

Summary of the main points of the SBA Board Meeting held on the 26th of February 2020 at 10.30am

- The minute of the meeting held on 12th December 2019 was approved.
- The SBA had been contacted by Farmers for Action (FFA) to enquire whether the SBA would be willing to support the FFA. It was agreed that contact should be maintained with the FFA without making any commitment of support at this stage.
- A discussion took place on issues that should be contained in a Post Brexit Demand List. The following, in no particular order, were suggested as the headline points that should be included: -
 - The use of agricultural biproducts such as straw should be prohibited for use in biomass plants.
 - More local abattoirs were required to be established combined with a cut in the regulations involved.
 - A carbon tax should be introduced.
 - The expansion in the number of trees planted should be controlled.
 - The monopolies that exist in the supply chain should be dealt with accordingly.
 - The Grocery Adjudicator should be allowed to cover the whole of the supply chain with proper control that resulted in more fairness.
 - More co-operation across the sector should be encouraged to increase the level of producer power.
 - Some form of protection on the impact of currency fluctuations should be introduced.
 - The tax system should be reformed to facilitate changes in practices.
 - Environmental protection measures should be considered as part of the branding of beef.
 - Labelling that is 100% accurate should be made mandatory.
 - Beef should be marketed as a healthy product that highlights taste, texture, health and environmental benefits.
 - Consumers should be made aware of the health benefits of eating beef.
 - Measures should be taken to take costs out of the production system where possible.
 - Capital grants should be made available for capital projects such as fencing etc.
- Possible venues for Scotland's Beef Event in 2021 were discussed with areas that might be considered to include the Inverness area, the South West or Orkney. A number of potential host farms were suggested as possible venues which would be contacted to ascertain their willingness to become involved.
- The Chairman gave a brief update in the possible establishment of a producer group in Aberdeenshire. He reported a proposal to be put to the Scottish Government was being drawn up. It was agreed that the SBA wholeheartedly supported the initiative.
- QMS had held a conference that was attended by some SBA Board members. It was commented that there had been a general feeling that a coherent strategy needed to be developed to promote the beef sector.
- Jim Walker was invited to address the board to provide details of the Suckler Beef Climate Change Group which had been established. The group was to be funded by the UK and Scottish governments. The aim of the group was to report back to government on ways the sector could

become carbon neutral. He said that there were 3 broad strands to the approach that the group would look at summarised as follows: -

- Improving efficiency, productivity and profitability of beef produced from the suckler herd and the wider beef sector in Scotland.
- Enhancing the environmental contribution from the sector through identification of practical ways in which the greenhouse gas emissions of the beef sector can be reduced.
- Mitigating other environmental impacts of production and enhancing contribution to sustainable land use, especially soil health and grassland management and other on-farm habitats.

A discussion followed with a number of points explained and clarified.

Following a discussion, it was agreed that a template would be circulated to the Board members for them to put their ideas forward which would then be collated before it was forwarded to the officials.

- There being no further business the meeting closed at 2.57pm.