

BELTEX SCOTLAND CLUB SUMMER 2011 NEWSLETTER



Ayr Show Interbreed Champion from G Sinclair 'courtesy of the Scottish Farmer'

It is with thanks to Galloway & MacLeod for sponsoring this glossy revamped newsletters with pictures. Galloway & MacLeod was formed 1923 and can be traced back to 1872.

The business is now in it's third century of continuous service to farmers. Their range of animal feeds, farm fertilisers and grains provides top quality products for your animals and land.

Royal Highland Show 2011

As usual there will be a Beltex BBQ held after the judging on the Friday evening with lamb rolls and drinks. The ticket price is set again at £10 with a concession for drivers and children.

This year Kevin Buckle (Buckles Flock) has the hard task of judging what is another large turnout of sheep. The final entry number stands at 201 which is the second highest breed entry following the Texels, this is down on the year.

Beltex Scotland 2011 Open Day - Sunday 17th July

As Scotsheep is a biannual event the Beltex Scotland Open Day is also a biannual event in the year that Scotsheep misses. This year's open day is very well timed as it is being held by the very kind permission of Andrew Morton and family, Lochend Farm, Denny, Stirlingshire. Andrew won the 2010 Winter fair held at Ingliston with a pair of Beltex cross lambs. Andrew then had the honour of providing lambs for the Bocuse d'Or through the Bridge of Allan based Scotbeef Ltd. The top chefs in the world competed in a cooking competition, which is said to be the 'Olympics of the culinary world'.



The Open Day is being held on Sunday 17th July starting at 11:00am. There will be a great chance to see Andrew's pedigree and commercial flock. There will also be a stock judging and dressing competition. There will be refreshments available on the farm. There will be further details available at the Highland show. The postcode for the Farm is FK6 5JJ. For any further information please contact Ross on 07834 782995 or by email rosco687@hotmail.com. There will be adverts for the open day in the press before the event and at the RHS 2011.

Local accommodation is available at:
the Premier Inn, Glasgow Road, Whins Of Milton,
Stirling FK7 8EX, Tel: 0871 527 9038
www.premeirinn.com.

3rd National Beltex Scotland Show at Perth

After two successful shows under our belt our 3rd is in the middle of Scotland being held at the Perth show, which is held this year on Saturday 5th of August.

The show is in its 148th year and has held several national breed shows held at it before. Entry forms will be sent to all Scottish society members but if you do not receive one and would like to enter please contact the show secretary on 01738 623780 or an entry form can be downloaded off of the Perth Show website.



Accommodation

There have been rooms provisionally booked at two hotels next door to each other so if you require accommodation please contact John Barclay (Beachy) on his mobile 07815 141084 or house on 01655 882836. Please ring him ASAP as these can get booked up extremely quickly, closing date for hotels is Saturday the 4th June.

Contact - Club Secretary:

**Ross Williams
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Turriff,
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AB53 4DU**

T: 07834 782 995 E: rosco687@hotmail.com

Prime Beltex Lamb Competitions

The club committee are currently in the process of organising a series of Beltex prime lamb competitions to be held at different markets throughout the year to work in with the marts' own prime lamb sale day. There have been five different auction marts approached to hold a show to be judged by one of their selected buyers. The five marts, which will possibly be changed on a yearly basis are; Ayr, Caledonian (Stirling), Dingwall, St. Boswells and Thainstone. There will be a promoted show at a different mart every month (except December) with sponsorship money going towards buying a Beltex ram at a society sale.

Stirling Sale

After a discussion at the Club AGM about a new sale at the UA Stirling mart John Barclay has been involved in organising a sale at Stirling to be held after the Lanark club sale. There will be classes for both males and females. Further updates will be available later on during the summer.



