



## **WALES & BORDER COUNTIES PIG BREEDERS ASSOCIATION**

### ***Newsletter May 2014***

#### **FROM THE NEWSLETTER EDITOR**

Sue Howe, our Chair, is taking a well-deserved break abroad and so I've been given the honour of writing a few introductory words to our membership.

Thankfully the weather has warmed up and it has finally stopped raining (well almost); my plans to breed genetically modified pigs with gills and webbed feet can be filed away for next year if necessary. The showing season is back with us and hopefully many of you will be coming with your January born pigs and older stock to one or more of the many shows that are taking place over the next few months. The Association stand will be up and running at the Spring Festival (aka Smallholders show) next weekend (May 17<sup>th</sup>/18<sup>th</sup>) so come along and say hello, and if you have time please feel free to help out. Volunteers are always most welcome!

We will also be holding our Association dinner next Saturday (May 17<sup>th</sup>) at the New Inn, Newbridge-on-Wye, and everyone including non-members are most welcome. Please contact Barbara Warren by phone if you would like to come along so that we can plan the catering appropriately.

I look forward to meeting many of you in at the Royal Welsh Showground next weekend and wish those of you who are showing your pigs every success in the ring!

*Andy Zambanini*

## DO YOU WANT A COPY OF THE 2013/14 RED BOOK?

The membership Red Book which contains lots of useful information for pig related and other agricultural business contacts is available free of charge to all paid-up members. If you did not pick up your copy at one of the Shows in 2013, please contact Sue Howe or Barbara Warren, sending them a self-addressed A5 envelope or larger and suitably stamped for an 150g booklet!

## Smallholder Show (aka the Royal Welsh Spring Festival)

The Association would welcome a few more offers of help from members prepared to give a couple of hours on the stand, Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> May or Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> May. Free ticket may be available, if we have any left! Contact Barbara (01495-755557).

## Saturday Night Out at the Smallholder Show (17<sup>th</sup> May)

For a relaxing and convivial Saturday evening after a hectic day, with like-minded pig breeders, and a quiz if you want to join in, the Association is again meeting at the New inn, Newbridge-on-Wye (run by longstanding Association member Dave Lang), just a couple of miles up the A470 from the Show. A sucking pig has been donated by a member, or there is an extensive alternative menu of Dave's excellent food.



Book by phone to Barbara before the Show, or at the Show on Saturday at the Association stand in the pig area - £5 a head only (for main course)

## Looking to the Autumn

After the showing season is largely over, we have some training events in mind for September – November this year. Please let us know what you want, and particularly if you are interested in the following (dates are provisional – may change): -

### **SUE HOWE – GENERATING ADDED VALUE WITH YOUR PORK**

September Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> (venue & details later)

### **BOB STEVENSON – PIG POST MORTEM**

November Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> at Greenmeadow Community Farm, Cwmbran. Booking essential – and book early!

This is our last opportunity to hear international pig vet expert and celebrity Bob. He has given us many talks over the years, has high regard for the Association, and has kindly agreed to one more course before he steps down and retires properly.

### **ASSOCIATION AGM** (lunch available)

November Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> at the New Inn, Newbridge-on-Wye

## W&BCPBA EVENTS DIARY 2014

Devon County Show,  
Exeter  
<http://www.devoncountyshow.co.uk/>

**22<sup>nd</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> May**

Shropshire Show,  
Shewsbury  
<http://www.shropshirecountyshow.com/>

**24<sup>th</sup> May**

Spring Festival/ Smallholders Show,  
Royal Welsh Showground, Builth Wells  
<http://www.rwas.co.uk/spring-festival/>

**17<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> May**

Bath & West Show  
Shepton Mallet  
<http://www.bathandwest.com/royal-bath-west/97/>

