

SBA Board meeting held on Thursday 9 May 2013

Present: Mr S Henderson (Chairman), Mr D Barron, Mrs J Hutchison, Mr D Mitchell, Mr N McCorkindale, Mr G McFadzean, Mr J Stewart, Mr A Wright.

In Attendance: Mr D Todd.

Apologies were received from Mr J Bell, Mr C Mallon.

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.

Matters Arising

- A discussion took place on the working relationship with the NBA.
- A list of points of contention was to be compiled for discussion with the NBA.

Market Report

- The price of beef had continued to increase with predictions that it would continue to rise in the foreseeable future.
- The recent weather conditions and the consequent shortage of feed were causing difficulties for many producers.
- Some concerns were raised regarding the number of cattle that would be kept in Scotland in the future.

Finance

- An update was given on the current financial position of the SBA.
- The name of existing SBCA bank account was to be changed to become the SBA bank account so that new standing orders would not be required.
- Before registering for VAT a discussion should take place with the NBA to ensure that it would not cause a problem when transferring money between the two organisations.

Website

- Further discussions were to take place regarding the development of the SBA website.
- It was suggested that the company who designed the NBA website be asked to quote for the design of the SBA website.

Membership

- A reminder had been sent to all previous SBCA members regarding annual subscriptions.
- The NBA would be asked to provide a list of everyone in Scotland who had been members of the NBA.

Events

- A series of three meetings had been organised on CAP reform.
- A questionnaire would be issued to all attendees with regard to their future plans.
- A discussion took place on the future direction of the beef sector in Scotland.
- A discussion took place following the CAP modelling conference attended by 2 SBA Board members that had included:-
 - The classification of land types in Scotland.
 - The definition of active farming.

- The need for transitional arrangements.
- Arrangements for the stand and reception at the Highland Show were in hand.
- It was decided that 2 farm walks would be held with one in Aberdeenshire and one in the Lanarkshire area. The farm walks were to be sponsored by Harbro.
- The possibility of holding a major event in 2014/2015 was discussed.
- A sponsorship package was to be compiled to try and attract sponsors.

Stakeholder Groups

- A meeting of the ANC group had been held with the following issues discussed: -
 - The LFASS scheme was to continue until 2017.
 - The RDP will be within one package.
 - It had been made clear that there should be no delay in making payment.
 - The longest period to phase in any changes should be negotiated.
- A meeting had been held regarding abolishing red tape at which it was clear that the subject was fraught with difficulties.
- A meeting of the Weather Aid committee had been held with the following issues discussed: -
 - Additional funding was to be provided to the Fallen Stock Scheme.
 - An upper limit of £6K was to be set for each business that qualified to make a claim but would be dependent on the severity of the problem.

Any Other Business

- Concern was raised over the appointment of 4 new Directors to QMS of which none was a beef producer.