

Sheep Farmer

JUNE/JULY 2018



A NATIONAL SHEEP ASSOCIATION PUBLICATION

**LAMB MARKETING –
FROM LOCAL INITIATIVES
TO INTERNATIONAL WORK**

**NSA SCOT SHEEP REPORT AND NSA
SHEEP 2018 PREVIEW**

**TOP FENCING PRIZE FOR
NEW NSA MEMBER**

EXPLOITING LAMB GROWTH RATES

LATEST NSA POLICY WORK



your business your future



DELIVERING TOP QUALITY RAMS THROUGHOUT THE UK

Order your rams by phone or email

- Large selection of performance recorded grass fed rams ✓
- Breeds for indoor and outdoor lambing ✓
- Breeds for prime lamb production and female replacements ✓
- Hardy rams which last longer, serving more ewes ✓
- Commercial focus to increase profits and reduce labour ✓
- Hundreds of repeat customers throughout UK from Orkney to Devon & Ireland ✓

Logie Durno Sheep quality bred in 01467 681579



Sires of prime lambs

Sires of breeding females

Email: info@logiedurnosheep.co.uk www.logiedurnosheep.co.uk Follow us on facebook.

DELIVERY IS FREE TO AN AREA NEAR YOU

Two years in and Brexit questions are still waiting

By Phil Stocker, NSA
There will return a time when I can write about things other than Brexit, but it's not just yet and things are still closer to boiling point than they are to settling down.

We are now two years post EU referendum and still know very little about what we face as a country and a farming community. This doesn't mean people have been sitting back doing nothing. Far from it. I have never seen this level of activity, discussion, consultation, behind the scenes meetings and positioning.

It feels as though all the preparation is being done, but the key decisions and any real agreements coming out of the UK/EU negotiations are still missing. Relate this directly to sheep farming and the two main roots of income – trade and farm support – are both still completely up in the air. It is not just that these income-generating fields are uncertain, but they are both highly influenced by our past and immediate relationship with the EU. I hardly need to spell this out again, but with virtually all our exports going to EU members states, and our previous farm support policies being cushioned by the CAP, our exit, without knowing where we are going next, is uncertain.

Key decisions

This is why we have themed NSA Sheep 2018 'Thriving in an uncertain future'. I am optimistic the outcome of our exit can be positive, but this won't happen by itself. It will only happen if lots of people (the Government, civil servants, our devolved nations, organisations like NSA, allied trades, and farmers) make



the right decisions and take the right actions. NSA has invested heavily since the referendum result. We have prepared our case, made a lot of noise and have been listened to. But we will have to continue banging the drum for some time yet. Our role is essential, not just in promoting, positioning and supporting sheep farming generally, but also in helping bring the four nations together.

Working together

It is vital for the UK, recognising the importance of devolution, to pull together for the benefit of industry and our citizens. Life for a few years is likely to be tough enough and in seeking friends across the world we should set out to be friends amongst ourselves first.

The NSA view has long been that we want to see as level a regulatory platform as possible, plus true collaboration in policy development where all our nations feel part of the process. It would be a tragedy if we ended up with trade distortion or disruption within our internal market and, as a UK-wide association, NSA will do all it can to avoid this.

Our members, and your membership, has never been more important to give us the resources and the voice we need to keep up the momentum on your behalf, and I appeal to readers to help us grow this great association by staying with us and encouraging others you know to join. We have shown we can drive the agenda and influence the future but we could do even more with more people behind us – there is a lot of truth in the saying 'the world is run by those who bother to turn up'.

Fantastic event

With a highly successful and enjoyable NSA Scot Sheep now under our belts (report on page 10), a lot of credit and gratitude should be awarded to the hard working organising team and hosts Robert and Caroline Dalrymple, along with their long-time farm manager Andrew Maclean. The programme of events provided something of interest for everyone, as did the many trade and breed society stands, and the chance to get away from the farm to meet with friends and contacts now the weather has improved from its shocking state earlier in the spring (which is as valuable as anything else). Next stop, NSA Sheep 2018!

Sheep Farmer 

June/July
2018 edition
Vol. 37, No 3 ISSN 0141-2434
A National Sheep Association publication.

Contents

- 2 News round-up
- 4 NSA reports: devolved nations
- 6 NSA reports: English regions
- 8 NSA Breed Society Forum report and Balmoral Show presence
- 10 NSA Scot Sheep preview
- 12 NSA Sheep 2018 preview
- 14 NSA ram sale previews
- 15 NSA South Sheep preview
- 16 Winner of first NSA 2018 prize draw
- 18 Latest NSA policy activity
- 20 Legal advice on sheep worrying by dogs
- 22 **FARM FEATURE:** Peter Derryman, NSA South West Region Chairman
- 24 **SPECIAL FEATURE:** International lamb promotional work
- 26 **SPECIAL FEATURE:** Heritage sheep promotional work
- 28 Practical advice on dealing with resistant sheep scab mites
- 30 Sheep versus trees in upland areas
- 32 Disease surveillance latest
- 34 Rotation grazing as a farm management tool
- 36 Maximising daily liveweight gain in lambs
- 38 Boosting flocks with clear breeding objectives
- 40 Latest findings on blowfly strike
- 42 Seeing the world via the shearing circuit
- 43 **NEXT GENERATION:** Update from this year's NSA Ambassadors and a look at NSA Sheep 2018

This NSA magazine is published with design and production services provided by Ladies in Print.

Ladies in Print

Email: ladiesinprint@outlook.com
Tel: 01684 899255

Paper is FSC® certified. It is sourced from responsibly managed forests.



No part of this magazine may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or shared in any form (be in electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise) without prior consent of NSA. Every care is taken when compiling this magazine and NSA and Ladies in Print take no responsibility for errors and omissions arising from publication. Views expressed and information contained in Sheep Farmer are not necessarily those of NSA or Ladies in Print and neither party cannot be held responsible for any reason arising from them. Neither NSA or Ladies in Print endorse any services or products advertised.

National Sheep Association

NSA Head Office

NSA, The Sheep Centre, Malvern, Worcestershire, WR13 6PH. Call 01684 892661 (Monday-Friday 9am-5.30pm) or go directly to one of the team below.

Phil Stocker
NSA Chief Executive
pstocker@nationalsheep.org.uk

Julie Jennings
Association Secretary/PA to Chief Executive
julie@nationalsheep.org.uk

Joanne Briggs
Communications Manager, and Policy Officer for England. Sheep Farmer Editor
joanne@nationalsheep.org.uk

Katie James
Communications Officer
katie@nationalsheep.org.uk

Eleanor Phipps
Communications Officer
eleanor@nationalsheep.org.uk

Gill Callow
Membership Secretary
gill@nationalsheep.org.uk

Abi Swaffield
Membership Recruitment Officer
abi@nationalsheep.org.uk

Nicola Smith
Livestock Researcher
nicola@nationalsheep.org.uk

Helen Davies
Corporate Sales Manager and Sheep Farmer Advertising Sales
helen@nationalsheep.org.uk

Karen Sumner
Bookkeeper
karens@nationalsheep.org

NSA Office Holders

Lord Inglewood
Honorary President

David Gregory
Honorary Treasurer

Bryan Griffiths
Chair of the Board

Kevin Harrison
English Committee Chairman

Eddie Eastham
UK Policy and Technical Chairman

NSA Project Partners

Bob Kennard
Make More of Mutton Manager
07415 855530
mutton@nationalsheep.org.uk
www.nsamutton.org.uk

Edwin Harris
Welsh Commons Forum Chairman
01684 892661 (via NSA HQ)
www.nationalsheep.org.uk/
welshcommonsforum

Find us at www.nationalsheep.org.uk. Follow us on Twitter @natsheep and like us on Facebook/natsheep

NSA is a Company Limited by Guarantee registered in England (No. 37818) and a Registered Charity in England and Wales (No. 249255) and Scotland (No. SCO42853). VAT No. 273 3469 44

NSA Regions

Central
Alastair Sneddon
Regional Chairman
01629 812777
alastair.sneddon@bagshaws.com

Anne Payne
Regional Manager
01142 883241
anne@handbanktexels.co.uk

Cymru Wales
Tim Ward
Regional Chairman
01588 620237
timward@btconnect.com

Helen Davies
Regional Development Officer
01691 654712
07976 803066
helen@nationalsheep.org.uk

Eastern
Dan Phipps
Regional Chairman
07836 590996
07836 287281
dhipps@darley.co.uk

Jonathan Barber
Regional Manager
01953 607860
07712 659262
jonathan@ceressolutions.co.uk

Marches
Antony Spencer
Regional Chairman
07973 301954
antspencer27@aol.com

Situation vacant
Regional Secretary
01684 892661 (via NSA HQ)
marches@nationalsheep.org.uk

Northern
Eddie Eastham
Regional Chairman
01228 576382
07770 732817
eandreeastham@btconnect.com

Heather Stoney-Grayshon
Regional Manager
07966 699930
heather@nationalsheep.org.uk

Northern Ireland
Brian Jamieson
Regional Chairman
07790 673808
bjami245@gmail.com

Edward Adamson
Regional Development Officer
02893 366225
07711 071290
edward.adamson1@gmail.com

Scottish
John Fyall
Regional Chairman
07837 291258
chairman@nscotland.org

George Milne
Regional Development Officer
01334 472403
07831 511330
george.nsa@btconnect.com

South East
Nigel Durnford
Regional Chairman
01666 577723
nigel.durnford@foodandfarming.co.uk

Bob Blanden
Regional Manager
01666 860308
07860 689391
bob@nationalsheep.org.uk

South West
Peter Derryman
Regional Chairman
01404 881398
07773 692558
derrymanmum@hotmail.co.uk

Ian May
Regional Manager
07913 043234
ian@nationalsheep.org.uk

News Update

New comms team

The NSA communications team now has two Communications Officers. Eleanor Phipps (pictured left) joins NSA as a new member of staff, and Katie James (right) takes a promotion and becomes a permanent team member with an increase in hours.



