

Member Spotlight Outline

for the Highland Good Food Partnership newsletter

The 'Member Spotlight' is a feature column in the monthly newsletter from the Highland Good Food Partnership. The newsletter goes out to over 650 subscribers and members on the last Thursday of the month.

Content:

- The spotlight should include WHO you are and WHAT you do. *What makes you special? Interesting? How are you affecting the food system in the Highlands?*
- Share your experience. *What are your biggest challenges? What are you doing really well? What mistakes have you made?* We like our members to be realistic, so make this sound as chatty or human as you like.
- *How has the Highland Good Food Partnership helped you? **Why** are you a member?*
- *What are your plans for the coming year? Any **events, opportunities** or **asks** you would like to share?*

Style and length:

- Feel free to use subheadings (e.g. 'Our Story So Far', 'Future Plans'), bullet points for lists, and a relaxed tone.
- **200-300** words is ideal.
- Please include 4 or 5 high-quality photographs (ideally squares!) that you have permission to use. Realistic, low-filtered photos of people, animals, food, landscapes are best.
- Please include your social media handles and how people can contact you for more info.
- Send it to rachel@highlandgoodfood.scot and we will endeavour to include it in the next possible newsletter.

Examples of previous Member Spotlights:

Glen Spean Market (April 2025):

Member Spotlight: Glen Spean Market

by Viv MacDonald & Liz MacMaster

We've been running Glen Spean Market for five years now. It all started after we took a Crofting Federation course during lockdown. Just a couple of weeks later, we held our first market in the courtyard of Glen Spean Brewery. It quickly outgrew the space, so we moved to Ben Nevis Auction Mart in Torlundy, just north of Fort William.

Our summer markets focus on **food and drink**, with 20 – 30 stalls, while our two winter markets expand to 50 – 60 stalls.

Stallholders set up in the livestock pens, creating their own wee shops. We require that most of what they sell is **made or produced by them**, so no third-party sellers! So the quality is incredible, with a **strong focus on Lochaber** and the Highlands.

Each month, we support a local charity, and at Christmas, we hosted **six charities** raising funds for local causes.



Image: Charlotte Grant

Supporting Local Businesses

We run the market as a community initiative, keeping stall fees low to encourage new businesses. However, we'd love to see **more home bakers and food and drink producers join us**. Many are put off by the need for Environmental Health registration, but we encourage them to sign up with the Highland Council. We've always found Environmental Health Officers to be helpful and informative.

Looking Ahead to 2025

With a recent grant, we've bought two large gazebos to create a communal area; encouraging visitors to stay for coffee and cake. We're also expanding our annual **Oktoberfest** at Glen Spean Brewery into a full **Food & Drink Festival**.

Another key project is a viability study into **developing local abattoir facilities**, led by Viv MacDonald with support from several of our producers.

We're always looking for new stallholders. If you have space in your market diary, come and give us a try! [Get in touch](#), or follow us on [Instagram](#) and [Facebook](#).

Lochview Rural Training (June 2025)

Member Spotlight: Lochview Rural Training, Lairg

by Angela Platts

We are a charity and social enterprise based on a working croft in the northern Highlands. Our training centre, established in 2021, includes animals, machinery, growing areas, a polytunnel, and a learning cabin.

We offer a wide range of land-based, heritage and rural skills courses and activities for people of all ages and abilities. Participants come to learn new skills, gain confidence, build experience and qualifications, connect with nature, and make friends. Many go on to work in land-based industries, start their own crofts, or develop rural enterprises.



Every week is different, with seasonal tasks, animal care and



growing projects. Our schedule includes **school visits**, activities for children and young people with **additional support needs**, support for adults with **long-term health conditions**, one-to-one **employability help**.

Longer 8–12 week courses explore employment options in areas like **animal care, soils, peatland management, forestry and machinery safety**.

Looking ahead:

New **1-week tasters** and **12-week 'Introduction to Land-based Skills'** courses are scheduled for 2025/26. **Young people can get in touch now to secure a free place.**

We're also looking to expand into new areas of Sutherland and would love to hear from communities interested in working with us.

Get involved:

Join us as a volunteer - our next Volunteer Day is [17th June](#). Or sign up for a course; learn something new, and maybe even start your own rural enterprise.

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🔍 Find us on social media: [Lochview Rural Training](#)