**28<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> May**

### June

Three Counties Show  
Malvern  
<http://www.threecounties.co.uk/threecounties/>

**13<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> June**

### July

Mid-Devon Show  
Tiverton  
<http://www.middevonshow.co.uk/>

**26<sup>th</sup> July**

Great Yorkshire Show  
Harrogate  
<http://greatyorkshireshow.co.uk/>

**8<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> July**

Royal Welsh Show  
Builth Wells  
<http://www.rwas.co.uk/royal-welsh-show/>

**21<sup>st</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> July**

### August

Burwarton Show  
Cleobury North  
<http://www.burwartonshow.co.uk/>

**7<sup>th</sup> August**

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| North Devon Show<br>Umberleigh<br><a href="http://www.northdevonshow.com/">http://www.northdevonshow.com/</a>  | <b>6<sup>th</sup> August</b>                        |
| Lampeter Show<br>Lampeter<br><a href="http://www.lampetershow.co.uk/">http://www.lampetershow.co.uk/</a>   | <b>To be confirmed</b>                              |
| Anglesey Show<br>Anglesey<br><a href="http://www.angleseyshow.org.uk/anglesey-show.html">http://www.angleseyshow.org.uk/anglesey-show.html</a>         | <b>12<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> August</b>    |
| Pembrokeshire County Show<br>Haverfordwest<br><a href="http://www.pembsshow.org/">http://www.pembsshow.org/</a>  | <b>19<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> August</b>    |
| Bedwellty Show<br>Caerphilly<br><a href="http://www.bedwelltyshow.com/">http://www.bedwelltyshow.com/</a>  | <b>16<sup>th</sup> August</b>                       |
| Mid-Somerset Show<br>Wells<br><a href="http://www.midsomersetshow.org.uk/index.html">http://www.midsomersetshow.org.uk/index.html</a>                  | <b>17<sup>th</sup> August</b>                       |
| <b>September</b>   |   |
| Usk Show<br>Usk<br><a href="http://www.uskshow.co.uk">http://www.uskshow.co.uk</a>   | <b>13<sup>th</sup> September</b>                    |
| <b>November</b>  |   |
| W&BCPBA AGM<br>New Inn, Newbridge on Wye   | <b>9<sup>th</sup> November</b>                      |
| <b>December</b>  |   |
| Royal Welsh Winter Fair<br>Royal Welsh Showground, Builth Wells<br><a href="http://www.rwas.co.uk/winter-fair/">http://www.rwas.co.uk/winter-fair/</a> | <b>1<sup>st</sup> &amp; 2<sup>nd</sup> December</b> |

## **A FEW QUESTIONS FOR .....**

**Sharron Nicholas (Secretary to the Committee)**

**1. When did you first have an interest in pigs?**

I've always been interested in pigs but due to work commitments (Primary Headteacher) I never really had the time or opportunity to take it further - Coloured pigs in particular as they looked so much more interesting than white ones! My husband Allan was brought up with pigs – Landrace.

**2. How long have you kept pigs?**

Since 2008. That year is memorable because my large Old English Sheep dog managed to break my ankle and for the first time in thirty years I was off work , in plaster and on crutches. Just before Christmas that year Allan and I went to Carmarthen pig mart. This was a novelty for me going out on a school day. Hobbling around the mart I spotted two golden red Tamworth gilts standing out amongst all the other assorted pigs. I decided we had to have them! We also saw some Gloucester Old spot weaners and fell in love with them too . Suddenly we had six pigs. The number soon grew rapidly –the two gilts were in pig!

**3. What breeds?**

Tamworths of course and Gloucester Old Spots. Totally different temperaments. My real love are the Tamworths as they are intelligent, beautiful to look at and have a sense of humour.

Oh, I nearly forgot –we have recently acquired a rescue Saddleback called Dinah!

**4. How many do you have and how often do you breed them?**

Too many and too often! Numbers are growing all the time. I have five Pedigree Tamworth sows now ,two boars and assorted followers. We also have four pedigree GOS sows ,three gilts and a boar – and Dinah. Sows have two litters a year.

**5. Do you show?**

Yes. We started showing in 2012. We now go to four or five shows a year – Spring Festival, Three Counties, Royal Welsh, Pembroke County and Royal Berkshire. My long suffering brother-in –law looks after the livestock left behind. Last year we arrived back from the Three Counties to find he had just delivered ten Old Spots!

