottish farming produces an annual output of £3.3 billion. Of this £2.8 billion is generated by Scotland's red meat supply chain, up from £2.4 billion in 2016 (+16.6%).

£840m

The red meat sector makes a contribution of £840 million GVA to the Scottish economy, up from £733 million in 2016 (+14.5%).

£1.27bn

On-farm production of beef, sheepmeat and pork is worth £1.27 billion per year. There are 395,000 suckler cows in Scotland, 31,000 sows and 2.51 million ewes.

36-38%

Red meat production contributed between 36% and 38% of Scottish agricultural output in the latest five years.

£60.3m

Scotland's agritourism sector is valued at £60.3 million and employs 1,684 full time staff.

1.51bn

1.51 billion litres of milk are produced in Scotland annually – equivalent to 604 Olympic-sized swimming pools. 41% of Scottish milk supply is drinking milk and 38% is for cheese making.

34%

In remote rural areas, agriculture accounts for 34% of VAT and PAYE-registered businesses and 18% of both employment and turnover.

13.7m

Scotland accounts for 12% of UK egg production, about 13.7 million per week.

67,400

Jobs sustained – 67,400 workers directly on farm in agriculture, 31,200 in red meat farming while around 300,000 people are involved in Scottish agricultural activities. 3,900 in red meat processing and 4,200 in the red meat supply chain.

£62m

Farm retail is worth some £62 million in Scotland, employing over 3,000 full time staff.

£334m

Cereals production is worth £334 million and supplies the Scotch Whisky industry which turns over £7.1 billion per year.

430,000

More than 430,000 tonnes of vegetables are produced over about 22,000 hectares in Scotland annually.

£145m

The value of fruit output in Scotland annually exceeds £145 million.

£334m

Cereal production in Scotland is worth £334 million and supplies the Scotch Whisky industry which turns over £7.1 billion per year.

23%

Scottish potato production represents 23% of the GB industry, which has a farmgate value of £928 million. The Potato industry in Scotland employs over 2,000 people.

ENVIRONMENTAL

50%

Over 50% of Agricultural land is dedicated to upland sheep, mixed sheep & beef cattle farming, the grazing from this land benefits insects, plants, and birds.

80.5%

In June 2023, 80.5% of Scotland's agricultural land was reported as grass or grazing land, highlighting the natural suitability of Scotland to livestock and dairy production.

This fact sheet has been collated and produced by the Food and Agriculture Strategy Taskforce, which brings together a wide range of organisations to champion the cause of Scottish agriculture.

TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THE GROUP SCAN THE QR CODE



Visit NSA Scotland at the Royal Highland Show!

NSA members and those with sheep industry interests attending this year's Royal Highland Show (Thursday 20th - Sunday 23rd June 2024) are invited to visit the NSA Scotland marquee situated on Avenue M, stand number 1(B), directly beside the MacRobert Shearing Theatre for a well-earned seat and refreshments.

Not only is this a place for the sheep industry to meet up but also a place to educate the general public on how the sheep industry caters for the needs of wider society, economy and the environment. Whether it be promotion of our heritage breeds, housing the RHS Fleece competition, a place to seek information on genetic advancements or a place for children and those of all ages to come to learn all about the fantastic range of sheep breeds found in Scotland – we have it all! Each trade stand is unique in its offering and as such provides great diversity for those entering the NSA marquee.

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Enhancing Animal Health

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BLACKFACE
SHEEP

KERRY HILL FLOCK
BOOK SOCIETY

Come see the NSA Marquee!

Avenue M, Stand 1 (B)

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SCOTLAND

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sheep society

Osmonds^{Est. 1884}
Animal Nutritionists & Veterinary Suppliers

AB
EUROPE

BRITISH WOOL

THE INTERNATIONAL
SHEEP DOG SOCIETY

NSA Scots Sheep 2024

Engaging and enjoyable programme to entertain NSA Scot Sheep 2024 visitors

All roads lead to Aikengall Farm near Innerwick, Dunbar, on Wednesday 5th June as the countdown to NSA Scot Sheep 2024 has officially begun.