The two will work closely together on ensuring consistent and timely NSA messages are circulated to members (via Sheep Farmer and the NSA Weekly Email Update) and to the press, the wider industry and general public (via press releases, social media and other routes).

Sheep exhibition

The front page picture of this edition of Sheep Farmer magazine is taken by photographer Roy Carr and will feature in an exhibition running from Friday 15th June to Saturday 14th July in the Cynon Valley Museum in Aberdare, South Wales.

The exhibition of 'A year in their lives and other work' will feature documentary photographs taken by Mr Carr of sheep farming in the Cynon Valley and landscapes from Wales and beyond. It is open to visitors 10am-4pm, Tuesday to Saturday.

More about Mr Carr and the exhibition at www.royscapes.com.

Shearing prep work

As Sheep Farmer magazine was going to press, NSA Scottish Region was preparing for a social evening at the home of NSA Scottish Region Chairman John Fyall in Aberdeenshire, held in conjunction with the Scottish Sheep Shearers Association.

John says: "Hopefully the event will draw attention to the need for sheep farmers to think about making shearing easier for the people involved and less stressful for the sheep by following

a few simple rules. Have sheep dry for shearing and with empty bellies, and provide a covered area/shed. Be prepared with staff to keep up the race and roll the fleeces. Maggots may be bad this year so have applications ready and somewhere to hold struck sheep, as treating the sheep on the boards can pollute the wool and harm people. And if sheep have not been crotched, dag any soiled sheep in advance to prevent strike and keep boards clean."

Genetic scoping work

NSA is supporting a Defra-funded 'UK Sheep Genetic Improvement Scoping Study' looking at the current situation and future needs for UK sheep genetics. As well as incorporating the topic into the NSA Breed Society Forum (see page 8), NSA joined project partner AHDB to facilitate a workshop (pictured) where farmers involved with different



Research summer school

Regular readers of this magazine will know NSA is involved in a Europe-wide iSAGE research project. Over and above the project, one of the Spanish research partners organised a three-day iSAGE summer school in Zaragoza, Spain, to



Silver Salver award

NSA Scottish Region used the prestige of the NSA Scot Sheep event in late-May to present Maimie Paterson with its Silver Salver for outstanding contribution to the sheep sector in Scotland.

Maimie, who farms at Dunblane, Perthshire, was given the award for her

'unwavering dedication' to the sheep sector through various roles in NSA, breed societies and other industry organisations. She is pictured receiving the salver from NSA Scottish Region Chairman John Fyall.

Turn to page 10 for an NSA Scot Sheep report and competition results.



breeds and farming systems were invited to share their opinions on a shortlist of breeding goals. Anyone wanting to participate in this ongoing research should contact NSA Livestock Researcher Nicola Smith on nicola@nationalsheep.org.uk.

bring together the next generation of research scientists with an interest in sheep and goat production from across Europe. NSA was invited to speak in the industry section to present the strengths and weaknesses of the UK sheep sector.

Notice of NSA AGM

Notice is hereby given that the 125th Annual General Meeting of National Sheep Association will be held at the Sheep Centre, Blackmore Park Road, Malvern, WR13 6PH, on Thursday 9th August 2018 at 10am to transact the following business:

1. To approve the Minutes of the 124th Annual General Meeting.
2. To receive the Trustees Report to year ended 31st December 2017.
3. To receive the Statement of Accounts to year ended 31st December 2017.
4. To adopt (2) and (3) above.
5. To elect officers for the ensuing year; President and Honorary Treasurer
6. To elect Vice President(s) To elect Auditors.

By order of the Board
Members are entitled to submit their votes in advance of the meeting by completing a proxy form, or appoint a person to attend and vote on their behalf. Proxy forms and all documents referred to will be available against the diary entry for the AGM at www.nationalsheep.org.uk/events.

All signed and completed proxy forms must be received by post, fax or by attaching a signed scanned copy by email no later than 10am on Wednesday 8th August 2018. For full details of the use and completion of proxy forms please visit www.nationalsheep.org.uk/events or call NSA Head Office.

NSA reports – devolved nations

NSA Cymru/Wales Region

By Helen Davies, Development Officer



We've had our first regional committee meeting with Tim Ward in the chair, and it saw NSA Chief Executive Phil Stocker in attendance to discuss the NSA response to Defra's 'Health and Harmony' Agriculture Bill consultation.

Agriculture Bill consultation.

It was important to put forward the Welsh view on this, and also sets us in a good position for when the Welsh Government consults on its own Agriculture Bill.

A small working group has been set up to drive forward progress on the NSA building on the Royal Welsh Showground. It will report to the NSA Management Board as time goes on.

I have also taken a position on a small working group that is putting together a report of recommendations to the Welsh Government regarding the increasingly serious situation on sheep scab. We will explore if there is the possibility of funding for schemes aimed at helping tackle the problem.

Quarantine units

The Association of Show and Agricultural Organisations has held a Welsh conference, where our Chief Veterinary Officer Christianne Glossop gave a presentation on the new quarantine units now on offer in Wales and how these can be used by farmers that show stock at various events.

Issues were raised by myself and others attending, and it was agreed the Royal Welsh Agricultural Society would try to coordinate comments made about the impact the units might have on the shows during the 2018 season and report back to the CVO. Welsh exhibitors are already picking and choosing which shows they go to and this is impacting on the shows here and over the border.

If you are interested in the new quarantine units and would like to set one up, the system is being ran by Quality Welsh Food Certification, which can be contacted on 01970 636688.

NSA Cymru/Wales Region was at the Royal Welsh Grassland Event at Four Crosses, Powys. If you didn't see us there, come along to the NSA stand at the Royal Welsh in July. We are also planning our next committee meeting, to be held on Tuesday 21st August in Hafod y Hendre, Royal Welsh Showground, at 2.15pm.



The NSA stand at the Royal Welsh Show is always a hub of activity. Come along at this year's event on any of the four days.

NSA Northern Ireland Region

By Edward Adamson, Development Officer



While most meetings we have been involved in this year have been around Brexit issues, with no local government in place and not likely to be, the Northern Ireland agricultural industry voice is no more than a whimper in UK terms.

However, all the industry stakeholders are united in calling for a 'free and frictionless border' to allow agricultural trade of livestock and goods to continue as has been in the recent past. Those in the Republic of Ireland want exactly the same, as their trade with mainland UK is essential to the economy with such a large chunk of its food production moving across the Irish Channel. As we leave the EU in just nine months and there is still no direction as to how any agreement between the north and south of Ireland will work, or indeed between the UK and other EU countries, the situation becomes ever more critical and urgent.

Balmoral Show

This was a key topic of discussion on the NSA stand at Balmoral Show, as it is front and centre of all sheep farmers' minds. We could do little to alleviate their concerns, and it was positive to see that overall spirits were not too subdued – full report on page 8.

NSA Northern Ireland Region organised a trip to NSA Scot Sheep, as it was held just a few miles up the coast from Stranraer, which is our main corridor into Scotland. We were oversubscribed but several other organisations followed suit so I would say numbers were swelled at this year's event with many visitors from both Northern Ireland and the Republic.

Producers here are focused on saving more forage this summer, as we need to replenish stocks that have dwindled to zero over the past winter. It was amazing that somehow forage stocks were sold and shared to get us through one of the longest winters on record. But we have not been alone in experiencing severe weather, as unfavourable conditions have meant there are less lambs about in New Zealand too and that, accompanied by their strong trade to Asia, has increased their prices.

Global prices

The result is that NZ lamb is not as competitive pricewise as usual in the UK and, for this reason, old and new season lamb here has reached unheard of prices this spring. No doubt the price will drop as more local lambs come on board, but most predictions are that this year should see decent prices all season.



Edward represented NSA at a cross-industry UK Farming Roundtable meeting held in Northern Ireland in May. Details on page 19.

NSA Scottish Region

By John Fyall, NSA Scottish Region Chairman



I am writing this in the absence of George Milne, NSA Scottish Region Development Officer, who has been unwell in recent weeks.

We send him best wishes.

NSA Scottish Region has fed into the NSA response to the Defra consultation on the future of farm support, which was important to do but a challenge when the devolved settlement on agricultural matters has not yet been agreed with Holyrood. There is much political uncertainty and it looks like Westminster may overrule Scottish Parliament and take a seven-year transition before power is handed from Europe to Holyrood. Equally unpalatable is the absence of written confirmation about devolved budgets, uncertainty around how funds will be allocated past 2022, and the refusal by the Treasury to permit the promised Convergence fund review.

This lack of clarity was a theme at NSA Scot Sheep in late May, where it was clear throughout the seminar debates that we need to be calling for immediate action by Government to provide detail on future support and trade agreements. We have considerable opportunities but must not throw them away, or allow our industry to be a disposable pawn in trade negotiations.

