



▶ Thanks to funds from Scottish Natural Heritage, RHET is able to continue taking the classroom to the countryside!



▶ **Highland Rosie** is our new fibreglass cow. She will be visiting local events to raise awareness of RHET HCI's activities.



▶ For more information on volunteering, projects, events or resources, please visit our website: [www.rhet.org.uk](http://www.rhet.org.uk)



THE ROYAL HIGHLAND EDUCATION TRUST

Patron HRH The Princess Royal

# R.H.E.T.

## Highland Countryside Initiative

### Schools Newsletter - Spring 2010

#### Taking the Classroom to the Countryside!

\* **RHET Highland Countryside Initiative** supports schools in the region with projects and topics on food, farming and the countryside.

\* We provide year round **risk-assessed farm visits** throughout the Highlands, and provide **tailored visits** for primary and secondary schools.

\* We have a network of trained **Classroom Speakers** who can deliver talks tailored to a range of rural topics from nursery to secondary level.

\* Schools can order a range of **classroom resources** direct from RHET. We have a hands-on **nursery resource box** and a number of **interactive materials** covering subjects including **meat production, farming across the seasons, Standard Grade Geography** and a new **Higher Biology** resource.

\* RHET is also involved in a number of **regional and national** projects and competitions.

\* All our farm visits and classroom talks are provided by **volunteer farmers**, as are our local events.

From 2009 to Spring 2010 RHET Highland Countryside Initiative have facilitated:

- \*21 farm visits
- \*33 classroom speaker events and have:
- \*39 schools taking part in Count & Grow



### FARMHOUSE BREAKFAST WEEK



The 2010 schools competition invited pupils to think about **"Breakfast Benefits"**. Congratulations go to Highland area local winner **Finlay**, from **Abernethy Primary**, whose entry used **local produce** from around the area.

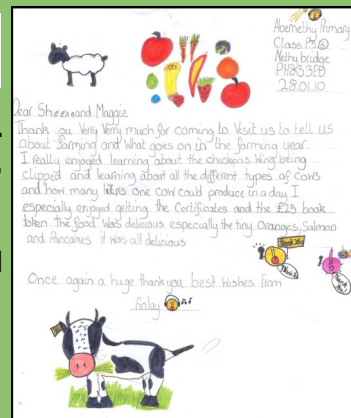
Finlay's colourful recipe also attracted the attention of the judges at the National Competition, where Finlay was awarded **Highly Commended**.

Both the school and Finlay received book tokens and his class had a **healthy breakfast** prepared for them by RHET Highland Countryside Initiative.



The prize also included a **classroom talk** on breakfast foods - and a **farm visit**. The class are now looking forward to visiting the farm this term.

Thank you to **Tesco** and **HGCA** for sponsoring this competition.



### RHET Highland Countryside Initiative

Project Co-ordinator:

**Maggie Wormald**  
[highland@rhet.org](mailto:highland@rhet.org)

Tel: 01463 731 493

Chair:

**Stephen Mackenzie**

[stephen@auchmorefarm.co.uk](mailto:stephen@auchmorefarm.co.uk)

Tel: 07977132 844

## Farm Visits

Both primary and secondary school groups visited farms over the Autumn and Winter months.

These visits were linked to topics including local food production, organic box schemes, sheep and beef production, vegetable production and biodiversity on the farm.

Contact Maggie now to book for farm visits over the summer term. All farms are risk-assessed before the visit and transport grants are available on a first-come basis.



## COUNT & GROW SCHOOLS POTATO-GROWING PROJECT 2010

39 Highland Schools are currently taking part in this national potato-growing project, with children monitoring the development of the potatoes and getting involved in maths-related activities such as measuring and weighing. In addition, pupils learn about the planting and growing process.



If your school missed out on this year's competition, look out for the 2011 Count & Grow postcard.

To enter, or for more information, contact Maggie at [highland@rhet.org](mailto:highland@rhet.org) or visit [www.rhet.org.uk](http://www.rhet.org.uk)

The project supports Health Promoting Schools, Eco Schools and Determined to Succeed.

Sponsored by Clydesdale Bank, there are two strands to the national competition. One prize for the class with the heaviest crop of potatoes, and one for project work completed from the workbook.

Good luck to all schools taking part!



## CLASSROOM SPEAKER VISITS

Dochgarroch Nursery enjoyed a classroom talk from local farmer Donald Fraser, who brought his tractor with him!

Teanassie Nursery children were excited to hear about animals on the farm when one of our farmers, Stephen Mackenzie, visited.

Knockbreack Primary enjoyed a visit from farmer John Scott to their class, followed by a trip out to the farm to learn about local farming and food production.

For further information, or to book a classroom speaker visit, please contact [highland@rhet.org](mailto:highland@rhet.org) or visit [www.rhet.org](http://www.rhet.org)

## The Gordon Cook Foundation Food & Literacy Project

This project is aimed at secondary-level Home Economics departments and aims to teach older pupils about the origin of food, 'from gate to plate'. This involves taking school groups out to visit local farms, learn about food production, meet farmers and investigate how food is processed and packaged.

The project is currently in a trial period, but will hopefully become available to all secondary schools.

Kingussie High School hospitality pupils took part, visiting local Estates and farms to learn about sheep, cattle and deer farming; this included processing, packaging and displaying produce for sale.

## The Royal Highland Show 2010

The RHET Children's Discovery Centre is open to school parties on Thursday 24th and Friday 25th June. Schools can choose from a range of curriculum-linked bookable activities or drop-in sessions, plus the option of a guided tour of the showground.

To book an educational party visit, contact the RHET office 0131 335 6227 or download the booking form from our website [www.rhet.org.uk/rhs](http://www.rhet.org.uk/rhs). A registration fee of £32.00 is payable for each group of 33 pupils.

Take the Classroom to the Countryside!

CHILDREN'S DISCOVERY CENTRE WITH:

- BOOKABLE ACTIVITIES FOR SCHOOLS
- DROP-IN SESSIONS
- GUIDED TOURS

Kids go FREE!

CHILDREN'S DISCOVERY CENTRE

The Royal Highland Show  
24th-27th June 2010

Royal Highland Centre, Ingliston, Edinburgh, EH28 8NB

[www.rhet.org.uk](http://www.rhet.org.uk)  
t: 0131 335 6227

The RHET Highland Countryside Initiative is a Company Limited by Guarantee Registered in Scotland Scottish Company Number SC303911 Scottish Charity Number SC037760