

Scottish Venison activity report - 13 December 2024

In addition to what the Chairman has reported this is a brief resumé on what have been some of the main areas of activity over the past year.

- We held a well-attended conference/summit for the whole sector here in November last year.
- We lobbied hard and successfully to have venison (wild and farmed) included in the Agriculture and Communities Bill
- We've responded to the 'deer management for climate and nature' and 'good food nation plan' consultations
- We have developed new structure, funding streams and have brought new people onto the Executive Committee which I think make this a far more dynamic organisation
- We had a presence far superior to anything we've had before at the Scottish Game Fair through sponsorship (for nothing, many thanks to Tim) of the Cookery Theatre.
- We delivered the carbon footprint report for the sector (wild deer and venison).
- We saw two new chills open under the local chills pilot project and held an open day at one of them.
- We have been in continual dialogue with NatureScot and Scottish Government, responded to several written Parliamentary questions and one very annoying and intrusive FOI request.
- We partnered five on-farm Knowledge Transfer events for the deer farming sector.
- We've worked with NatureScot and SAOS on the infrastructure mapping project.
- We've had some really good press coverage particularly for venison in schools.
- We pushed hard for the venison subsidy, albeit that wasn't what has been delivered at the end of the day - but it is good to see that the underspend from the pilots should be transferred to SAOS and then used to develop low ground capacity.
- We have just partnered an event at the Scottish Parliament with SLE, ADMG and others.

We must once again thank SAOS for their support and the additional capacity that they give us particularly through Fergus and Douglas.