Scot Sheep seminars

Such discussion was just one element of a very successful NSA Scot Sheep, hosted by the Dalrymple family at Ballantrae, South Ayrshire. In a tough year for weather and trading conditions, we got a real blessing in a good day and a great trade presence, and the organising committee made a good farm into a tremendous show – more on page 10.

Other recent activity includes a very useful parliamentary reception, led by Emma Harper MSP and with guests of all ages from across the industry and included allied industries such as shearers and hauliers. We took a positive message that when all economic and tourism benefits of sheep farming are factored in, we could easily be a £1bn industry and we need more recognition within the Scottish economy.

NSA Scottish Region has also had discussions with the Cabinet Secretary about the Scottish Sheep Sector Review implementations, including the need for there to be margin at every part of the supply chain. We must make more of the product to ensure everyone benefits and, with this in mind, we are looking for Scottish Government to support a new lamb marketing campaign with QMS this year.



Crowds flocked to NSA Scot Sheep. Full report on page 10.



DON'T LET PAPERWORK GET IN THE WAY OF THE JOB YOU LOVE



We love helping farmers all over the UK with their paperwork. With the most experienced team in the business we know the complexities of cross compliance inside out. It's why we have the confidence to guarantee your paperwork passes any inspection. Our customers trust us to deliver unrivalled support and our attendance at inspections offers peace of mind and support, all year round.

- ✓ NVZ RECORDS
- ✓ SOIL RISK & MANURE MAPS
- ✓ FARMYARD AUDIT
- ✓ INSPECTIONS
- ✓ FIELD APPLICATION RECORDS
- ✓ ... AND MORE!

WE DO THE PAPERWORK. YOU GO FARMING

01981 590514
www.cxcs.co.uk
info@cxcs.co.uk

- CROSS COMPLIANCE
- FARM ASSURANCE
- BASIC PAYMENT
- FARM SAFETY

NSA reports – English regions

Central

By Anne Payne, Manager

The longer-term consequences of the bad winter and desperately wet spring continue to be seen throughout NSA Central Region.

We will be similar to other areas with high losses and more cases of watery mouth and joint ill. Despite best efforts to follow the old adage to 'feed your way out of a crisis', the harsh conditions have taken their toll on ewes and, as a result, their lambs. It hasn't helped that in some parts of the region folk are now wanting rain – as one farmer said, it seems to be 'feast or famine'.

In other parts of the region, the grass seems to have recovered more quickly and farmers are a bit happier, especially because the higher lamb prices of earlier in the season are being continued.

Chris Lewis, NSA Trustee and retired vet, has heard of lots of lice around this year, which he says are best treated immediately off shears with full back-line application of pour-on products for lice control. The issue of external parasite control generally is also being debated again, with farmers beginning to look again at plunge-dipping. Fly strike also seems to have been an early feature during this warm weather.

Eastern

By Jonathan Barber, Manager

The prices received in the market for old and new season lambs, and older sheep for mutton, has gone some way to offset the horrors of



lambing for many.

A date for your diaries. We are organising jointly with AHDB Beef & Lamb a meeting titled 'Minimising carcass losses'. This will be hosted by the Godolphin Stud, Newmarket, Suffolk, on Thursday 12th July. It will involve dealing with pasteurisation management, what we can learn from post mortems and the problems that result from fluke, C.ovis and tennicosis. There will be demonstrations on lamb selection for slaughter and using EID in sheep handling systems, and finally a 'chamber of horrors' – all to be revealed on the day!

The meeting will be 4pm-6pm and, courtesy of Godolphin, AHDB and NSA, we will finish with a social evening and barbeque from 6.30pm. Only those of you who respond to say you are coming will be allowed onto the site, as security is strict at Godolphin and there will be a restriction on total numbers. Contact me to book a place (*details on page 2*) and we look forward to seeing you there.

Marches

By Antony Spencer, Chairman

Preparations are well underway for the NSA Sheep Event at Malvern, Worcestershire, on Wednesday 18th July and, as always, it will be packed with everything to do with our industry – details on pages 12-13.

Please do come and support it, and remember your membership card as NSA members go free. Better still, bring some non-members with you and get them signed up too!



Lambs seem to be catching up after the tough winter, with a real noticeable difference with those that had it rough at the start of lambing compared to the later lambers. It was not just the lambs that have struggled, as when we shored our February lambers at the end of May it was really noticeable how many bad bags we found compared to other years. Hopefully the cull ewe trade will keep at its present level to help with the cost of extra replacements.

My last few old season lambs have gone to the abattoir and signalled an end to what has been a fabulous run for us store finishers. It is certainly a far cry from where we were last year, but I think the lambs might just take some buying this autumn so we will probably need that extra bit in the coffers. The high trade has certainly helped the first few springers on the market, which will hopefully encourage more of us to get the scales out and get some gone rather than leaving them that week too long to get out of spec.

Northern

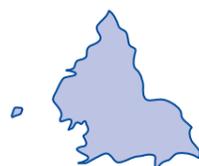
By Heather Stoney-Grayshon, Manager

The sunshine of recent weeks has lifted people's spirits and given the chance for many to catch up, although there are now calls for a little rain to aid grass and crop growth. We do seem to have gone from the extreme winter to an extreme summer.

NSA Northern Region hosted a meeting titled 'Brexit: an impact assessment for grazing Livestock' with AHDB at J36 Mart, Cumbria, in late May. Sarah Baker, AHDB Strategic Insight Manager presented before opening the floor to discussion. Looking at the possible different scenarios that the industry could face post-Brexit, the positives were pulled out and the room were encouraged to work with these areas to help ensure a future.

The region, alongside NSA Membership Recruitment Officer Abi Swaffield, will have a presence at the Great Yorkshire Show. Please do come and find us in the usual place near the sheep rings. We are also sponsoring the senior shearing championship.

The date has been set for NSA North Sheep 2019. It will be Wednesday 5th June at New Hall Farm, Rathmell, Settle, North Yorkshire, kindly hosted by the Frankland Family of Frankland Farms. Details will be added to the www.northsheep.org.uk website soon.



Northern Brexit debate



NSA Northern Region held a successful evening discussing potential Brexit scenarios and practical steps to safeguard farm businesses.

South East

By Bob Blanden, Manager

Moving NSA South Sheep to a date in September (details on page 15) had led us to hold an additional NSA South East Region Next Generation Event in early June.

This is so we can hold an NSA Next Generation Shepherds competition in time for national final at NSA Sheep 2018 in July, and we are again very grateful to Mole Valley Farmers for sponsoring the open section and Volac the student section. As well as the competition, there is a full programme of seminars and workshops that has mainly been organised by two NSA Next Generation Ambassadors, Marie Prebble and James Hamilton. James's farm is the venue, which made the event possible in addition to generous sponsorship from Tesco in particular, plus Barkers Animal Health, Hobbs Parker and Rappa. The event will have happened by the time you read this, but look out for a report online.

Another aspect of the development of NSA South Sheep is moving it to a showground, meaning there is no opportunity for a farm tour, so we are planning farm walks around the region instead. The first will be on Tuesday 26th June, 4pm at Hattingley Barn, Hattingley, Medstead, Hampshire, GU34 5NQ, by kind permission of Ben Robinson and Hattingley Valley Wines.

The event will focus on grassland management and is being held in conjunction with Farm & Country Supplies who supply DLF Grass Seed. Light refreshments will be on offer and it



would be appreciated if you could let me know of your intention to come (*contact details on page 2*). Look out for the yellow 'South Sheep' signs when you get close by.

Meanwhile, entries are open for our photography competition, and the best ones will be selected for our calendar, which we will be selling at NSA South Sheep.

More event details at www.southsheep.org.uk.

South West

By Ian May, Manager
Our last committee meeting, held in late May, was well attended and one of the



many topics discussed was the status of the West Country Beef and Lamb PGI scheme.

It appears the beef brand is beginning to gain traction with distributors and chefs, and although there is still work to be done to make the most of lamb brand, efforts are underway. Where possible, producers should continue to fill in the PGI forms when sending lambs for slaughter to ensure there is enough supply available.

The meeting was followed by an open discussion on Brexit and the sheep industry, led by Phil Bicknell of AHDB Market Intelligence. Many thanks to Phil for leading the discussion and walking us through the work AHDB has been undertaking in this arena. While the outcome of discussions is far from certain, it is clear the type of trade deal we end up with will have a significant impact on the profitability of sheep farming in the coming years.

NSA South West Region is currently in the process of arranging a summer farm visit to Rampisham Manor Farms, Dorset, DT2 OPS, 2pm on Sunday 12th August, by kind permission of Gareth Beynon. Gareth is in the process of expanding his flock of Cheviot Mules and Texel Mules from an initial 300 breeding ewes four years ago. This autumn he is planning on tugging 1,800 ewes and 1,000 ewe lambs with the incorporation of additional land.

Rampisham Manor is also one of the 13 participating farms in the AHDB Challenge Sheep project, looking at the impact of the rearing phase of replacement ewe lambs on their later performance in the flock. Please join us for what I'm sure will be an enjoyable and informative event.

Eastern Region meeting planned



Many NSA regional farm walks this summer will include a return to the Godolphin Stud in Suffolk for NSA Eastern Region. The great set-up there will provide the setting for an event on minimising carcass losses.

Getting across the Next Generation message



The NSA South East Next Generation Event included a session with independent communications expert Susan Emmett offering tips on how to better promote sheep businesses and positive farming messages to the public. The event was held just before Sheep Farmer went to press and a full report can be found online.

