



Newsletter

Spring '06

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It's back ! The newsletter—you know that little snippet of information that makes that subscription worthwhile ! At the moment it's a bit like the calm before the storm, volunteers throughout the RBST are gearing up for another show season and the all important promotion of our rare breeds. Since I last wrote the committee has changed around a bit. Freda Magill and Conor Doherty have both left the committee and their posts of Chairperson and Secretary have been filled by Brian Hunter (chair) and myself as Secretary—a full rundown of the committee is within this issue.

Extraordinary General Meeting/Open Forum

A note for your diary :-

Monday 10th April 7.30pm Portadown Rugby Club

Chambers Park, 287 Bridge Street, Portadown BT63 5AR

Agenda:- 1) Decision on the amount of monies to be sent to RBST HQ

2) Ratification of committee members to stand down at end of year.

Open Forum—after the serious stuff is out of the way it's over to you ! The Open Forum is just that—Open—your chance to have your say. Make suggestions, criticise, praise , it's your chance to join in. This is the inaugural Open Forum and hopefully it will be a regular event afterwards.

Committee '06

Chairperson :- Brian Hunter, 10 Monaville Avenue, Lisburn, BT28 2DF
tel. 028 92671468 email bigbhunter@talk21.com

Secretary :- Gavin Goodman, Corralea, Belcoo, Enniskillen BT93 5DZ
tel. 00353 87 9266246 email gavin@macneanfarm.com

Treasurer :- Thomas Cole, Rockcrest Farm, 65 Killynure Road West,
Carryduff BT8 8EA
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& Crafts tel. 028 97532417 email sandra.b@easy.com

Sheep Convenors :- Ross Mowbray & Evelyn Lindsay, 5 Dufless Road,
Stewartstown BT71 5LU email evelyn.lindsay@btinternet.com

Cattle Convenor :- Martin Ball, 42 Church Road, Dromara, Dromore BT25 2NS
tel. 028 97532379 email martyuk@hotmail.co.uk

Pig Convenor :- Thomas Fairley, 29 Bishops Well Road, Dromore BT25 1ST
tel. 028 92692426 email t.e.29@btinternet.com

Other committee members :-

Stefan Smyth, Hollywood, Co.Down

Walter Erwin, Dromore, Co.Down

Charlotte & Daniel Boyd, Augher, Co. Tyrone

Maurice Pogue, Brookeborough, Co. Fermanagh

Ken Hamilton, Derrygonnelly, Co. Fermanagh

Happy as a Pig in

Walter Erwin :- Congratulations must go to Walter who has been asked by the British Pig Association to represent them within the Royal Ulster Agricultural Society this year. So if you have a query about anything to do with pedigree pigs (rare or modern breeds) and how the BPA can help give Walter a call on 028 92692424.

Tom Fairley :- Following on from a successful show season last year ;the pinnacle of which was winning the Interbreed Championship at Balmoral, Thomas has taken on a committee post and also the role of Pig Convenor. Anyone wishing to enter rare breed pedigree pigs in shows this year can contact Tom for advice (details on previous page).

And now for something completely different (as John Cleese would say...)

Hairy Pigs - you thought Tamworths and Berkshire's were hairy, well they are positively shaven when put up against the Mangalitza - Europe's answer to the Lincolnshire Curly Coat which sadly became extinct in 1972. One enterprising couple, Tony and Mary-Rose York of Pig Paradise Farm from Powys in Mid Wales have introduced the three breed lines (Blonde, Red and Swallow Bellied) into the UK comprising three boars and fourteen gilts. If you want to know more visit www.pigparadise.com or you can ring them on 01283 550012.





