



Newsletter

October 2019

Welcome to the latest edition of the RASC Newsletter. This covers the last three months which has seen the peak of the show season in the UK. Most shows have been blessed with good weather and this has been reflected in record attendances at the Balmoral Show of the Royal Ulster Agricultural Society in May and the Royal Highland Show in Edinburgh in June.

In July the Royal Welsh Agricultural Society celebrated its 100th show with record attendances and a visit by HRH The Prince of Wales in glorious weather.

Work continues apace on next year's Commonwealth Agricultural Conference to be held in Norfolk, England at the beginning of July. The Next Generation Understanding and Assistance Mission to the Caribbean is just two months away. More details on these and other news can be read in this newsletter.



Michael Lambert LVO Hon Sec

Royal Jersey Agricultural & Horticultural Society: Spring Show, AGM 2019 and a Visit to the Jersey Dairy

Royal Jersey Agricultural & Horticultural Society Spring Show

The Royal Jersey Agricultural and Horticultural Society held their annual Spring Show at their showgrounds in Trinity on the 8 & 9th June in good weather and attracted some 6,000 people. The Sunday was the main cattle judging day and RASC Trustees and members enjoyed an excellent display of Jersey females with some 60 animals from 10 different herds representing two thirds of all the milk producers in the island.

There was also a horticultural show with some excellent flower and vegetable entries and a dog show which was very busy. There was also plenty of local produce and beverage stalls where show attendees had the opportunity to sample wares.



L to R - HRH The Princess Royal, The Right Honourable the Lord Vestey, Michael Lambert



'Send-a-Cow' Presentation at the RASC AGM 2019

The RASC AGM 2019

Following the Royal Jersey Agricultural and Horticultural Society's Spring Show RASC held their 2019 AGM at the Offices of the Jersey Society. We were delighted to welcome our President HRH The Princess Royal and the Lt. Governor of Jersey together with the First Minister and other local politicians. At the AGM we bade farewell to Edwin White and Anna Playfair Hannay as trustees and welcomed Robert Drewitt (Chairman of the Royal Bath and West of England Society) and Geoff Burgess (Deputy President of the Royal Smithfield Club). We also welcomed Rebecca Dawes and Breyton Milford as the new NG Facilitators. Following the meeting three presentations were made; one on the upcoming Understanding and Assistance Mission to the Caribbean in November. Secondly on how the RJA&HS together with fellow RASC member and charity 'Send-a-Cow' are working together in Rwanda with money from Jersey Overseas Aid to build industries and change lives through improved cattle breeding. Lastly attendees were given an update on the 2020 CAC in Norfolk. Our thanks go to Robert Perchard, President of the RJA&HS and James Godfrey the CEO for their hospitality and excellent lunch.



Visit to the Jersey Dairy

After the RASC AGM and lunch, RASC members had the opportunity to visit the Jersey Dairy which is situated adjacent to the Jersey Showgrounds. Members were given an excellent presentation by Jersey Milk Marketing Board Chairman Andrew le Gallais.

Andrew explained the dramatic changes that have taken place in the dairy industry in the island of Jersey which has seen some 90% of the milk producers leave the industry in the past 20 years. Liquid milk imports into the island are prohibited and Andrew outlined the strict milk production guidelines the producers have to follow to keep supply and demand in balance.

To ensure that there is always enough supply to meet local demand a small surplus of milk is produced. Jersey is a very high cost area to produce milk because much of the raw materials to produce milk have to be imported from the mainland at considerable extra cost. Jersey Dairy has developed a lucrative export business in the form of soft scoop ice cream which is sold to a number of countries around the world.

Michael Lambert, LVO Hon. Sec.

Showcase: The Royal Agricultural Society of New South Wales

In the second year of the new 12-day format, the Sydney Royal Easter Show attracted 900,000+ visitors eager to take the trip around regional NSW simply by spending a day at the Show. As Showgoers from the city poured through the entry gates, it was an opportunity to demonstrate support for the communities struggling through the on-going drought. Despite conditions on the land, competition entry numbers were still strong and the exhibitors from rural New South Wales and further afield took advantage of the chance to come together and experience some respite from incredibly trying times.

RAS of NSW (Royal Agricultural Society of New South Wales) President Robert Ryan OAM was particularly impressed by the increasing awareness of the next generation of agricultural leaders, with the RAS Youth Group and Rural Achievers leading the charge, delivering new initiatives and ensuring the topic of agriculture stays relevant and reaps the benefit of current interest in sustainability and innovation.

RAS of NSW Chief Executive Brock Gilmour summed up the overall feel of the 2019 Show, "Showgoers more than ever interacted with livestock and produce exhibitors and listened to their tales, and this is the reason we strive to bring the country to the city every year."

The success of the event is also measured in numbers:

- Over 125,000 visitors on Good Friday and 437,935 across the entire Easter weekend;
- 25,000 entrants competed across 42 competitions and over 5,500 competition classes;
- \$18,663,261.20 in wool sales over two days;
- 4,000 votes for the people's choice at the District Exhibits display – our highest public vote ever and a massive show of support for our battling regions;
- 15,000 cheese toasties sold every day, along with 600 corn-on-the-cobs devoured every hour of the Show;
- 100 hours of competition in the woodchop with 240 competitors from 5 countries chopping through more than 4000 blocks.



The RAS of NSW hosted a dinner during the Show for RASC Next Generation Alumni. L to R - Ian Pursehouse, Lyndsey Douglas, Prue McCormack, Tom Green, Anna Playfair-Hannay, Shannon McCormack, John Bennett, Jillian Kilby, Ellen Fitzgerald, Cassie McDonald and Amy Pursehouse.

Moving forward, preparations are already under way for a very big Show in 2022 as the RAS of NSW celebrates its bicentenary, an event guaranteed to be a drawcard for visitors from across Australia and the Commonwealth.

Showcase: The Border Union Show 2019

The Border Union Show on 26 and 27 July 2019 was a wonderful event for many reasons; showcasing the finest livestock, providing an entertaining and educational day out, a networking opportunity and a great fun filled family days out to name but a few.

The Show Seminar lead by one of the Show Directors, Neil Thomson, was a brilliant success with an increase in audience numbers. Based on the topic of "Embracing Change" the conversation was interesting and inspired local businessmen and women to look to forward and future proof their businesses.

Find out more on the Border Union Agricultural Association website: borderunion.co.uk



2019 Dates

October	
BBX Royal Hobart Show	24 - 27 Oct
November	
Christchurch A&P New Zealand	13-15 Nov
Farmfair International (Northlands)	6-10 Nov

The 7th Understanding & Assistance Mission to the Caribbean

The RASC would like to wish the delegates of the 7th Understanding and Assistance Mission good luck in their travels.

The group will be visiting the Caribbean Islands including St Kitts, Antigua and Barbuda, Guadeloupe and Martinique; taking a look into the agricultural industry alongside the food and drink sector. The mission is designed give NG's an insight into an incredibly important part of the Commonwealth, showcasing the tropical and challenging environment.

The two week trip takes places between 8th and 22nd November 2019.