NSA joins Balmoral celebration

By Edward Adamson, NSA
This year was the 150th anniversary of the Royal Ulster (Balmoral) Show, and NSA Northern Ireland Region was there to join in the very special event.

To celebrate such a landmark anniversary, the organising committee exclusively invited women to judge all the livestock classes – and it was a great pleasure to see a number of familiar faces with NSA connections. Among them was Julie Sedgewick, an NSA George Hedley Memorial Award recipient and former NSA Northern Region Manager, who judged the commercial cattle classes. She was joined by another high profile female, as Princess Anne was there on the first of the four days, despite the royal wedding later in the week.

Around 11,5000 people attended the show in what was the first dry and sunny week in about 10 months. The



There was tough competition in the Balmoral Show sheep lines.

sun played its part in spiring the crowd and most farmers were in a much better mood than might have been expected.

Throughout the week a steady number of people passed through the NSA Sheep Centre, a marquee bringing together NSA with a number of sheep-related trade exhibitors. Visitors questioned us on many issues but Brexit was, predictable, top of the list. This was a difficult topic to answer, and it was discussed that politicians are not really showing the urgency that is needed to give farmers guidance as to how they should make management decisions given that we leave the EU in just nine months' time.

Discussion around responsible antibiotic use is now focusing the minds of farmers and there was also much discussion surrounding how they need

to respond to keep animal health and diseases under control, while also meeting future legislative requirements.

Our marquee was well supported by both breed societies and related trade companies. They all reported busy stands and successful business during the week, and a few new stands were pleased with their level of interest and intend to return at next year's show.

Interbreed champ

Despite the long and unpleasant winter that gripped Northern Ireland this year, it was pleasing to see how well turned out the animals were. Congratulations go to Cyril Cromie of Ballynahinch, County Down, as a shearing ewe from his Fort flock of Zwartbles was awarded the interbreed championship – the first time a Zwartble has won the top prize.



The NSA Sheep Centre was busy for four days, with visitors of all ages coming through the marquee.

Forum links to genetic research

This May saw all NSA-affiliated breed societies once again invited to the annual NSA Breed Society Forum, a one-day information sharing event that has moved around the country since the first meeting back in 2012.

This year's event in Oxfordshire featured updates from NSA staff on recent work, particularly that around the UK preparation to leave the EU. This was complemented by Rebecca Osborne of AHDB Market Intelligence predicting the outcome of different potential Brexit scenarios.

There was also a unique opportunity for attendees feed into a new Defra-funded research project. This yearlong venture, led by AHDB and Scotland's



NSA South East Region hosted this year's Breed Society Forum.

Rural College (SRUC), supported by NSA and funded by Defra, aims to assess the current UK sheep genetic resource, the targets the UK is aiming to reach in this area and how they can be achieved. Sam

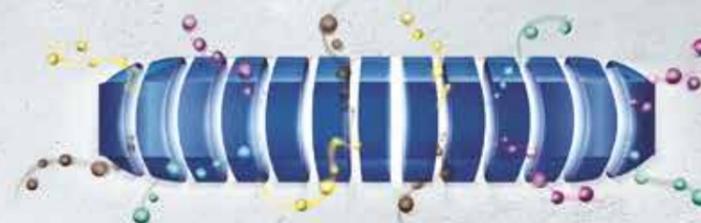
Boon and Kim Matthews of AHDB led an interactive workshop to gather valuable input.

Additional genetics information was also provided by independent sheep consultant Lesley Stubbings, who shared results on a ram longevity study she and NSA were involved in last year.

NSA Chief Executive Phil Stocker says: "This year's forum provided a fantastic opportunity to feed into this exciting new genetics research. Despite the many differences in sheep farming systems between those at the forum, it was interesting and encouraging to see they agreed on the focus the industry must take to ensure its future success and development."

NEW COSECURE™ SHEEP BOLUS STARTER PACK

Constant Daily Levels
UP TO 8 MONTHS



The NEW Coselcure Sheep Starter Pack includes 250 boluses and a FREE Coselcure Sheep applicator worth £70 RRP

-  **ionic copper**
Required for growth and fertility
-  **selenium**
Needed for immunity, fertility & the prevention of white muscle disease
-  **ionic cobalt**
The body cannot store cobalt so a continuous supply is vital
-  **iodine**
Stimulates metabolism and promotes absorption of vitamin B12



FREE
applicator

Quality & Value

Why wouldn't you use it?

Amount to be administered: 1 Bolus

cosecureboluses.com

*To find your local stockist, call Bimeda on 01248 725 400

Bimeda

There is increased risk of copper toxicity associated with housed sheep and certain sheep breeds. Please seek professional advice before using Coselcure or Cosecure boluses in sheep/farms housed or to be housed when the product is still active. Please seek professional advice before using Coselcure or Cosecure boluses in continental breeds and Blue Faced Leicester which are more prone to copper toxicity. No form of trace element supplementation should be supplied to any animal unless a trace element deficiency has been identified. If in doubt, speak to your local vet or animal health advisor. Date advert prepared: June 2017. Legal Category Coselcure Sheep Boluses: Complementary Diabetic Feedstuff. Trace elements should only be supplied where a need to do so has been identified. If in doubt, consult a veterinarian or animal health advisor.

Crowds flock to fabulous host farm for NSA Scot Sheep 2018

Sheep farmers from throughout Scotland, Northern England and even Northern Ireland, thanks to the host farm's proximity to the ferry port, made their way to NSA Scot Sheep 2018, enjoying a host of activities.

The farm tour alone attracted 4,000 participants, as well as the many, many more who experienced the 200 trade stands, Next Generation Shepherd competition, sheepdog trials, extensive seminar programme, stockjudging, show and sale of ewe hoggs and lots more. Visitors included 470 primary school pupils from nine local schools, organised by the Royal Highland Educational Trust.

MSP opens event

The scene was set by John Scott, Ayrshire MSP and neighboring sheep farmer, who in officially opening the event congratulated the hosts and their farm manager, Andrew MacLean, on the high quality of the sheep flock and the attention to detail and good management. Turning to the uncertainty of Brexit, Mr Scott called for a national debate in Scotland to establish a vision for farming and livestock production



The farm tour was a major draw.

and how it will be encouraged and supported by both the Scottish and UK governments.

He said: "We need an end to the uncertainty about whether Scotland will remain part of the UK post-Brexit and I urge the SNP Government to recognise there is no appetite for another divisive referendum on independence. We need to work together, in farming and politics."

Potential 'doomsday'

This was a point taken up strongly by Jim McLaren, retiring QMS Chairman, who used a seminar discussion to say Scotland's sheep farmers needed to make their voices heard loud and clear and hammer home the risk of a 'doomsday scenario' and the dire consequences of a poor Brexit trade deal decimating the lamb export trade and allowing unrestricted imports into the UK.

"I'm very concerned that the sheep industry has already been written off and is set to be used as a bargaining



The seminars drew strong crowds.



Hoggs were put through the sale ring after the show, which was won by a pair of Texels from John Gilmour.

chips in negotiations," Mr McLaren said, explaining Scotland was 164% self-sufficient in lamb because of notoriously low per capita consumption. Some 64% of Scottish lambs were slaughtered south of the border of which 66% was exported to France, 24% to the Benelux countries and 6% to Italy.

Opportunities

A more optimistic note was struck by Awal Fuseini, halal manager at AHDB Beef & Lamb, who explained the Muslim population was growing and included a large proportion of young, increasingly affluent individuals (88% under the age of 50 and 48% under 25) who consumed considerably more lamb than other sectors of the community.

"The global Halal market is huge with 1.5 billion Muslims world-wide, of which two-thirds are under 30 years of age," he pointed out. "It is predicted that by 2030, 29% of the world's 15 to 29 year olds will be Muslims. You can't ignore the numbers. There is an opportunity for stunned halal meat."

WE COVER SMALL FARMS, LARGE FARMS AND EVERYTHING IN BETWEEN



The UK's leading rural insurer

At NFU Mutual we offer tailored insurance and a local service. We cover all farms from sheep and poultry to arable and horticulture.

Contact your local Agent today and find out more:
nfumutual.co.uk/romney



NFU Mutual
FARM INSURANCE

Entertainment and information not to be missed at NSA event

An action-packed day is being planned for NSA Sheep 2018, the industry event not to be missed on Wednesday 18th July at the Three Counties Showground, Malvern, Worcestershire.

From the technical information provided in the seminars and workshops (see facing page) to the entertainment of the NSA Next Generation Shepherds Competition (see page 43), the show will provide something for everyone involved in the sheep sector. And to top it off, entry is completely free for NSA members*.

Bryan Griffiths, NSA Chairman, says: "The NSA Sheep Event has become a key date in the diary for sheep farmers and the wider agricultural sector. It goes from strength to strength despite us finding ourselves with potentially uncertain times ahead."

Uncertain times

The lack of clarity around the sheep sector post-Brexit is the theme for the event, forming the focus for the technical content during the day, as NSA Chief Executive Phil Stocker explains. He says: "With an event theme of 'thriving in an uncertain future', NSA Sheep 2018 is perfectly placed to examine where we are going and arm visitors with the tools they will need to prosper. Much planning has gone into the event to provide an insight into the potential changes that lie ahead, providing information to prepare your business in readiness. There will be technical advice and practical demonstrations, topical



Indoor and outdoor trade stands will ensure plenty of activity at NSA Sheep 2018.

seminars and business knowhow – and equally as important, a chance to catch up with friends on a much-needed day out."