Seen as the most important specialist event in the year for sheep producers in Scotland and further afield in the North of England, the one day event will welcome farmers to enjoy an abundance of trade stands, seminars, workshops and working demonstrations, as well as the ever popular farm tour of the impressive Aikengall site, home to a 2800 flock of Scottish Blackface and Scotch Mule ewes. The show and sale of pairs of ewe hoggs, sheep dog trial, speed shear, and competitions including stockjudging and the NSA Next Generation Shepherd of the Year will also return to entertain visitors.

Featuring a number of industry leading scientists and advisors, the seminars are sure to offer plenty of food for thought for attendees, and there will be numerous workshops and working demonstrations taking place throughout the day.

It is set to be a bumper year trade stand wise with 32 sheep breed societies booked in as well as nine individual breeders and more than 160 commercial and educational exhibitors.

The organising committee is grateful for the continued support of Virgin Money as a major sponsor and The Scottish Farmer as media partner, and delighted to welcome Community Windpower as a new major sponsor for 2024, as well as all the other sponsors of the event.



Seminars

10.45am – 11.55am Flock fit for the future

Chair: Dr Christine Middlemiss, UK Government Chief Veterinary Officer (CVO)

Panel: Dr Chris Cousens, Senior Research Scientist, Moredun – Ovine Pulmonary Adenocarcinoma (OPA)
Craig Watkins (DPhil), Principal Research Scientist, Moredun – Johne's disease
Stewart Burgess (PhD), Principal Research Scientist, Moredun – Sheep scab
Marion McMillan (BVMS CertAVP(Sheep) MRCVS), SRUC – Sheep disease diagnostics

12noon – 12.25pm Political Affairs

Jim Fairlie MSP, Minister for Agriculture and Connectivity

12.30pm – 1.45pm Implementation and Benefits of Changing Support

Chair: Colin MacPhail, NSA Scots sheep Chairman and Agri-business Consultant

Panel: Steven Thomson, Agricultural Economist, SRUC
Stephen Buchan, Regional Head of Agriculture, Virgin Money
Jim Walker CBE, Farmer and Businessman
Other speaker - TBC

2pm – 3.15pm A Profitable and Sustainable Farming Future – What will farming in 2030 look like for your business?

Chair: Brian Richardson, UK Head of Agriculture, Virgin Money

Panel: 3 speakers TBC

Workshops/demonstrations

Reducing production costs and the carbon footprint of your flock

Dewi Jones, Innovis and two farmer speakers

Prime lamb selection

Alister McSparran, Dunbia

Value added carcass

Shows the versatility of the lamb and what can be produced from its carcass – Gordon Newlands and butcher, QMS

Net zero: an opportunity not a limitation

Gemma Wark and Emma McGowan, QMS

Halal sheep meat marketing and the opportunities available in the UK and globally

Rizvan Khalid, Euro Quality lambs

Cattle breeding policy at Aikengall

Gavin Hill, SRUC and James Hamilton

Live demonstration on OPA and scanning of sheep

Dr Chris Cousens and Phil Scott, Moredun

How to dose sheep with boluses

David Bell, Agrimin

Investing in your wellbeing bank account

Alix Ritchie and Clare Dickson, Farmstrong Scotland

Winter grazing/forage crops

Kirsten Williams, SRUC

With further workshops provided by Community Windpower and Island Green Energy

Shearing, wool handling, spinning, felt making, crook making and sheep dressing demonstrations will also take place throughout the day.

A word from the NSA Scotsheep sponsors

Virgin Money



This year's NSA Scotsheep event at Aikengall Farm near Dunbar will be a real showcase for the Sheep industry. It will also be a chance to take time out from your own business and consider what the future for the industry might look like for you and what actions you can take in your own business to make it future proof.

With many uncertainties ahead, it is essential for all farm businesses to take a long hard look at their own enterprise and to plan for the future, and events like NSA Scotsheep provide a great opportunity to exchange information and to talk and debate with industry experts conveniently in one place. This will help identify where improvements to productivity and efficiencies can be made and where best to invest your time and money.

