

George honoured after 70 years as part of the union

ONE of NFU Scotland's longest serving members, George Murray of Morvich Farm, Rogart, was named this week as the winner of a top award.

Mr Murray (92) has represented his area on hill farming matters and been branch chairman of the union for many years.

He picked up this year's Miskelly Award at the organisation's centenary AGM in St Andrews.

The Miskelly award was established in memory of John Miskelly, who served as regional manager with the union and was an inspirational figure through his dedication and support to the agricultural industry.

Mr Murray has been a member of NFU Scotland for 70 years and remains very active. He has never missed the annual North Country Cheviot lamb sale at Lairg since the mid-1930s and still attends the weekly livestock sale at his local Dingwall mart.

NFU Scotland president, Nigel Miller, took great personal delight in presenting the award as his first ever farm placement as a young vet saw him regularly visit Mr Murray and his family.

He said: "Throughout his life George has retained an extraordinary enthusiasm for the industry that to this day sees him regularly attend Union meetings, local sales and farming events.

"His love of hill farming, and support for crofting in his area, is not restricted to the day-to-day issues but extends into the big picture issues that affect an industry that he loves.

"But he has also shown



George Murray (right) being presented with his award by NFU Scotland president Nigel Miller.

commitment to the wider rural community and was a member of Sutherland County Council for many years.

"In his own farming business, he has always strived to push the boundaries on his farm and improve performance despite the tough uncompromising location of his farm and his love for the North Country Cheviot breed has been at the heart of that.

"His drive and enthusiasm for farming is undiminished and, in our centenary year, George and his family encapsulate so

much of what is good about Scottish farming and the families at its heart."

George and Kay Murray ran the family farm at Morvich – his father had taken on the tenancy of the farm in the mid-1930s.

George was a member of NFU Scotland's Hill Farming committee, a chairman of Sutherland NFUS Branch and a member of Sutherland County Council from the 1960s to reorganisation in the mid-seventies. He still drives himself to Dingwall every Wednesday to attend the livestock sales.