Bryan adds: "Please call by the NSA stand to say hello or chat through the issues and topics important to you at this time. We are an organisation representing sheep farmers' views and priorities and will continue to take these thoughts, be they concerns or ambitions for the future, forward to the people and places affecting our pivotal industry."

*One free entry per membership card held, even if membership is in joint names. Not a member? Join today at www.nationalsheep.org.uk.

Event highlights

- **Treasure trail:** SCOPS will lay a special treasure hunt around the showground. Find the clues as you seek out sheep scab information (Entry forms from the NSA marquee or SCOPS stand in Avon Hall).
- **Luscious lamb:** Watch Asda chefs and butchers cook up a feast of delicious lamb recipes (Cookery theatre).
- **Top tree tips:** Pick up a new Sheep & Trees guide from NSA and Woodland Trust to learn more about integrating trees into farmland (NSA marquee or Stand 142).
- **Kit out for winter:** Enter your name in a free prize draw for a set of Swandri clothing, courtesy of outdoor clothing specialist Outback Outfitters (NSA marquee).
- **Strength, stamina and speed:** Take it easy while you watch others take the strain! Check out the Tornado wire fencing competition (Fencing area).
- **Top dog:** Quality sheepdogs will be on sale at the event again this year, with each lot put through its paces before bids are invited (Main ring). Kelpie demonstrations will also run throughout the day (Stand 222).
- **Sharp shearing:** Bring your combs and cutters to take advantage of Burgon & Ball's free sharpening service (Stand 125).
- **Prize competition:** Visit the Texel Sheep Society for a 'guess the weight' challenge and chance to win an EID reader (Stand 94).
- **Pre-event options:** Join us the day before the event for two farm tours and/or the fabulous sheep industry dinner. (Buy tickets at www.sheepevent.org.uk).

Seminars and workshops to be event highlight at Sheep 2018

Seminar 1. 11am. Thriving in an uncertain future for the international sheepmeat trade

An expert panel will look at how the UK can optimise sheepmeat exports once we exit the EU. As a sector that relies heavily on overseas sales, the session will look at the pros and cons of trade deals with EU and non-EU countries, tariffs and quotas, and the potential impact on the domestic market and sheepmeat prices.

Seminar 2. 12.15pm. Recognition of public goods to ensure a thriving future for farmers, sheep and the environment

Farm support in the future is likely to be made up in part of payment for delivery of public goods. This session will look at the appropriate reward for the economic, environmental and social benefits that sheep farmers provide, as well as considering what support UK flocks need to be healthy, efficient, profitable and resource responsible.

Seminar 3. 1.30pm. Making the most of technology to drive thriving farm businesses

In this modern age of technology, this seminar will look at appropriate tools and information for the sector and how sheep farming could use them to improve current approaches and embrace new systems. Speakers will consider how and where gains can be made, on a national and local level, with benefits to the sheep sector as a whole and on individual farms.

Seminar 4. 2.15pm. Domestic market opportunities for a thriving future

Export markets may offer big post-Brexit opportunities, but we cannot ignore that the majority of UK production is still consumed within our own country. This session will look at what the future holds and what further domestic opportunities exist. Speakers will look at current trends and what steps the sheep sector can take to drive and embrace these.

Organise your day

The seminar tent will be situated between the Wye and Avon Halls, behind the NSA marquee. Work areas A and B will be at the front of the Avon hall, A on the right and B on the left as you face the shed. More details on seminar speakers are at www.sheepevent.org.uk.



The seminar tent at NSA Sheep 2016 was packed all day.

Workshop A1. 9.45am (repeated at 12.35pm) The future of shepherding

NSA Next Generation involves many enthusiastic young people, but what is the future for employed shepherds, do they have the skills needed and do employers provide the opportunities they need to thrive? NSA Next Generation Ambassadors will lead the debate.

Workshop B1. 9.45am (and 1.05pm) Boosting flock health

Nick Canning from Strathclyde Nutrition will provide practical advice on footbathing sheep, and look at nutritional options at lambing time to support ewes and lambs at critical stages.

Workshop A2. 10.35am (and 1.25pm) Sustainable worm control – maximising profitability

As the UK sheep industry continues to battle with anthelmintic resistance, Elanco Animal Health will look at using newer wormer groups as a mid-late season dose in lambs and a farm protection (quarantine) treatment, to clear out parasite burdens and maximise profitability.

Workshop B2. 10.35am (and 1.55pm) Responsible antibiotic use – reducing costs and improving farm output

With Red Tractor Assurance and Tim Bebbington of Castle Veterinary Group, this workshop will look at practical examples of reducing antibiotic use through vaccine use and best practice.

It will also look at changes to farm assurance rules around this topic.

Workshop B3. 11.25am (and 2.45pm) Stamp out lameness

Fiona Lovatt and Phillipa Page, vets from Flock Heath Ltd, will help sheep producers decide where to take the first step and join the march to reduce lameness to less than 2% by 2021. Supported by MSD Animal Health, the workshop will consider the five-point plan as a lameness management strategy.

Workshop A3. 11.45am (and 2.15pm) The role of trees in sheep farming

Hear Woodland Trust and sheep farmers talk about how thoughtfully integrated trees can boost production and improve animal health and welfare on sheep farms, while also providing wider benefits to the environment. And pick up a new Sheep & Trees guide, produced by Woodland Trust and NSA.

Workshop B4. 12.15am only. Sheep scab - new challenges and new opportunities

Join sheep consultant Lesley Stubbings and her colleagues from SCOPS group to discuss the implications of resistance in scab mites to injectables and explore our options for controlling scab by using new tools and employing old ones more effectively. Also take part in the SCOPS sheep scab treasure hunt to pick up information and have the chance to win top prizes!

NSA SHEEP EVENT
18TH JULY 2018
www.sheepevent.org.uk

THE THREE COUNTIES SHOWGROUND
MALVERN, WORCESTERSHIRE, WR13 6NW

9:00AM - 5:00PM

PRE EVENT DINNER
PRE EVENT FARM TOUR
SEMINARS & MARKETING
SHEEP BREED SOCIETIES
YOUNG SHEPHERD OF THE YEAR FINAL
TECHNICAL & POLICY INFORMATION
ENVIRONMENT AND CONSERVATION
DEMONSTRATIONS
SHEEP DOG SALE
TRADE STANDS
WORKSHOPS

TICKETS
£15 FOR NON-MEMBERS
FREE FOR INTERNATIONAL VISITORS AND UNDER 16s
£10 EACH FOR GROUP BOOKINGS FOR GROUPS OF TEN OR MORE

FURTHER INFORMATION FROM THE WEBSITE OR ORGANISER:
HELEN DAVIES
T: 01691 654712 M: 07976 803066
helen@nationalsheep.org.uk

Free entry for NSA members

www.sheepevent.org.uk

A company limited by Guarantee. Registered in England. Registration No. 37818. Registered charity in England and Wales (249255) and in Scotland (SC042853).

Real potential at Early Builtth

The NSA Wales & Border Early Ram Sale, set for Monday 6th August at the Royal Welsh Showground, has real potential according to the new Chairman Richard Gwilliam.

"I would think there are very good prospects for the Early Sale, because the spring trade for old and new season lambs has been beyond all expectations. Hopefully that will encourage people to continue with sheep and opt for quality tups," says Mr Gwilliam, who runs a small Texel flock in Herefordshire with his wife Margaret and continues in a consultancy role for McCartneys, the auctioneering firm he worked with for 55 years.

Jane Smith, NSA Wales & Borders Ram Sales Executive Director, also highlights the need to invest in quality



tups in order to produce lambs worthy of a strong price. The excellence of

the veterinary-inspected tups at NSA ram sales can be an important part of this, especially if coupled with good quarantine procedures, she says. Buying at the early Builtth sale allows time to quarantine rams and give them more chance to settle down on their new farm. They will be under warranty until 1st December, she adds, giving flockmasters plenty of time to see them working.

High prices

Last year's NSA Wales & Border Early Ram Sale grossed a record £256,880 and sold 426 rams with a top price of 1,750gns for a Texel shearing.

Find an online entry form, catalogue and gallery of pictures at www.nsaramsales.co.uk. Entries close on Wednesday 6th July.

Wide range of tups at NSA sales

The season of NSA ram sales kicks off in early August with sales in Powys and Devon (see facing page) but we also look forward to three further sales in Leicestershire, Warwickshire and Powys again.

First will be the NSA Eastern Region Rugby Sale, held on Friday 24th August at Rugby Farmers Mart, Stoneleigh Park, Warwickshire. Organiser Jonathan Barber says: "This sale is aimed at early lambing flocks and those who want to settle in their tups well in advance of the breeding season. We anticipate an entry of more than 120 Charollais, Texel, Suffolk and Beltex rams. The penning facilities at Rugby are perfect for a ram sale, with easy unloading and plenty of space to present your rams to potential customers."



The NSA Wales & Border Main Ram Sale will celebrate its 40th anniversary on Monday 17th September, and new Chairman Richard Gwilliam is excited about maintaining the importance of the sale at it reaches this momentous landmark.

The headline price last year was

9,500gns for a Bluefaced Leicester ram lamb. Trade was lively with averages up on 2016 and turnover well up at £2,225,138. Nearly 90% of rams forward were sold and there are high hopes for 2018, when the sale will be held a week earlier than usual.