Sheep farming in the UK has a product value of £1.3 billion; it's responsible for 150,000 jobs across sheep farms and associated sectors, and that employment is worth £290 million to the economy. These are big numbers, and they demonstrate the importance of UK sheep farming not just to the wider farming industry but also to the UK economy as a whole. New support mechanisms in place and more still to be launched mean a lot of change in the industry, so there has never been a more important time to consider how you can best future proof your business.

As well as a commercial and trade event, during the day the free seminars will provide an important platform for open discussion, thought-provoking ideas and lively deliberations as to what the future of farming may look like.

These seminars and talks are a key feature of Scotsheep, where industry experts will be giving their views on important issues and offering the chance to ask questions and to get the latest industry thinking. Virgin Money will be hosting one of the seminars very much focused on the future outlook and we look forward to welcoming you to that.

Virgin Money are delighted to be a major sponsor for the 2024 NSA Scotsheep. Aikengall Farm is a superb venue and a perfect example of good management delivering some outstanding results from their sheep and wider farming operations. A tour around their farming enterprise is a must, and whilst paying attention to the commentary, it is also a great way to enjoy the views!

I always go to these events with a bit of a mission in mind as to what I want to see and what I want to learn about. I hope you can also take the opportunity to tap into all the expertise that will be on offer at Scotsheep, and my colleagues and I look forward to meeting you at Aikengill on June 5th.



Community Windpower

Community Windpower is very proud to support the National Sheep Association and the NSA Scotsheep 2024 event, hosted at the Hamilton Family Farm Aikengall, in the beautiful Lammermuir Hills.

We are fortunate enough to have been working with the Hamilton family for more than 20 years and are delighted to showcase how two very different businesses are working in perfect harmony alongside each other.

Community Windpower is a leading renewables energy company, with nine operational wind farms generating 335MW of clean green power who fully understand the benefits of working closely with our host landowners.

At Aikengall we farm the wind, generating clean green renewable energy, whilst James & Emma Hamilton farm the land, producing prime livestock and arable produce.

Our wind farm not only provides clean green electricity, but we also support our host communities through our community benefits, and our unique BeGreen advice centre on the High Street in Dunbar. We have provided funding to many groups and individuals throughout the region including larger legacy projects such as village halls and community hubs and shops.

We will have a team on hand during NSA Scotsheep event available to answer any questions you have around windfarms' construction, development and operation and discuss future opportunities you may want to suggest to us.



Enter the 2024 NSA prize giveaway

NSA was excited to announce the launch of its latest prize giveaway at the end of January offering the nation's sheep farmers a fantastic opportunity to improve their stock transportation with the prize of a brand new livestock trailer.

The amazing prize of the Nugent L3618H 12ft livestock trailer with sheep decks is worth more than £9,500 and is kindly provided by Nugent Engineering Ltd.

Nugent Engineering Ltd hails from an agricultural family background. Initially designed to withstand the vigour of Ireland's livestock and rugged terrain, the Nugent Livestock range is engineered and hand built to last and, with full type approval (ECWTA), any sheep farmer will appreciate the attention to detail and be thrilled to win such a fantastic prize.

The prize draw is open to any UK sheep farmer over the age of 16. Both NSA members and non-members can enter, but entries are limited to one per person/email address. The quality product is worth £9,500 plus VAT and will provide one lucky winner with innovative features producing the perfect trailer for the transportation of livestock

Entries will be taken throughout 2024 with a single winner announced early next year. Entries can be made online at www.nationalsheep.org.uk/draw and in person at NSA events this year including NSA Scot Sheep.



WIN a 12ft Nugent Livestock trailer.

Open to any UK sheep farmer, aged 16 or over.

Enter now by visiting www.nationalsheep.org.uk/draw or by scanning the QR code above for your chance to win a 12ft Nugent Livestock trailer worth more than £9,500.

Scan to enter!

NUGENT **NSA**

Information, full terms and conditions and NSA membership forms can be found at www.nationalsheep.org.uk/draw.

