

NSA SCOTSHEEP 2010

PRESS RELEASE

THIRTY FIVE SHEEP BREEDS ON DISPLAY AT NSA SCOTSHEEP 2010

A total of 35 sheep breeds will be on display at Scotland's biennial national sheep event, NSA Scotsheep 2010, to be held on a Blairdrummond farm on Wednesday, June 2.

Organised by the Scottish Region of the National Sheep Association with Bank of Scotland as main sponsor, NSA Scotsheep 2010 will be hosted by Douglas and Lynda Graham on their farm of Mains of Burnbank, Blairdrummond, Stirling, and is expected to attract thousands of sheep farmers from all over the country.



The Graham family

More than 120 trade stands have already been booked representing all the major suppliers to the sheep industry.

“The display of all the different breeds is always one of the major attractions of NSA Scotsheep and this year will be no exception,” said Caledonian Marts’ auctioneer, Alastair Logan, who chairs the local organising committee.

“The event is attracting tremendous support from all the sheep breed societies and the turnout of sheep will give sheep producers a unique opportunity to assess the merits of all the different breeds.”

Mr Logan said the buoyant market for both store and prime lambs and also cast ewes over the past year had given the sheep industry a much needed boost and had seen a welcome measure of confidence returning to the industry, which was reflected in the high level of sponsorship and trade bookings for NSA Scotsheep.

“Sheep farmers have endured a long, hard winter but the prospects for the marketing of this year’s lamb crop are encouraging,” said Mr Logan. “Scotch lamb is in strong demand, underpinned by the export market which has been boosted by the favourable exchange rate with the euro.”

Other features of this year’s NSA Scotsheep will include a farm tour, stockjudging, sheepdog trials, sheep dressing demonstration, ATV competition, crookmaking and wool spinning demonstrations, cookery demonstration and comprehensive seminar programme.

Visitors will be able to view the 1000-strong ewe flock on the 700-acre host farm as well as the pedigree herd of 100 Limousin cows and followers. The sheep flock comprises 650 Blackface ewes, 300 Mule ewes and 50 Bluefaced Leicester ewes, which are owned by Mr and Mrs Graham’s sons, John (13) and James (12).

Demonstration pens have been booked by the following breed societies – Beltex, Berrichon du Cher, Blackface, Bleu du Maine, Bluefaced Leicester, Blue Texel, Border Leicester, British Rouge, Charollais, Cheviot, Dalesbred, Dorset Horn and Poll Dorset, Easy Care, Hampshire Down, HISHA, Highland Mule, Ile de France, Jacob, Lleyn, Meatline, North Country Cheviot, North of England Mule, Oxford Down, Rough Fell, Ryeland, Sandyknowe Suffolks, Scotch Mule, Shetland, Shropshire, Suffolk, Swaledale, Teeswater, Texel, Zwartbles.

NSA Scotsheep 2010 will be open to the public from 9.00am. Admission is £12 or £6 for NSA members on production of 2010 membership card and students on production of student card. Under 16 years of age – free.

Further information and details of sponsorship opportunities and trade stands available from the co-organisers – Euan Emslie Tel: 01430 441870, Fax: 01430 448432, Mob: 07718 908523. E-mail: euan@AppliedRemedies.co.uk or Julie Sedgewick Tel: 01388 609322. Mob: 07774 041425 E-mail: jas@nationalsheep.org.uk

END

NOTE TO EDITORS: A press briefing to announce final details of NSA Scotsheep 2010 and provide photo opportunities on the host farm will be held at Mains of Burnbank on **TUESDAY, MAY 11**, commencing at 10.30am, followed by lunch. Full details later.

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