Finally, the NSA Eastern Region Melton Sale will be on Friday 21st September at the recently refurbished Melton Mowbray Market, Leicestershire. Jonathan adds: "Average prices have risen over the past few years at this sale and clearance rates for correct, well-fleshed tups are very high. We usually attract an entry of 250-270 of various terminal sire breeds and the quality continues to improve year on year."

More information at www.nationalsheep.org.uk/events.

Buyer confidence at SW sale

A high standard of pre-sale inspections will continue at the NSA South West Region Ram Sale, to be held on Wednesday 15th August at Exeter Livestock Centre, a service appreciated by purchasers who can buy with confidence.

This resulted in a top price of 1,500gns in 2017 with a

good clearance rate and entries from 14 breeds (with more breeds welcome this year). There was a massive increase in the number of females on offer in 2017 and these were much sought after. Females from any breed can be entered provided they pass the inspection and are either registered or eligible for registration with their society.

A new ring is being introduced this year for non-MV accredited sheep, selling from around 11.30am rather than these lots having to wait to follow after the MV sheep. Much thought has been put into providing a suitable area that is clearly visible from all parts of the market.

Show classes

Breed societies with official sales hold their shows on the Tuesday evening, giving an extra chance to see rams out of their pens.

Entry forms are automatically sent to vendors from the previous three years' sales, but new vendors are also welcome and can contact Sue Martyn, Ram Sale Secretary, on 01409 271385, 07967 512660 or suem@nationalsheep.org.uk.

Find entry forms at www.nationalsheep.org.uk/events and www.kivells.com. Entries close on Monday 2nd July with the ballot held the following week and catalogues then released.

Fresh new South Sheep event

With plans in full swing for the biennial NSA South Sheep event on Saturday 8th September, NSA South East Region is promising some exciting changes and a new, fresh event with great appeal for visitors.

The event has moved from being on-farm to using the South of England Showground as a venue for the first time, with the facilities provided make it more inviting for exhibitors and sheep farmers.

Bob Blanden, NSA South East Regional Manager, says: "As there is no farm to have a farm tour at the event, we will be organising a number of farm walks around the region at other times in the year, meaning members will get the best of both worlds."

Change of date

Another difference for NSA South Sheep is the change from its traditional slot in June to early September instead. Bob continues: "June is when everyone is busy, particularly on weather-dependant jobs, and many farmers still have young lambs about and ewes getting caste. This makes it difficult for members to leave the farm, especially to travel any distance."

"The advantage of being on a Saturday is that travelling in the congested South East of England is easier than on a

weekday, and the whole family (including the next generation of sheep farmers) can come, as well as part time producers."

More information and regular updates on the new event website at www.southsheep.org.uk.

Lead the field

with a Farmers Guardian subscription

Pay as little
as £2.60
per issue

A saving
of over £41
annually

Exclusive
member-only
benefits

Visit FGInsight.com/subscriptions
Call 0330 333 0056 and quote H8001

Farmers Guardian

Well Informed. Always.

fencing & landscaping news

The number one leading publication in the fencing and landscaping industry

Special offers on subscriptions

Tel: 01274 610101
www.fencing-news.co.uk

PLUS
more details
of our UK Fencing
Championships



South Sheep 2018

Saturday 8th September
9am - 5pm

South of England Showground,
Ardingly, West Sussex,
RH17 6TH

- Seminars
- Workshops
- Demonstrations
*Stick & crook making,
Sheepdog handling,
Butchery, Wool spinning.*
- Competitions
*Photography, Fleece,
Trade & Breed stands,
Fencing, Gift of the gavel,
Prime lamb selection,
Practical farm ideas,
Texel progeny classes &
Live prime lamb classes.*
- Farm Dog Trial

Free entry
for NSA members
*(with a current membership card,
one card - one reduced entry). Join
in advance to take advantage
of this*

Admission:
Adults £12
Students/YFC £6
on production of current card
**FREE for Under 16s &
International visitors**
on production of passport

NSA is a Company Limited by Guarantee.
Registered in England (37818)
Registered Charity in England and Wales
(249255) and Scotland (SC042853).

Major sponsor

www.southsheep.org.uk

Bob Blanden, Upper Stonehill House, Charlton, Malmesbury Wiltshire SN16 9DX
Tel: 01666 860308 Mob: 07860 689391 Email: bob@nationalsheep.org.uk

First NSA-Tornado prize draw winner couldn't be more fitting

A more perfect prize could not have been found for Tristan Pengilly of Hailsham, East Sussex, the first winner in the NSA 2018 membership prize giveaway.

Tristan, a sheep farmer and fencing contractor, received a fantastic high-quality package of fencing materials after he joined up to the NSA earlier this year. He decided to become a member as he was seeking support for sheep worrying issues and wanted to keep up to date with latest industry news – but he got even more than he bargained for when his name came out in the prize draw.

Speaking of his win Tristan says: "I got the call to say I'd won on one miserable, wet day on the farm, so it was some very welcome, good news. As a contractor it always tends to be customers' fences that are maintained first, so it will be great to use the prize to improve some of the boundaries around my own farm rather than plugging gaps with whatever is to hand at the time.

Tristan comes from a farming background and his interest in the industry was born from spending time on the farm with his father as a child. Following the sale of the family farm, he took some time to explore different career options but came back to agricultural and land-based work when he set up his grassland management and fencing business.

Contracting work

"When looking to get back into farming, opportunities to rent ground for the sheep were limited in my local area so I decided to start a contracting business to run alongside the flock," he says. "The business is largely contracting and fencing-based and is aimed at smaller land owners who might be lacking the machinery, knowledge or time to manage their land themselves."

Tristan's flock is largely comprised of Romneys, which he chose as he wanted a sheep that could lamb outside and live relatively independently with minimal



Tristan Pengilly will use his prize on the farm at Hailsham.

shepherding, as well as being able to thrive with variable grazing. Tristan says, "The best of the ewes are put to a New Zealand Romney and the best twin ewe lambs retained as flock replacements, with the remainder of the ewes put to a Charollais. This year I bought some in-lamb Highlander ewes as a trial and have been very pleased with them too, so I am looking forward to seeing how they do alongside the Romneys."

The NSA prize came as a result of joining the organisation earlier in the year, and was an added bonus to the membership benefits Tristan is already enjoying. He explains: "I joined NSA partly due to sheep worrying issues, as most of the ground I rent has a footpath either through it or not more than a field away. I wanted advice and best practice information with these issues, as well as the benefit of staying up to date with any sheep related news or best practice advances that might help improve my flock."

Be a winner too

NSA is giving away four sets of Tornado wire and fittings this year, each worth more than £450, to new members who sign up and current members who recommend someone else to join.

If you are already a member, simply write your membership number on the form on the facing page and pass it to a friend or neighbour to fill in and join up. You both get one entry into the prize draw, and there is no limit to how many times you can enter the draw via the same route.

TORNADO



Premium Quality Red Lump Rock Salt



- Imported and graded by us • No waste
- Largelump size • Delivered nationwide

If it's not our name on the bag, it's NOT our salt!

Telephone: 01981 250301

www.ballofmadley-hereford.co.uk

'Hand selected from the Himalayas'

McGREGOR
POLYTUNNELS
SHEEP HOUSING
 Invest in the best for lambing success
01962 772368
 sales@mcgregorpolytunnels.co.uk

Join NSA today for a chance to win 300m of Tornado Wire



NSA has four Tornado prizes to give away throughout 2018. The sooner your name goes in the hat the more chances you have to win. Closing date is 30th November 2018

Individual Subscription **£55**
 Under 27's Subscription **£27.50** (UK ONLY)
 Eire, Europe and Overseas **£60** (UK E)

NSA OFFICE USE
 CASH / CHEQUE / CARD

Paying by Direct Debit triggers a 20% discount in your first year.

(excluding Eire, Europe and Overseas members). Complete the Direct Debit form, pay by cheque (made payable to National Sheep Association) or call NSA Head Office on 01684 892661 to pay by card.

Member's Details

Name:

Address:

Postcode:

Please supply photo ID, eg passport, driving license, YFC/ student card if applying for under 27

NSA OFFICE USE: PROOF OF AGE SEEN?

Tel:
 Supplying a mobile phone number will allow us to send you occasional text messages about NSA events in your area.

Email:
 Supplying your email address will allow us to send you the NSA Weekly Email Update, packed full of news and information.

Payer's Details

Name:

Address:

Postcode:

Tel:

Email:

If this membership is a gift please tick if delivery is direct to the new member and not to the buyer

Please state where you obtained this form from and your reasons for joining:

Your Sheep Enterprise

No of commercial breeding females?

No of pedigree breeding females?

No of bought-in store lambs finished per year?

SF



Instruction to your bank or building society to pay by Direct Debit

Please fill in the form and send to: The National Sheep Association, The Sheep Centre, Malvern, Worcestershire, WR13 6PH
 Name and full postal address of your bank or building society

Service user number
 9 5 6 8 8 9

To: The Manager Bank/building society

Address

.....

.....

Postcode

Name(s) of account holder(s)

.....

Branch sort code

.....

Bank/building society account number

.....

Reference

.....

Instruction to your bank or building society

Please pay National Sheep Association Direct Debits from the account detailed in this instruction subject to the safeguards assured by the Direct Debit Guarantee. I understand that this instruction may remain with National Sheep Association and, if so, details will be passed electronically to my bank/building society.