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Peter Myles
(Chair)
Edzell, Angus

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Broughton, Biggar, Scottish Borders

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Pamela Nicol
(Trustee)
Glenisla, Blairgowrie

Debs Colley
(Trustee)
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Clive Phillips
UK P&T Representative
Stonehaven, Aberdeenshire

Euan Emslie
(Event Organiser and Secretariat)


[Find out more](#)





Coordinator's Comment

by Grace Reid,
NSA Scottish Coordinator



an a scheme can truly deliver for farming, however this Agriculture Bill is a true opportunity for Scottish Government to deliver for a sector that delivers a raft of public goods, enhances the environment and producers world leading produce, it must not just be a reiteration of the CAP, that failed so many, in a bid to be relatable to the EU.

NSA Scotland has again highlighted the level of confidence in Scottish Government from the agricultural sector, particularly when the resignation of the First Minister Humza Yousaf came to light. We await to see if there remains any continuity in terms of developments under First Minister John Swinney, which may impact the Scottish agricultural industry. It was made clear that previous lacklustre responses from ministers cannot and will not be tolerated. As the Agriculture and Rural Communities (Scotland) Bill makes its way through Parliament, currently at Stage 3 amendments, we need to ensure that Scottish farmers and crofters and their produce are represented and are at the forefront of future decisions to ultimately be a food secure nation whilst being supported in their endeavours to deliver.

Scotland agricultural policy update

The end of April saw yet more turmoil in Scottish leadership with the resignation of First Minister Humza Yousaf following two votes of no confidence. The first minister's decision to end the Bute House Agreement - the power-sharing deal with the Scottish Greens - followed a backlash over the SNP scrapping 2030 climate targets amongst other things, resulted in his time in office coming to an end.

We now have John Swinney being sworn in as the seventh First Minister of Scotland. He was confirmed in the role during a brief, formal ceremony at the Court of Session in Edinburgh. Mr Swinney takes office 25 years after he was first elected to the Scottish Parliament.

Scotland also scrapped its target of cutting climate-damaging greenhouse gas emissions by 75% by 2030, blaming the central British government, but has said it still intends to meet a 2045 net zero target. This move came in response to a critical report published in March by the independent Climate Change Committee (CCC), which said Scotland was so far behind what was needed to meet the 2030 target that it was no longer credible. However, new First Minister John Swinney has outlined his commitment and ambition to make real measurable progress towards climate targets still in place.

The extent of change at the top has again slowed the process of developing new agricultural schemes following our exit from the EU back in 2016, leaving farming businesses in yet more uncertain territory. The long awaited agricultural Bill is currently undergoing amendments with a final publication awaited, this will lay the groundwork for powers to develop a new agricultural support system that delivers for food, farming, and the environment. Scottish ministers have proposed a new four-tier payment system to replace the EU's common agriculture policy, announcing "at least half of all funding for farming and crofting will be targeted towards outcomes for biodiversity gain and climate mitigation and adaptation".

Scottish Agriculture still currently adheres to CAP (Common Agriculture Policy) and many farmers are still claiming BPS, however, the Cabinet Secretaries announced at COP-26 in November 2021 that a National Test Programme was to be developed with farmers and crofters to further their understanding of how farming and food production can be even more economically and environmentally sustainable, in one of the first moves made by Scottish Government to start a process to move away from the CAP as seen in England and recently Wales.

Preparing for Sustainable Farming (PSF), which is the first part of this Programme, came into play in spring 2022 and is setting the groundwork to help ensure that when the new rural support regime is introduced it will integrate enhanced conditionality of at least half of all funding for farming and crofting by 2025 and as part of this conditionality, expect recipients of support to deliver on targeted outcomes for biodiversity gain and low emissions production. Conditionality means that in the future Climate mitigation and how Biodiversity is looked after and encouraged by businesses, will be a condition businesses have to meet to receive agricultural support payments.

So, what's available now? Currently under the Preparing for Sustainable Farming (PSF) scheme these are three option that are being funded through the first phase, which includes Carbon Audits, Soil Sampling & Analysis, and Animal Health and Welfare Interventions.

