

# UnitedAuctions

— Since 1858 —

## **PRESS RELEASE**

**11 April 2010**

### **UA completes upgrade of Islay auction mart**

United Auctions (UA) have completed a comprehensive upgrade of facilities at Islay auction mart, ahead of its annual sale of 1400 store cattle on Saturday 10 April.

Local farmers and crofters can now benefit from a range of improvements to the mart, including the replacement of the entire pennage area with steel pens, a new livestock auction ring, the resurfacing of the mart floor with concrete and the installation of a digital weighbridge.

New adjustable steel pens, which can be opened to create holding areas, can accommodate 400 extra cattle.

Customers bringing their own stock to market can now take advantage of a quicker loading process with the creation of two more loading banks for smaller trailers.

An extra paddock and lorry parking space has also been added.

The upgrade, which was completed in five phases, improves health and safety, bio-security and animal health and welfare. It also offers an enhanced service to customers.

UA, Scotland's leading livestock auctioneers, are taking advice on the best system to install for EID (electronic identification) of sheep to allow the mart to act as a critical control point for farmers.

The UA-owned facility is the only mart located on the Hebridean Island. It serves the farming and crofting community on both Islay and neighbouring isle Jura. Sales are held monthly in the spring and summer and every three weeks in the autumn.

Donald Morrison, UA's Area Managing Director for Argyll and the Islands said: "We see the Islay mart as belonging to the people who use it – it's their market. We're proud to be part of the community we serve and we take that role seriously by providing an excellent service and supporting local people and industries with employment. We're delighted the works have been completed with the help of local people."

David Leggat, UA's Executive Chairman, said: "We recognise the important role Islay market plays in farming and crofting in the local community and in the west of Scotland.

"The improvements, which follow the purchase and upgrade of Dalmally mart and the recent purchase of our sites at Lairg, Huntly and Oban, are part of our investment strategy to provide a sustainable service for all our customers."

**-Ends-**