Signature(s)

.....

Date

.....

Banks and building societies may not accept Direct Debit Instructions for some types of account.

Has an existing NSA member recommended you to join? If so fill in their details below and they too can be entered into NSA's prize draws,

or are you already an NSA member? To be entered into the prize draw, fill in your details above and pass this leaflet onto a friend to sign up

The NSA complies fully with the General Data Protection Regulation. Please see our privacy policy for more details, which can be requested from NSA Malvern. For any queries or concerns regarding GDPR, please write to: Data Protection at The Sheep Centre, Malvern, Worcestershire, WR13 6PH.

Please use Gift Aid to make your subscription worth more to NSA. For every pound you give us, we could earn an extra 25p from the Inland Revenue. NSA will not claim Gift Aid on a new member's first membership subscription payment. **Gift Aid Declaration:** I want the National Sheep Association to treat all subscriptions I make from the date of this declaration until I notify you otherwise as a Gift Aid donation. I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations in that tax year it is my responsibility to pay any difference. **TO GIFT AID PLEASE TICK HERE...**

This guarantee should be detached and retained by the payer.

- This Guarantee is offered by all banks and building societies that accept instructions to pay Direct Debits
- If there are any changes to the amount, date or frequency of your Direct Debit National Sheep Association will notify you 28 working days in advance of your account being debited or as otherwise agreed. If you request National Sheep Association to collect a payment, confirmation of the amount and date will be given to you at the time of the request.
- If an error is made in the payment of your Direct Debit, by National Sheep Association or your bank or building society you are entitled to a full and immediate refund of the amount paid from your bank or building society – If you receive a refund you are not entitled to, you must pay it back when National Sheep Association asks you to
- You can cancel a Direct Debit at any time by simply contacting your bank or building society. Written confirmation may be required. Please also notify us.

The Direct Debit Guarantee



Prize draw terms and conditions at www.nationalsheep.org.uk/draw

Please return your form to: National Sheep Association | The Sheep Centre | Malvern | Worcestershire | WR13 6PH

Tel: 01684 892 661 Email: membership@nationalsheep.org.uk www.nationalsheep.org.uk

A company limited by Guarantee. Registered in England. Registration No. 37818. Registered charity in England and Wales (249255) and in Scotland (SC042853)



NSA one of 44,000 respondents to future farm support consultation

By Phil Stocker, NSA

No one could have fully foreseen the changes, the risks or the opportunities of our exit from the EU when they voted in the referendum in June 2016.

The level of information presented by both the remain and leave camp was scant, skewed by particular issues, and was all part of a bigger political game. But the decision was made and our relationship with the EU will change.

We still know precious little about the details of our departure – our trading relationship, the regulatory relationship and the Irish border issues for instance. We hear a lot about a customs relationship but when we do it raises the temperature within the Cabinet and exposes differing views in that most influential of institutions.

But step aside from the confusion and it's not entirely unclear where our own political masters want to see agriculture go. It's no accident that we saw a new 25-year environmental plan emerge in a way that set the framework for Defra's consultation to lead to the drafting of a new Agriculture Bill. Environmentally the direction was already decided and the full title was *Health and Harmony: the future for food, farming and the environment in a green Brexit*.

Draft bill

The Health and Harmony consultation has now closed and we believe a draft Agriculture Bill (for England, but likely to heavily influence future agricultural policy across the UK) will emerge either just before or just after the summer parliamentary recess, in order for it to be finalised and on our statute books by the end of March 2019.

To say this could be the most influential piece of farming related legislation for more than five decades is no exaggeration. The Government's industrial strategy is said to include a new food plan that might talk about domestic self-sufficiency ambitions and public procurement rules, but is still largely a mystery.

It's not at all clear how all this will impact on the devolved nations of Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales. After initial resistance, the EU Withdrawal Bill now has Welsh Assembly agreement, but Scotland remains fundamentally opposed to it. And although Farming Minister George Eustice has suggested a fairly free rein



Some of the changes suggested in the Defra Health and Harmony consultation could soon be legislation in the new Agriculture Bill – a thought that is worrying and exciting in equal measure.

for farming policy, budgetary frameworks are not agreed.

NSA has long called for a relatively level regulatory platform across the UK, allowing differentiation to cater for differing conditions but on the basis that nothing hinders internal trade, movements or operation. We have also called for trustworthy and meaningful involvement of the devolved nations at Westminster level/UK policy discussions and decision making – and there is evidence that our calls have been listened to, although this will never be to everyone's satisfaction.

Next steps

Meanwhile, Defra has 44,000 responses to Health and Harmony consultation to process, although more than 34,000 were 'campaigning responses' from individuals resubmitting campaigning organisations' views. The analysis has begun and the findings will inform the draft Agricultural Bill.

While there are real risks ahead there is also much within the likely direction that could suit sheep farming well. We may need to think hard about our future measures of success, and with strong messages of adding value, producing premium products, tapping into global premium markets, ensuring high welfare and environmental standards, there is concern over further erosion of 'the industry' or 'commercial livestock production'. I can see this from both

sides of the debate but we don't need to think of extremes and there are surely ways to reconcile these views.

The fact the UK governments are recognising the need for transition is good and this was the starting theme of the consultation process. No one is proposing a cliff edge and, despite what our cousins in New Zealand might tell us, it would not be a pretty picture to see a sudden loss of support structures here in the UK. But when you talk of transition you accept change is coming and, while NSA's response did say we need at least a five-year 'easing period', we also said it shouldn't favour large or small farms and we should seek to simplify CAP payments for as long as they last. The more important questions relate to what comes afterwards.

Farming excellence

The fourth section of the consultation was farming excellence and profitability. This is a difficult one for the sheep sector – but only in some ways. We should be striving for excellence and profitability, but our key words (which fit well with the health and harmony agenda anyway) are that we run a truly multi-functional farming system with many outcomes and outputs beyond sheep alone, and in order to optimise this we should accept the 'natural boundaries' that sheep farmers are best left to operate within.

NSA believes farmers learn best from

Policy work continues on all fronts

Brexit continues to dominate NSA policy work, with office holders involved in a number of groups to maximise opportunities to highlight the sheep sector within negotiations.

The most important of these is the UK Livestock Brexit Group, which comes together regularly to provide a useful forum for livestock stakeholder groups and Government officials to share updates and discuss areas of mutual interest. Forthcoming meetings will focus on the current situation with the devolved nations, to try and encourage progress in what is a difficult situation.

Food production

NSA is also involved with the UK Farming Roundtable, another Brexit group but this one a cross-industry initiative for all of agriculture. A recent meeting in Northern Ireland continued the group's work to highlight the importance of food production to the UK economy, and a list of principles was agreed to guide agricultural policy development and implementation once the UK leaves the EU. NSA is one of 15 organisations supporting the principles.

Another high profile topic at the current time is welfare in transport and live exports, something that Secretary of State Michael Gove appears to have made something of a personal crusade. Defra has released a 'call for evidence', which is a precursor to a consultation

each other and that farmer-to-farmer learning and benchmarking should be encouraged. In terms of what holds back capital and efficiency investment, a major limiter is the core profitability of the sector. If the money was there to invest and producers had confidence that investment would yield a return, you can be sure investments would be made.

Sheep health and sustainable resource management feature highly in relation to future research needs, and for labour NSA made the point that our sector, at a farm level, is not reliant on migrant labour and still attracts many young and entrants - but providing proper financial rewards and recognition is essential to maintain their participation and enthusiasm. We also reminded of the work the NSA Next Generation programme is doing to support the future of the sector through young people.

Section five of the consultation goes into public money for public goods, something we at NSA have been quite vocal about as a justification for money continuing to come to agriculture. We



NSA has responded to a Defra 'call for evidence' on welfare in transport.

and the first clear indication that steps could be taken to ban live exports. NSA has made a robust response in line with its policy position on this topic.

Protected species have come into the spotlight again, not the potential release of lynx this time, but the problems caused by ravens in many areas of the UK. In response to the announcement of a raven cull in Scotland and reports of particularly high predation this lambing time, NSA has said it is only right for Natural England and Scottish Natural Heritage to grant licences to allow ravens numbers to be responsibly

made the case that the definition of public goods needs to be wide and include things that cannot be rewarded through the marketplace. Public goods, things that are for public good, and things that provide public benefits are terms that need some better definition and merging. The pressure to choose 'which public goods are the most important' suggests a lack of understanding of the interconnectedness of life and, most importantly, ignores the public good of a nation's food supply (a point we have made as forcibly as we could in the NSA response).

Sheep health

Section seven looks at our responsibility to animals and allowed us to make the point that, for sheep, the best possible thing we can do is to focus on their health. If we can raise health status then we will improve efficiency, reduce the environmental impact, and in doing so raise welfare outcomes too. The challenge is to make sure investment in health can be made and that it does pay.

The consultation questions and our

reduced in problem hotspots.

NSA makes the point that farmers respect the legislation around protected species but must have trust that, when species levels reach strong numbers, there can be meaningful debate. The purpose of protecting a species is to ensure numbers do not fall below dangerous levels, and when positive progress is made and populations boom, options must be provided to prevent unintended consequences on other species of domestic and wild animal. *More at www.nationalsheep.org.uk/news.*

response go far wider and deeper than we can cover here and extend to the needs of our more remote regions, changing our regulatory culture, how the industry might plan for greater resilience, supply chain relationships, maintaining cohesion and flexibility between our devolved nations, and international trade policy.