The form of the new agriculture bill (currently in its third phase of amendments) has garnered conflicting opinions with many viewing the tiered system as rewarding those that are already reaping the rewards of CAP but providing little environmental benefits or public goods. NSA has worked across all our nations in developing new agricultural schemes and recognises the difficulties in getting to a position where

Lynx Focus

Members will be aware of ongoing discussions to reintroduce lynx with particular attention being paid to the Lynx to Scotland and The Missing Lynx projects looking at the Cairngorms and Kielder Forest areas.

In early May, I along with fifteen other Scottish agricultural industry delegates were invited to attend a study tour in Switzerland investigating how Swiss farmers deal with apex predation by lynx and how regenerative forestry can be utilised. Despite relatively low numbers of sheep predation compared to other continental nations, Switzerland continues to experience lynx conflict today, albeit in much smaller numbers than the wolf which is an even bigger looming and complex threat. Two of the visited Swiss sheep farmers were able to describe events of lynx predation not only on alpine grazing but also well below the tree line with lambs being taken from sheds by the highly adaptable carnivore. Another insight from the trip was the ability of the lynx to be able to acclimatise to a fragmented habitat within national infrastructure and high human population. A female lynx has been recorded via collar tracking to be occupying habitat very close to Bern airport and neighbouring farmland with a litter of kittens – this is an occurrence which was not expected.

Initial reintroductions of lynx took place in the early 1970s with the peak of sheep predation being experienced in the 1990's (due to a number of reasons) and a management plan being introduced in 2001 after a steep learning curve to be able to coexist with the apex predator. The management plan still exists and delivers for farmers today in terms of conservation, damage prevention, compensation for damage and interventions/regulations. It is clear to be seen that there is a huge cultural difference not only between landscape use and public perception of the agricultural industry but also in terms of governmental relationship and budget.

Robust financial compensation alongside support for implementing mitigation measures (such as guardian dogs and electric fences) and a whole suite of options related to farming exist – it would be hard to imagine the same being adequately implemented here should the need ever arise. We do not need to look to far to see a real world example of reintroduction shortcomings in the form of the White Tailed Eagle and its 'management' in Scotland. Rest assured we at NSA continue to engage robustly and fully on the threat of lynx reintroduction in Scotland and other locations throughout the UK. With further activities planned on this subject throughout 2024 and beyond we will continue to provide more detailed updates as time progresses to members and the wider sheep industry.

Next Generation Corner

Meet NSA Next Generation Ambassador Perry Parkinson. Perry joined the NSA programme in 2022 and has subsequently been the recipient of the NSA Samuel Wharry Travel Bursary. This year Perry will be providing readers with a regular update from his farming life.



These last few months have seemed to have consisted of nothing but worms and soap! The end of lambing started off well with me taking on a new role as Animal health business development manager for Techion/Fecpak.

After using their product for the last three years and them graciously taking care of me whilst over in New Zealand, I'm very excited to be able to join them and start to meet lots of similar minded people!

This leads me on to the worms part of my last few months! Like most people we've finally seen some sunshine and grass growth, however like I've said previously, this comes with its challenges! One being Nematodirus! Thankfully, because we're regularly FEC testing and following the SCOPS forecast, we caught it just in time. The only animals it was present in was our show sheep for the upcoming shows this summer...typical! Strongyle counts are slowly rising however I'd like to think that with some of our clean reseed ground and resilient stock, they'll not require a wormer however I'm sure we'll soon find out! I should probably also mention that we had fly eggs in a ewes clean fleece in April! Safe to say everything is getting clipped next week in order to try and reduce that dreaded risk.

The show sheep are looking good this year and we're really proud of how some of our home bred ewe lambs have turned out. With our first show only a week away it'll be interesting to see how we get on. If anything it'll just be nice to get out in the sun and catch up with everyone.



