

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **BANK OF SCOTLAND ANNOUNCE MAJOR SPONSORSHIP OF NSA SCOTSHEEP 2010**

Bank of Scotland has been confirmed as the major sponsor for Scotland's national sheep event, **NSA SCOTSHEEP 2010**.

The event, held every two years, is organised by the Scottish Region of the National Sheep Association and will be held on Wednesday, June 2, 2010, on the farm of Burnbank, Blairdrummond, Stirling, by kind permission of host farmers, Douglas and Lynda Graham.

Sandy Hay, Head of Agriculture for Bank of Scotland, said:

“We are pleased to be the major sponsor for the 2010 NSA Scotsheep event which is now well established as the most important technical event for the sheep industry in Scotland. Bank of Scotland's support underlines our continued commitment to the sheep sector in particular, and the livestock industry in general.”

“The decline in the national sheep flock and continuing consumer demand for red meat has helped keep prices high. Incomes were boosted by the weak pound through 2009 which helped increase the on farm value of the Single Farm Payment.

“The outlook for sheep producers looks more positive than it has done for many years. However, any strengthening of the pound and proposed changes to the Common Agricultural Policy could create some challenges. Farmers will have to remain focused on those management elements that help deliver efficiency and productivity.

“Visitors to NSA Scotsheep will be able to obtain all the latest products and advice to enable them to tailor their management around such aspects, to capitalise on market opportunities and to strengthen their businesses for the longer term.”

NSA Scotsheep is held in a different part of Scotland every two years and regularly attracts more than 5000 sheep farmers and industry professionals from throughout the UK and Ireland.

Features of this year's event will include an extensive display of sheep breeds, comprehensive trade stand section, educational and advisory exhibits, technical demonstrations, stockjudging, sheepdog trials, seminar programme and farm tour. The event will also host the Scottish eliminations of the National Sheep Association's Young Shepherd of the Year competition.

One of the major attractions will be the opportunity to view the host farm which is widely recognised as an immaculately kept farm with a well-deserved reputation for the breeding of quality sheep and beef cattle.

The 400-acre Mains of Burnbank farm, and the nearby 300-acre rented farm of Munnieston, supports a flock of 1000 ewes and 100 pedigree Limousin cows. The

sheep flock comprises 650 Blackface ewes, of which 200 are bred pure and 450 crossed with the Bluefaced Leicester, and 300 Mule ewes crossed with Suffolk and Texel rams. All the Mule ewe lambs, except those retained for breeding, and prime lambs are sold through Caledonian Marts.

The farm also has a flock of 50 pure-bred Bluefaced Leicester ewes owned by Mr and Mrs Graham's sons, John (13) and James (12).

The organisation NSA Scotsheep 2010 is in the hands of a local committee chaired by auctioneer, Alastair Logan, of Caledonian Marts, Stirling, and the joint organisers are again Euan Emslie and Julie Sedgewick.

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: [ewan@AppliedRemedies.co.uk](mailto:ewan@AppliedRemedies.co.uk) or Julie Sedgewick Tel: 01388 609322. Mob: 07774 041425 E-mail: [jas@nationalsheep.org.uk](mailto:jas@nationalsheep.org.uk)

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