

## **NSA Members Update – 10 August 2012**

### **New Appointment Made at NSA**

NSA are pleased to announce the appointment of Joanne Pugh as its new Senior Communications Officer. Joanne grew up on a livestock farm in Shropshire. Having worked with the National Beef Association and been Livestock Editor for the Farmers Guardian she brings a wealth of knowledge and experience of the industry plus skills in communications. Joanne takes up post in early September.

### **Early Ram Sale Report**

Last Monday's early NSA Wales and Borders Ram sale at Builth Wells sold 419 rams and saw trade described as 'fair', with most prices back on last year's but good quality rams selling well. The unusual weather conditions appear to have affected early demand with many commercial producers still unable to wean lambs and prepare for early tupping. Top price of 1280 guineas went to a Charollais ram, and a Suffolk breed champion lamb purchased for 1200 guineas by Aled Williams who stressed the importance of investing in the best to get a good return on the stock produced. Top priced Texel was sold for 1000 guineas.

NSA Wales & Border Ram Sales Chairman Gwynne Davies said that although averages were down, top quality tups had sold at a good price. It reflected buyers' confidence in the quality rams offered at the early sale. For a full report on the sale go to [www.nsaramsales.co.uk](http://www.nsaramsales.co.uk)

**This week the Scottish Region** played host to 40 Estonian Sheep Breeders. Whilst over in Scotland they visited three farms, our Chairman Jimmy Sinclair's Crookston Farm, the McGowan family's Incheoch and The Glen Nevis Estate owned by Mr Ewan Cameron. Their highlight was seeing the sheep and cattle breeds native to Scotland. On their travels they also took in the wonderful scenery Scotland has to offer, including the iconic scene on Glen Nevis Estate which features in the Harry Potter Films. A full review and photos will be on the NSA Scotland website soon, [www.nsascotland.org.uk](http://www.nsascotland.org.uk)

### **HCC Ram Selection and Management Guide**

With rams now on sheep farmers' minds, members in Wales are advised to look at HCC's 'Fit, Fertile, and Profitable' guide. Rams represent only a small percentage of the breeding flock but contribute half of the genetics, so their performance has a significant impact on the overall productivity and profitability of flocks. Contact HCC [www.hccmpw.org.uk](http://www.hccmpw.org.uk) for information.

### **Sheep on Welsh Commons**

The Welsh Commons Forum (WCF) met with members of the CCW Board and staff on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> August to discuss SSSI designations and Glastir. Welsh commons graziers are clearly incensed about conflicting messages over stocking rates on commons and an ongoing drive to further reduce sheep numbers when there are now many examples of habitats being destroyed by dereliction of management. In addition it is an infringement of rights when hill farms are either rented or sold with certain common

grazing rights and these rights are not allowed or at risk of longer term reductions through SSSI status. CCW only survive until April 2013 when a new body is expected to incorporate them, the Forestry Commission, and the Environment Agency. Monday saw CCW receive a real grilling over their actions and as a result agreed there should be a meeting between the Forum and the Board of the new structure.

### **Animal Movements Reporting Risk in Cumbria**

Councils in Cumbria have recommended that the manual inputting of AMLS data by the animal health team should be discontinued as soon as possible. This recommendation has been forwarded to the Council Cabinet for consideration/adoption on 13 September. If this is adopted there will be a serious breakdown in movements reporting that undermines disease security in the UK. It should also be remembered that it is likely we will have the new movements database in place by May 2013 and in theory Trading Standards will only have to continue to input this data until then. NSA members are encouraged to register concerns with Cumbria Council in advance of the Council meeting on 13 Sept.

The Leader of the Council is Eddie Martin. His contact details are:

Cumbria County Council

The Courts

English Street

Carlisle

Cumbria

CA3 8NA

[eddie.martin@cumbria.gov.uk](mailto:eddie.martin@cumbria.gov.uk)

### **Eblex Processor Conference**

Latest research on beef and lamb eating quality will be among the topics on the agenda at EBLEX's inaugural Processor Conference, on September 26 at the Chesford Grange Hotel, Warwickshire

Dr Phil Hadley, EBLEX Southern senior regional manager and event chairman, said: "Our inaugural processor conference will provide the ideal forum for stakeholders in the sector to come together and discuss some of the key industry-related issues.

"Covering everything from beef and lamb eating quality to packaging, waste and changing consumer trends, the conference promises to be an interesting and informative day."

For further details or to register a place, email Selma Todd at

**[selma.todd@eblex.ahdb.org.uk](mailto:selma.todd@eblex.ahdb.org.uk)** or call 01823 283161.

<http://t.co/YsUqUP6d>

New blog post: Raising the bar for sheep farmers with the 'Five tonne tup' challenge <http://t.co/5zrShVOL>

## **2012 NSA Events & Meetings:**

### **LIMITED PLACES ON FARM WALK - GOING FAST – BOOK YOUR PLACE NOW!**

#### **NSA Annual General Meeting – Wed 22<sup>nd</sup> Aug 10 am**

Your organisations AGM takes place at the Royal Agricultural College Cirencester, followed by a lunch and farm walk at the Duchy Home Farm, Tetbury, by kind permission of Duchy Home Farm, Tetbury. This will be an interesting day and to help us with organisation we would ask that you book in advance, and as soon as you can, if you are able to come. Take a look at NSA web site for further details or email your attendance to [enquiries@nationalsheep.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@nationalsheep.org.uk)

#### **NSA South West Ram Sale - Wednesday 15th August 2012 at Exeter Market.**

861 Rams and Females in society sales. Sale starts at 10.30am in 3 rings. Catalogues from Peter Farnsworth c/o Rendells, Stonepark, Ashburton, Tel 01364 654670

#### **NSA 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Sale of Rams – Rugby Farmers Mart, Stoneleigh Park, Kenilworth - Monday 20<sup>th</sup> August 2012**

Entries still welcome Tel : 01953 607860 Email : [office@charollaisheep.com](mailto:office@charollaisheep.com)

#### **NSA 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Sale of Rams – Melton Mowbray Market - Friday 21<sup>st</sup> September 2012**

Entries close on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> August  
Tel : 01953 607860  
Email : [office@charollaisheep.com](mailto:office@charollaisheep.com)

#### **NSA Wales & Border Ram Sale 2012 - Monday 24th September**

The Main Ram Sale will be held on at the Royal Welsh Showground.  
[www.nsaramsales.co.uk](http://www.nsaramsales.co.uk)

#### **Sheep Health and Welfare Conference - Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> November**

Delivering innovation with practical application for the farm  
At Worcester Warriors, Sixways Stadium, Worcester.  
To book your place Email: [shwconference@nationalsheep.org.uk](mailto:shwconference@nationalsheep.org.uk)