**SCOTTISH NATIONAL FATSTOCK CLUB**

**PRESS RELEASE**

**PREMIER MEAT EXHIBITION SET TO ATTRACT LARGE ENTRY FOR SILVER ANNIVERSARY**

Schedules and entry forms for three of Scotland’s leading winter livestock events can now be downloaded from the Scottish National Fatstock Club’s web site, www.fatstockclub.co.uk

The club’s prestigious Premier Meat Exhibition is this year celebrating its 25th anniversary and the club is looking for a large entry of prime beef cattle and sheep from across Scotland and the North of England to celebrate this special occasion.

Judging “on the hoof” takes place at Caledonian Marts, Stirling, on Wednesday, November 15, followed on the Saturday, November 28, by the judging “on the hook” at the M&S-sponsored Premier Meat Exhibition which takes place at the Scotbeef meat plant at Bridge of Allan.

“The Premier Meat Exhibition, which sees cattle and sheep judged both live and dead, is unique in the UK and is one of the largest of its kind in Europe,” said the club’s chief cattle steward, Alan Turnbull.

“The competition was launched to help farmers understand the deadweight grading of cattle and lamb carcases following the move away from live selling by auction and was a completely new concept at the time. Entries doubled within three years and the competition has gone from strength-to-strength ever since. We anticipate a large entry for this year’s show to mark the 25th anniversary.”

A feature of the event is the Young Livestock Producer section confined to exhibitors aged from 16 to 26 years and introduced in 2013 to encourage the younger generation into the industry. The attractive prize money in this section offers a real incentive to youngsters to take part.

“This has proved very successful and entries have doubled since the new classes were introduced,” said Mr Turnbull. “We are particularly keen to attract even more entries in this section and would encourage all young farmers to take part to help develop their skills in livestock production.”

All exhibitors are invited to the exhibition at Longleys, Bridge of Allan, to view the carcases and attend the prize giving lunch supplied by Scotbeef.

The exhibition is run in tandem with the club’s two other old-established winter events – the Native Pony Winter Fair on Saturday, November 18, and LiveScot (formerly the Scottish National Fatstock Show) on Saturday, November 25. Both events take place at Lawrie and Symington’s Lanark Mart.

The Native Pony Winter Fair offers classes for Highland and Shetland ponies while LiveScot offers classes for beef cattle, commercial calves, dairy cattle, sheep, young handlers, poultry, root and grain, silage and hay, crooks and baking and craft sections. Last year’s LiveScot attracted an entry of 160 cattle and 150 pairs of lambs.

Entries for the Premier Meat Exhibition and cattle and sheep for LiveScot close on Friday, October 6, and for commercial calves on Friday, October 20.

Entry forms can be downloaded from the club’s web site, www.fatstockclub.co.uk and should be sent to Mrs Margaret Gray, Secretary, Scottish National Fatstock Club, Langside Farm, Kirkfieldbank, Lanark, ML11 9TZ. Tel: 07939 523575. E-mail: secretary@fatstockclub.co.uk

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**NOTE:** Further information available from Margaret Gray, Secretary, Scottish National Fat Stock Club, on 07939 523575.

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