

PRESS RELEASE

SEARCH ON FOR NSA SCOTSHEEP 2010 YOUNG SHEPHERD OF THE YEAR

A major feature of NSA Scotsheep 2010 – Scotland’s biennial national sheep event – to be held on a Stirlingshire farm on June 2, will be a competition for youngsters in the industry to find the NSA Scotsheep 2010 Shepherd of the Year.

The NSA Scotsheep Trophy and a cash prize of £300 will be awarded to the winner who will be eligible to compete for the national Young Shepherd of the Year award at NSA Sheep 2010 at Malvern on Tuesday, August 3, with a top prize of £1000. Travelling and overnight expenses to compete in the national final will be reimbursed.

The runner-up at NSA Scotsheep will receive £200 with £100 going to the third placed competitor and £100 to the highest placed competitor under the age of 21.

Organised by the Scottish Region of the National Sheep Association and sponsored by Bank of Scotland, NSA Scotsheep 2010 will be held at Mains of Burnbank, Blairdrummond, Stirling, courtesy of host farmers, Douglas and Lynda Graham.

The Young Shepherd of the Year competition, sponsored by United Auctions, Stirling, is open to young farmers’ club members, agricultural students and all young people working in the industry (not necessarily only shepherds) aged 26 years and under. Competitors will be required to carry out a number of tasks, including sheep shearing, ATV handling and the selection of prime lambs for slaughter. They will also have to answer questions on foot care, handling, vaccination, dosing, flock management and health issues.

“The competition will give young shepherds the opportunity to pit their skills against their peers and win generous prize money as well as the accolade of NSA Scotsheep 2010 Young Shepherd of the Year and the opportunity to compete in the national competition at UK level,” said Alastair Logan, chairman of the NSA Scotsheep local organising committee. “We look forward to a large entry of young people from all over Scotland.”

The competition is open to young people in the industry aged 26 and under on August 3 (the day of the national competition at Malvern) and entry is free although pre-entry is required.

The support of young farmers clubs, sheep breed societies and agricultural colleges is being enlisted to encourage potential competitors to participate.

NSA development officer for Scotland, George Milne, said: “The Young Shepherd of the Year competition offers a real incentive to encourage the next generation of sheep farmers and shepherds to equip themselves with the range of skills required for a career in the industry.”

Further information and entry forms, which must be returned by Friday, May 14, available from the joint organiser, Julie Sedgewick, Binchester Hall Farm, Bishop

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