

SBA Board meeting held on Thursday 11 July 2013

Present: Mr S Henderson (Chairman), Mr J Bell, Mr M Gibson, Mrs J Hutchison, Mr P Lambert, Mr N McCorkindale, Mr J Stewart.

In Attendance: Mr D Bell (SRUC).

Apologies were received from Mr D Barron, Mr C Mallon, Mr D Mitchell, Mr G McFadzean, Mr D Todd, Mr A Wright.

A brief summary of the issues discussed, information reported, decisions taken and points raised are as follows: -

Minute

- The minute of the previous meeting was approved.

Finance

- An update was given on the current financial position of the SBA.
- Subscriptions to previous SBCA member had been sent out in January
- Reminders for any outstanding subscriptions were sent out in March.

Membership

- It was reported that some members were not receiving the newsletter. This led to the conclusion that the contact details on the former SBCA database needed to be updated.

Website

- Following a meeting at the Highland Show a company had been commissioned to design the SBA website.

Market Report

- It was reported that finished cattle prices were still increasing with supplies tight. Store cattle prices had also increased.
- The SBA would write to the Scottish Association of Meat Wholesalers (SAMW) on the matter of fluke reporting and the wide difference in the information from abattoirs.

CAP Reform Policy

- Following a long an wide ranging discussion on this crucial issue the following was adopted as SBA policy: -
 - New Entrants – They should get 100% area payments in year 1.
 - Slipper Farmers – Measures to be put in place so that they are fully excluded in year 1.
 - Area Payments – 3 payment regions for Scotland based on land use not land type (Arable & TGRS, PGRS, and RGR). Each region would be subject to a different minimum stocking density when assessing activity on grassland. Where a producer falls below the minimum stocking density the payment area would be reduced proportionately.
 - Coupled Payments – Use the full amount to support an enhanced Beef Scheme applied as a flat rate payment on all calves of at least 75% beef genetics. Scotland is presently eligible to use 8% but the Cabinet Secretary would be lobbied to try for more.
 - Convergence - As long and slow as possible. Clarification to be sought on how a 30% limit on losses of present SFP will operate.

