

**9 February 2015**

## **STARTS**

### **Are you the Festival Sweetheart?**

The Burnham on Sea Food & Drink Festival have launched their Festival Bursary offering up to FIVE FREE trading pitches at the Festival on 23 May.

Festival Director Sarah Milner Simonds said

“Through the Food & Drink festival we have shown our commitment to supporting local traders to build sustainable businesses and now we want to help new businesses make their first steps into trading. We recognise we have an opportunity to assist in developing the skills, abilities and knowledge of all food and drink producers.”

Fellow festival Director Beverley Milner Simonds continued

“The scheme is designed to encourage business start-up and self-employment within Somerset. We are providing up to five discretionary bursary awards for pitches at the May Food & Drink festival. We had a great footfall (over 7000) at each of the 2014 festivals and we hope that opportunity will be seized on by new traders.”

One of last year's benefactors, Berrow Beef, Sarah Welland told us "Being awarded a bursary to attend the October 2014 BOS Food Fest was a massive boost for us at the early stages of establishing Berrow Beef. We had access to expert advice on how to get the best out of the day, free publicity, as well as being able to trade for free. Due to the huge success it turned out to be (both in terms of sales on the day and follow up business), we intend being at every future festival!"

The Bursary is for food and drink producers who have not engaged in retail trade before. (You may have been producing and selling direct to restaurant or a business but not direct to the public). But time is running out - applications need to be in before **14 March** and can be downloaded from [www.burnhamonseafestival.org](http://www.burnhamonseafestival.org)

## **ENDS**

Pictures:

Sarah Welland and family with their herd. Berrow Beef Festival logo

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