

# NATIONAL BEEF ASSOCIATION REGIONAL OPEN MEETINGS

OPEN TO ALL with an interest in the beef industry



**GUEST SPEAKER:** Nuffield Scholar Steven Sandison

**TOPIC:** Are suckler herd targets accurate and achievable?

A first-generation Orkney beef farmer who has grown his herd of 100 Simmental and Salers cross cattle from scratch. Steven classes benchmarking as his hobby and when he was chosen as a focus farm and told that his figures could be improved he was driven to investigate the feasibility and achievability of suckler herd targets, and if profit before subsidies was possible.

Speaking on his work Steven says “‘What is a realistic number of calves to wean from 100 cows exposed to the Bull in 9 weeks?’. Farmers are told they need to achieve 92%. We are offered services, information, machinery, gadgets, feeds, minerals, vaccines, etc. to make us more efficient. Although we have access to all this, only 82% of cows are actually weaning a calf.

So, is 92% realistic and what do the best farmers have in common? These were the two main questions which I set out to answer through my Nuffield Scholarship.”

A fascinating and relevant topic, with the uncertainty around CAP payments post Brexit emphasising the need for profitability before subsidies. A speaker passionate about suckler cattle with a lifetime of practical hands on experience and a message to share.

**SAVE THE DATE!**

**Northern: Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> February**, Borderway Mart, Carlisle, CA12RS

**Midlands: Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> February**, Church Lawford Village Hall,  
Church Lawford, Warwickshire. CV23 9EE

Refreshments at 6.30pm, to start at 7.00pm.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Show your interest by either signing up to the free event online at [Eventbrite](#) (northern) and [Eventbrite](#) (midlands), emailing Rosie at [rosie@nationalbeefassociation.com](mailto:rosie@nationalbeefassociation.com) or calling the Hexham office on 01434 601005