Show Scene

2006 Show Calendar

<u>Start</u>	<u>End</u>	<u>Show Name</u>	<u>Venue</u>	<u>Contact Details</u>
10th May	12th May	Balmoral Show	Kings Hall, Belfast	Mrs. Rhonda Geary 028 9066 5225
26th May	27th May	Ballymena Show	The Showground, Ballymena	J. Lamont 028 2565 2666
2nd June	3rd June	North Antrim Agricultural Show	Ballymoney Showground	Mrs A V Morrison 028 207 51327
3rd June	3rd June	Lurgan	Lurgan Park	Mrs M Doran 028 3839 1593
10th June	10th June	Armagh County Agricultural Show	Gosford Forest Park, Markethill, Co. Armagh	WGS Parr 028 3752 3572
10th June	10th June	Coleraine Young Farmers' Club Show	Showground, Ballycastle Road, Coleraine	Mrs. Lorna Bradley 02870 352824
17th June	17th June	Saintfield and District Agricultural Show	Saintfield	Mrs P Campbell 02897 541716
24th June	24th June	Newry	Newry Showgrounds	Josie Crilly 028 3026 2059
1st July	1st July	166th Annual Omagh Show	Omagh Showgrounds, 4 Gillygooley Road	Edwin Cartwright 028 8224 2500
8th July	8th July	Londonderry and Limavady Agricultural Show	Tullyhoe, Limavady, Co. Londonderry	Mrs. J. Mark 028 777 65123
15th July	15th July	Castlewellan & District Agricultural Show Ltd	Forest Park, Castlewellan	Mrs V I Bell MBE 028 406 30536
22nd July	22nd July	Antrim Centenary Show	Greenmount Agricultural College	Linda Davis 028 9084 9466
25th July	25th July	Clogher Agricultural Show	Augher, Co Tyrone	Mrs R Montgomery 028 8554 8883
1st August	2nd August	Fermanagh County Agricultural Show	Exhibition and Auction Centre, Tempo Road, Enniskillen	Heather Crawford 028 663 22509
19th August	20th August	RBST N.I. Cultra Show & Sale	Ulster Folk & Transport Museum, Cultra	Gavin Goodman +353 87 9266246

Something to Bleat About

The Southdown Sheep

DESCRIPTION

The Southdown is a very compact sheep and should have "a leg at each corner", well fleshed down to its hocks. With a wide level back through to tail.

Head: Ears small, covered with short wool. The colour of the face and legs should be mouse, preferably not dark brown.

Wool: A fine texture of great density covering the whole body down to hocks, knees, and cheeks but NOT around eyes or bridge of nose.

Skin: Pink, apart from nostrils which should preferably have a black "star" on it.

HISTORY

The Southdown sheep has roamed the Sussex Downlands from time immemorial. Around 200 years ago, John Ellman of Glynde, near Lewes, in Sussex commenced a radical improvement of the breed by selection within the breed - no outcrossing. His work was continued by Jonas Webb of Babraham in Cambridgeshire, who developed a somewhat larger animal which was used in the creation of the other Down breeds.

The peak of the Southdown's popularity was from about 1790 to the 1914-18 War. During this time they were to be found on many of the large estates in flocks of 1000 or over, as well as being in the possession of yeoman farmers.

Although it had been exported to many parts of the world, probably it had its greatest impact in New Zealand, where it was the sire used in the production of the "Canterbury Lamb", a position it held for many decades.

The Southdown of today has returned to a larger more active sheep, partly due to the re-introduction of New Zealand and French blood.

MAIN PURPOSE OF THE BREED

The Southdown bred pure will produce a fast growing prime lamb in record time. Crossed on any breed of ewe the resulting lamb will have a carcass of fine conformation and high grade if marketed correctly. Southdowns excel if mated to ewe lambs of any breed in a slightly smaller active lamb demanding less from its dam.

Something to Bleat About

The Southdown Sheep cont..

GENERAL INFORMATION

Average Prolificacy: 150 %

Birth weight - Singles 4.00 kg.

Twins 3.75 kg.

Carcass weight - Prime lamb 12 - 18 kg.

Adult bodyweight - Ewe 59 - 68 kg. (130 - 150 lbs.)