**6. Do you have other livestock?**

Yes. We have seventeen head of cattle at the moment. Assorted Hereford, Charolais and British Blue stores. We also have two Hereford suckler cows. We mainly buy in three week old calves and rear them for two years. Mainly to help fund the pig food bill!

We also have a motley collection of chickens –Marans, Silver Sussex, Black Rocks , Light Sussex plus the odd geriatric cockerel.

**7. Are your pigs / livestock part of your occupation or just a hobby?**

Good question. It feels like a full time occupation. I retired two years ago and my husband is a builder but now spends more time on the farm. At best we hope to break even or make a small profit but with the cost of pig feed at the moment and the numbers we have, it is not easy. Let's call it a labour of love!

**8. How much land do you have?**

We have 11 ½ acres of our own and rent around eight more acres. We have a split holding. I keep all the Show Tamworths at the house near Narberth where we have a large shed and a small paddock. The rest of the pigs and cattle are at our holding at Fairybank, Clynderwen (We can't get planning permission there for a house).

**9. What outlets, if any, do you have for your pigs / meat?**

We have a good trade in weaners to local people . We do rear some for meat for friends ,family and local people. The meat is cut and packed by a local butcher. However we have lost our abattoir so we have to take the pigs to Tregaron or Maesteg and this has made things more difficult.

We occasionally use Carmarthen mart for cull sows or boars but only as a last resort. I do not like to do this but realistically it is sometimes the only option.

**10. Any pearls of wisdom?**

Be prepared for hard work. It is 365 days a year – even Christmas Day! The novelty can wear off very quickly, especially on a wet ,windy ,winter's day. We bring all our pigs in during the Winter months and for farrowing not only for their comfort but ours! Slipping around knee deep in mud and losing you wellies can be very discouraging. But it does mean a lot of mucking out . They do say where there's muck there's brass but I'm not sure who thought of that one!

However keeping pigs is very rewarding and I can't imagine life without them now.

## **NEW MEAT LABELLING REQUIREMENTS IN 2015**

For those of you who sell your meat to the public or process pork into other products, new labelling requirements will start taking place by the end of 2014.

The key changes to labels will affect:

Allergen labelling  
Nutrition labelling  
Origin Labelling

### Allergen labelling

By 13 December 2014, where and how allergen labelling appears on a label will change. The main changes relate to where the advice is given. Information is currently provided in separate allergen boxes, or separate from the ingredient list. From December 2014 the allergens should be located in the main ingredient list, but additionally, highlighted in bold.

### Nutrition labelling

From 2016, the regulations makes it mandatory to provide nutrition information back of pack, whereas previously nutrition information was provided on a voluntary basis unless a nutrition claim was made.

Companies who already provide nutrition information will be required to comply with the new FIC rules for nutrition labelling by 13 December 2014, whereas companies who currently do not provide nutrition labelling will have until 13 December 2016 to put the required measures in.

The guidance details the nutrients required to show on pack and the order these should be presented in – energy (both in kJ and kcals) and the amounts of fat, saturates, carbohydrates, sugars, protein and salt. Nutrition information has to be given per 100g/ml and can additionally be given per portion or per consumption unit and as % RI (formerly known as GDAs) for which there are now EU values. Information on other nutrients can also be provided on a voluntary basis, as long as they are listed within the Regulation.

Full technical guidance can be found on the Department of Health website.

### Country of Origin Labelling - Unprocessed meat

From April 2015, it will be a mandatory requirement to state the country of origin or place of provenance for unprocessed fresh, chilled and frozen meat of swine, sheep, goats and poultry. It will be a mandatory requirement to state, on the label, in which country (or countries) an animal was reared and slaughtered.

The rearing periods differ by species and are all rather complicated!

If the term Origin is to be used, then all three stages of production, i.e. born, reared and slaughtered must be within one country.

The use of other more visible marketing terms such as 'British', or flags for example will be voluntary.

The format and exact details of the new label requirements are still currently being discussed by Defra.