NSA www.sheepevent.org.uk

SHEEP EVENT

UK Sheep Farming: A positive future

Tuesday 30th July 2024

THE THREE COUNTIES SHOWGROUND
MALVERN, WORCESTERSHIRE, WR13 6NW

9:00AM - 5:00PM

- PRE EVENT DINNER
- PRE EVENT FARM TOUR
- SEMINARS & MARKETING
- SHEEP BREED SOCIETIES
- NEXT GENERATION SHEPHERD OF THE YEAR COMPETITION
- TORNADO FENCING COMPETITION AND OTHER COMPETITIONS
- TECHNICAL & POLICY INFORMATION
- ENVIRONMENT AND CONSERVATION
- TRADE STANDS & WORKSHOPS
- DEMONSTRATIONS
- SHEEP DOG SALE

EARLY BIRD TICKETS £18.75
BOOK ON WEBSITE

Free entry for NSA members

FURTHER INFORMATION FROM THE WEBSITE OR ORGANISER:
HELEN ROBERTS;
T: 01691 654712 M: 07976 803066
helen@nationalsheep.org.uk

www.sheepevent.org.uk

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NSA SCOTLAND NEWSLETTER



Remember to have a look at the previous editions of the NSA Scotland Newsletter on our website. [Click here](#)

NSA Scotland Spring Celebrations

Photography Competition



Zoey Rennie



Gail Paterson



Rebecca Bruce



Thomas Renwick



Veterinary Corner

Ed Hill – Thrums Vet Group



At the time of writing the awful pattern of weather we've had for so many months seems to have changed with the sun shining for once and grass (and lambs!) growing well. Whilst spring for many was cold and wet, most seem to have had successful lambings.

Parasites will now be the major threat to the growing lamb crop and early June is typically when we see the nematodirus risk peak in our area. However, SCOPS (Sustainable Control of Parasites in Sheep) have reported that the cooler spring with a gradual increase in temperature may have reduced the risk for many, as the hatch of eggs has been gradual, rather than synchronous which has allowed lambs to develop immunity. Where treatment is required, a white wormer remains the product of choice for nematodirus.

Flies will soon be an issue, I've already seen a cow(!) struck by maggots, and early treatment remains best practice. Good worm control and appropriate trace element supplementation as well as dagging in lambs will reduce the risk. Later in the year we are occasionally involved in cases of strike where treatment has been given but apparently not worked. Quite often when we investigate these cases either the product hasn't been applied correctly; so be careful to follow the instructions on the packaging carefully, or application has been followed by heavy or prolonged rain. Obviously avoiding heavy rain in Scotland can be challenging! So, try your best to avoid application if significant rain is due, but if it can't be avoided then be aware that the duration of action might not be as long as stated and repeat treatment may be required later in the season.

We see ticks pretty much all year round these days but again this year they seem to have made an early start with many reporting seeing them on outdoor born lambs at marking. Ticks can be an important vector of diseases; one typical presentation we see is higher cases of joint ill in older lambs, so if you're seeing that coupled with ticks on lambs it may be significant. Spot-on type treatment will cover for 3-4 weeks, whilst the cypermethin and alpha-cypermethrin pour-ons will cover for 6-8 and 10-12 weeks respectively.

Vaccine supply continues to be an exceptionally challenging and frustrating issue with news recently that supply of both a critical clostridial/pneumonia vaccine and enzootic abortion vaccine will be unavailable, just at the time when many farmers will be looking to use them to protect the health of their stock. Ordering what you're likely to need as far in advance as possible continues to be good advice in the face of these issues, but with these vaccines critical for protection of welfare and reduction of antibiotic usage I personally feel that the pharmaceutical companies involved have a responsibility to do far better to ensure an undisrupted supply.

NSA SCOTLAND
 WORKING FOR YOU, THE SCOTTISH SHEEP FARMER.
 LOBBYING ON KEY ISSUES.

REPRESENTING ON KEY STAKEHOLDER MEETINGS INCLUDING
 BREXIT AND BEYOND
 ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE
 LFASS & FUTURE SUPPORT SCHEMES
 CLIMATE CHANGE
 LAMB MARKETING

ORGANISERS OF TECHNICAL EVENTS
 NSA SCOTSHEEP
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 ROADSHOWS & COURSES

Consider joining NSA as a member today and help us work for you

For further information please contact
 Grace Reid - Scottish Region Coordinator
 Tel: 07787 142858 Email: grace@nationalsheep.org.uk

www.nsascotland.org