Ram 90 kg. (200 lbs.)

Fleece weight greasy: Ewes 2.0 - 3.5 kg. (4.5 - 8 lbs.)

Rams 3.5 - 5.5 kg. (7.0 to 12 lbs.)

Staple length: 4 - 6 cm. Quality 56's - 60's

OUTSTANDING QUALITIES

Its greatest quality is to pass on its superb conformation to its offspring.

The ability to thrive and maintain its flesh when many other breeds would starve.

The inherited tolerance to close confinement in fold or shed, it being docile and easy to handle. Ideal sheep for small or large flocks.

Anyone wishing to find out more about the Southdown can contact the breed society on 01234 - 838807 or via email to secretary@southdownsheepsociety.co.uk

Within Northern Ireland you can also contact :-

Keith Laughlin, MRCVS, 86 Kirk Road, Ballymoney, Co Antrim BT53 8HG. Tel: 028 2074 2978

David Mcconnell, 68 Brackney East Road, Kilkeel, Co Down Mobile: 07808055340

Maurice Pogue, 11 Carrickpolin Road, Cavanagarvan, Brookeborough, Co. Fermanagh BT94 4GQ. Tel: 028 895 31784



Breeders Directory

Ever wondered who else bred the animals you have ? Well you're not alone, the same can be said for most of us. From a committee perspective matching enquiries with breeders isn't always easy and when it comes to putting on displays it is mostly animals from committee members that get out there.

These are some of the reasons why a breeders directory would be a great resource for all members of the RBST N.I.. If you want to be listed please complete the form below, but please bear in mind that by doing so the directory will be available to literally millions of people as it will also be published on the website - ni.rbst.org.uk , so only include contact details that you are happy to supply.

Completed forms should be sent back to myself (address on p2).

Regards

Gavin Goodman



RBST NI Breeders Directory 2006

Cattle Breeds _____

Sheep Breeds _____

Pig Breeds _____

Equine/Poultry/Other _____

Name:

Address:

Tel:

Email:

website:

The Back Page

Classifieds

Dexter Cattle :-

The choice for the discerning connoisseur who wants to be sure of wholesome production. For further details contact :-

A.Bingham 028 90815641
Co.Down

K.Briggs 028 21759889 Glens
of Antrim

H&D Hilton 028 29541490
Co.L'Derry

B.Mayers 028 92648257
Mid.Antrim

A.Montgomery 028 25821244
North Antrim

I.Simpson 028 94453147
Mid.Antrim

Pedigree Registered Belted
Galloway Bull for Sale

Contact:- Grace Blair

028 86748558 / 07754
447832

Anyone wishing to place an advert is free to do so. The only proviso is that it is Agriculture related so it can be from a chicken to a Massey 35. Send your adds to:-

Gavin Goodman, Corralea, Belcoo,
Enniskillen or email
gavin@macneanfarm.com
(all adds are free)

Tamworth Pigs - weaners available, birth registered with BPA, eligible for herd book registration. Contact 028 66386642,
email info@macneanfarm.com,
web www.macneanfarm.com

Gloucester Old Spots - weaners available, birth registered with BPA, eligible for herd book registration. Contact Terry Magowan
07714245639 (Ballynahinch)

Gourmet's Delight

Wensleydale (pure and X) hoggets for the freezer. Tel: 028 40630772

Gloucester Old Spots & British Saddlebacks usually for sale - Contact Stefan Smyth
tel. 028 90426682

Paul Beatty - variety of Bantams and Waterfowl - all bred from exhibition stock.

Tel: 077896 44772, 47 Leaney Rd, Dungannon

Saddleback Pigs for sale - weaners for breeding & fattening. Contact Tom or Elaine Fairley Tel: 028 92692426 or email t.e.29@btinternet.com

Grazing to let from April to October at the Temple Co.Down. 8 acres split between 2 fields each with own water supply. Ideal for cattle.

Contact Graham Wilson at 028 9263 8145