### **Lorry washes could be biosecurity 'weakest link'**

(Reproduced from NFUonline)

The National Pig Association is polling its producers about lorry washes at Britain's abattoirs, with a view to publishing a league table.

The association hopes when abattoirs see how they are rated against their competitors, the poorest performers will be encouraged to invest in improved lorry-washing facilities.

Many pig producers and hauliers consider sub-standard lorry washes to be the weakest link in the industry's armoury against endemic diseases such as swine dysentery, and imported diseases such as African swine fever and porcine epidemic diarrhoea.

Disease can be spread rapidly from farm to farm by livestock lorries, unless hauliers are able to properly wash and disinfect their vehicles every time they deliver pigs to an abattoir. But washing facilities at most abattoirs are reported by pig producers and hauliers to be inadequate.

British pig producers are particularly concerned at present about the risk of foreign diseases entering Britain and spreading quickly through a naive pig population.

There is a threat of the notifiable disease African swine fever being imported from Russia, the Ukraine, Belarus and Lithuania. And in the States and Canada, highly virulent Chinese strains of Porcine Epidemic Diarrhoea are laying waste to hundreds of pig units.

Both viruses are harmless to humans, but they are fatal to pigs if they are carried onto farms on lorry tyres or on the boots and clothes of humans.

Early results from producer voting suggest the Dalehead Foods recently modernised and now world-class abattoir at Spalding in Lincolnshire will top the NPA league.

"Abattoirs may be reluctant to invest in modern lorry-washing facilities because they see it as dead money but this is short-sighted. They rely on a reliable supply of British pigs, so it should really be at the top of their agenda," said NPA chairman Richard Longthor.

**What sort of vehicle/trailer washing facilities are available at your local abattoir?**

## **New RUMA guidance on antibiotic use in agriculture**



provides free guidance to farmers and vets on the responsible and effective use of medicines in agriculture.

Responsible use of antibiotics on farms means using antibiotics as little as possible and as much as necessary.

Regardless of the farming system, the focus for improved animal husbandry should include improved bio-security practices and continuous vet and farmer training about disease prevention and the responsible use of antibiotics.

RUMA have recently issued an updated briefing paper on antibiotic resistance and how we should take steps to avoid this becoming a problem on our farms and smallholdings. The main areas include:

1. Explaining antibiotic resistance and why it matters to human and animal health
2. Set out why and how antibiotics are used in UK farms
3. Identify the risks to public health from use of antibiotics in farming
4. Explain the responsible use of antibiotics in farming
5. Identify the changes in legislative controls (for antibiotic use in veterinary medicines and feed additives) that RUMA believes are appropriate and proportionate to manage the limited risk of antibiotic use in farm animals leading to clinical treatment problems in humans.

**The guidance can be read in full at:**

<http://www.npa-uk.org.uk/Library/RUMA%20ANTIBIOTIC%20RESISTANCE%20INFORMATION%20NOTE.docx>

### Pigs & Places

Send us your photos of interesting pigs you've come across during your travels. All photos are gratefully received and acknowledged! Try to guess the countries where these were found....



## ADVERTS

### For sale:

- **Pedigree Tamworth gilt**, born 13/8/2013. Fairybank Melody 13. Excellent underline and confirmation.

Dam: Fairybank Melody, Sire: Stoneymoor Dreamboy

Also **Pedigree Tamworth sow**: Fairybank Melody 4 (Alice) D.O.B. 18/2/2012 Excellent mother. Has had two litters. Last litter in January. Full sister was Breed Champion at 2013 Spring Festival. Only selling because need to reduce herd.

**Tel: 01834 860002 or e-mail [sharron@nicholas80.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:sharron@nicholas80.fsnet.co.uk)**

- Three pig arks: two are 8'x6' and one 8' x 8'. Plastic front and back, wooden floors and corrugated roofs. Collect only please. £200 each ono. Ring Sue on 07919 623559
- Hampshire-X weaners available end of June (Abergavenny). £35 each. Ring Andy on 07944 611053

## CONTACTS

|  |              |
|--|--------------|
| Sue Howe (Chair)                               | 07801-577072 |
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