Beltex Scotland Facebook Page

Beltex sheep have hit Facebook! Facebook is a social networking service and website launched in February 2004, operated and privately owned by Facebook, Inc. As of January 2011, Facebook has more than 600 million active users. Users may create a personal profile, add other users as friends, and exchange messages, including automatic notifications when they update their profile. The Beltex Scotland page has so far 180 followers and contains up to date information and allows you to put on pictures of your sheep. Go to the following webpage to become a fan <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Beltex-Scotland-Club/107943015919554>

Beltex Merchandise

Beltex Scotland fleeces, t-shirts, caps, ties and rugby shirts can be still ordered and the order form can be downloaded from the Scotland Club page of the website or by contacting Ross Williams directly. There is a delay from ordering to receiving merchandise of around three to six weeks depending on how busy the printing company are.



Entry Forms

At the last committee meeting the subject came up again about the lead time for sale catalogues coming out before the sale date as it has been before at club AGMs. Graham Burke said that there is getting to be more and more breeders comments, which is what takes the time to sort out and can hold up printing.

Therefore if you want the catalogue out sooner then let the sheep do the talking less is more

DATES FOR THE DIARY

- **Open Day:** Sunday 17th of July @ Andrew Morton's Lochend Farm, Denny, Stirlingshire.
- **Royal Highland Show:** Beltex judging starts on Friday at 1.30pm and the post show lamb rolls and drinks follow the judging on Friday 24th June.
- **3rd National Show:** Saturday 6th of August 2011 @ Perth Show.
- **Carlisle Premier Show & Sale:** 11th 12th August.
- **Lanark Club Sale:** 15th September (Inspection & Show 14th)
- **Stirling (New Club Sale):** 19th September.

NEWS FROM BELGIUM

Sonia Van Parijs and husband Philippe have been breeding Beltex in Belgium for 25 years. The flock is situated between Dinant and Philippeville, in the south part of Belgium, they have about 45 ewes coming from the best Belgium and Dutch bloodlines. They have been selecting a bloodline that incorporates breed development, carcass, disease resistance and lambing ease. They have exported sheep to dozens of countries including the UK and their sheep are free from Scrapie, Maedi Visna and Brucella Ovis. They are selecting the ewes on their breeding qualities but also on their prolificacy and development. After most of the ewes having the ARR/ARR genotype they are now using non ARR/ARR rams.

They have had great success with a tup called Gedeon (see picture), who has been champion seven times, a very good & complete ram that has been purchased by the insemination centre and has brought a lot to the breeders that have used it. They have used him at home for five years and have improved their female line in terms of their better carcass, high prolificacy and lambing ease. They will once again have lambs from him this year.



Spring Report

The Belgian breeders have exported a lot of sheep in 2010, there was a big demand from Italy, Estonia, France, Germany & Spain, and they have been so impressed with the impact of the Beltex rams on their commercial flocks. The winter was long and hard, we had snow lying during a full month, this had not happened for a very long time. We think the ewes have suffered a lot from this.

The Belgian breeders have tugged with more with Belgian rams this year, this is due to the transport restrictions in the Netherlands, and it becomes more & more difficult to export rams from this country due to increasing costs. The other problem is that we may also no longer export sheep from different farms in Holland at the same time. Prolificacy is becoming an increasing breeder focus everywhere in Belgium; the breeders are looking much more after, even having an estimated breeding value index for prolificacy.

Now we hope spring is in the air, the breeders try to have their lambing in March again, so that the lambs can go quick in the field & cost less, that's why we've the lambing's from end February to 15 April, we are full busy at the present time.



The price in Belgium for breeding Beltex is far lower than in Great Britain and Ireland. Breeding sheep ranging from €500 to €8000, nothing like what top prices can get up to at the UK sales. In Belgium there are nearly only hobby breeders and very little or no full time farmers, who breed sheep. There are also less & less breeders, due to the fixed costs & restrictions. This means that the birth registrations are decreases in the country. Some of these restrictions include breeders obliging to go and follow lessons to transport their sheep in Belgium. They will also have to pay for this privilege. We hope to have another good show season this year and with a lot of nice funny meetings between the breeders. Finally we've a group of 30 Swiss breeders that want to come 14th of May and they intend to go to the United Kingdom too at the same time. Also on the 30th of July we've a group of 40 breeders from Estonia to look at Beltex sheep.