Quite what will become of it all will be very interesting and should be seen in the various drafts of the now awaited Agriculture Bill in the summer.

The pace of this process will be rapid – and it is both worrying and exciting to think we will have a new legislative framework incorporating the changes suggested in the consultation process.

It may be necessary to remind ourselves of the external criticisms of our current frameworks and, as individuals, it will certainly be sensible to do whatever is in our grasp to make our own businesses as lean as possible.

We should remember the legacy left by the dinosaurs – survival comes not through being the biggest or the fastest but from an ability to adapt to change.

Knowing where you stand with walkers and dogs on farmland

By Tim Russ,
Roythornes
With more reports of sheep worrying by dogs coming in every week, it is important for farmers and landowners to know what rights they have on public rights of way across their land.



Most farmers will be aware of the extent of their land and know whether there are any public footpaths, bridleways or other rights of way. They should also be aware of whether any of the land has been designated under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act (CROW) as public access land.

Open access land

Land designated under CROW allows public access, but if a pedestrian has a dog with them they must have it on a fixed lead of two metres or less if livestock is nearby. The owner of open access land can close areas containing sheep to dogs for up to six weeks once a year as a safeguard during lambing periods. However, the legislation is different for a public right of way, as there is no requirement for a dog to be kept on a lead. While local authorities have the ability to make it a legal requirement for a dog to be on a lead on specific paths, where this is not applied both the dog walker and the dog must remain on the designated path. If they do not comply to the legislation, they will be guilty of trespassing.

Sheep worrying

The law defines worrying as not only attacking livestock, but also chasing them in a way that may cause injury, suffering, abortion or loss of produce, or if a dog is at large in a field or enclosure in which there are livestock. The Dogs (Protection of Livestock) Acts 1953 creates a criminal offence if a dog is worrying livestock on agricultural land. The person in charge of the dog is guilty of a criminal offence and can face a penalty of a fine of up to £1,000.

As well as prosecuting a person found guilty of sheep worrying, it is also possible for the farmer to claim a compensation order through the magistrates courts for any costs that have been incurred or any lost lambs through abortion. This is only viable if the Crown Prosecution Service



Clear signage is a good way to warn walkers sheep are around and they are required to keep dogs under close control.

prosecute. However, currently the majority of dog worrying cases are concluded with a caution rather than a conclusive fine. In order to pursue compensation, the farmer would have to pursue a claim in the Small Claims Track of the county court, if the case is likely to be worth less than £10,000. This is difficult to do without a solicitor, and yet no solicitors' fees of any size are awarded by the courts meaning the farmer would have to front these costs themselves. There is also the difficulty in proving that a sheep's particular abortion was caused by the dog attack, and veterinary evidence would need to be obtained.

Farmers rights

A frequent question is whether a farmer can shoot a dog if it is worrying his livestock. Put simply, yes – but it is considered a last resort. The legal right to do so was granted by the Animals Act 1971, which gives a farmer who shoots a dog that is worrying his livestock a defence in any civil proceedings brought against him for the death of the dog. The farmer will need to be able to prove that they acted for the protection of any livestock and, within 48 hours of killing the dog, they gave notice to the officer in charge of a police station.

You must be also be able to prove:

- There was no other reasonable means of ending or preventing the worrying of livestock.
- The dog that is killed was worrying livestock at the time it was shot.
- The dog had not left the vicinity of the livestock when shot.
- The dog was not under the control of a person, and there was no way to ascertain who it belonged to.

For the purposes of the law, an animal belongs to any person if they own it or have it in their possession, and land belongs to any person if they are the occupier so will cover share farming, tenancy, freehold ownership and any other legal occupation of land by a farmer.

The best way of ensuring compliance with the law is to follow NSA or similar guidance as to signage on footpaths, particularly where sheep are grazing. You should also take out legal expenses insurance so that if a dog attack incident takes place, and the CPS do not prosecute, there is at least support available in the form of payment of legal fees by an insurer.

For more information or to order NSA plastic dog worrying signs, go to www.nationalsheep.org.uk/dog-owners or call NSA Head Office.

Z Tags™

The tags that stay in

For Sheep

Z Tags for sheep are available as single EID Slaughter or Breeding Tag Sets.

Try the NEW retractable applicator designed to lessen the risk of torn ears.



NEW
Retractable
Applicator



Previously
named
EZee Tags

Available instore | www.ztags.co.uk

Heiniger Reliability
BY DESIGN



THE ICON FORMED FROM LEGEND

Fusing the finest materials with Swiss engineering excellence the Heiniger Icon shearing hand piece is a true legend, used by shearers the world over.

Make it your
legend in 2018!

For more details contact your local trade merchant or browse the full range of Heiniger Shearing equipment at www.coxagri.com

0845 6008081

tradesales@allflex.co.uk

www.coxagri.com/shearing-equipment

COX & RITCHEY
Part of the Allflex UK Group

NSA South West Chairman focuses on good stock and use of technology

By Rebecca Jordan, contributor
Work with good stock that complements the farm, and improve their performance and efficiency with the latest technology.

That is the philosophy of Peter Derryman, and one that puts him in an ideal position to understand the sheep industry in his area and represent NSA members as the new NSA South West Region Chairman.

Peter is an integral part of a three-generation farming partnership that successfully manages quality stock in a system little changed since Peter's great grandfather moved to Peterhayes Farm, Yarcombe, Devon, a century ago. Peter is father of Philip, son of Henry and Hilary, and brother to Robert. Together they run 100 pedigree Hampshire ewes and 350 head of Romneys at Peterhayes, plus 100 pedigree Suffolks and 120 British Friesian milkers plus followers at Mount Pleasant, Honiton, a second farm three miles away where Peter and his wife Cathy live. Both farms are in an area of outstanding natural beauty on the Blackdown Hills.

Flock goals

Henry and Hilary are well known on the showing and sales circuit for their Yarcombe Hampshire Downs, with the foundation stock introduced in the early 1970s from the Chilmark flock. Peter and Cathy founded the Suffolks in 1983 with ewes from A.J. Cook and Son, Warwickshire. Robert, keen to introduce a self-replicating commercial breed, decided on the Romney 12 years ago. Foundation stock was purchased from Hugh Skinner and high index recorded

stock rams latterly have come from Chris Hodgkins, Sussex.

The Derrymans have always performance recorded stock through Signet so accuracy figures are high. The family closely follows traits for muscle and fat depth, growth rates and maternal ability in both Suffolks and Hampshires. Peter explains: "Performance recording has been a great benefit to us, and to our customers who have bought into the steady genetic improvement we have achieved using this aid. We have always seen performance recording as another sales tool and, while many purchasers rely on their eye, they are increasingly taking into account traits important for their system.

"We have got to like what we are looking at – both breeds must be good on their legs, stand square and have a good front and back end – but there are also traits we can't see, such as cold weather tolerance, which has been very important in the past few months. Approximately a third of our Suffolk rams are sold to go onto Mules to breed females replacements so maternal traits are also very important."

Progeny from their Hampshires and Suffolks can be found with indices in the top 10% for all traits. Although most sales are conducted from home, good



Above: Suffolks, Romneys and Hampshire Down sheep have proved to be the right mix for the sheep enterprise.



Left: Peter Derryman.

averages have been achieved at sales, including the annual NSA South West Ram Sale at Exeter.

Every year a homebred high index lamb of both breeds is used across the flocks to make sure the

Derrymans incorporate some of their own genetics from better performing ewes that have stood the test of time. "Signet's inbreeding coefficient tool has been particularly useful to help with mating choices," says Peter.

Breeding changes

Up to 10 years ago Peter and Cathy used AI on their Suffolks, but have now simplified the system by using a teaser and buying in performance recorded rams that are pleasing to the eye. These are sourced privately or from Kelso ram sale. Last year Peter bought three out of a pen of 30 from Alan Jackson (Rugley flock) to complement a five-year old ram purchased from Sandy Sutherland (Soutra).

The family as a whole is delighted with the Romney flock's performance, saying they are easy to lamb, prolific (scanned at 190%) and hardy. The 350-head is made up of 250 ewes kept pure and lambed in March, plus 100 ewe lambs put to the Hampshire to lamb in April. This year, of the ewes, only one

with no creep at 46kg-48kg liveweight and grade at R3L. They do this off an extra block of rented grazing.

"We are farming in such uncertain times," said Peter. "The most important issue our industry must get right is a decent trade deal to ensure the industry stays profitable and endeavour to stem the decline of lamb consumption in the domestic market. Currently exchange rates and the export trade are giving the industry a well-deserved boost."

Peter is quick to credit the NSA South West Region Committee with its ability to keep tabs on issues affecting sheep farmers within the region. He says: "In the south west we are lucky to have a very strong NSA committee. It is normal for up to 20 members to come to meetings, which are then full of debate. These are varied and thorough with many views to share, as the committee is made up of farmers, feed suppliers, vets, pedigree breeders, auctioneers and buyers to name a few.

Future optimism

I am optimistic of good opportunities for new entrants into the industry. Both Cathy and I feel very strongly about this. I am delighted to have Howard Tratt, an NSA Next Generation Ambassador, as my Vice Chairman. And Cathy is heavily involved with Yarcombe and District Young Farmers, Devon's largest club with nearly 70 members that can boast three previous winners in the NSA Sheep South West Next Generation Shepherd competition."

It is Peter's job as chairman to take the regional views and opinions forward to the NSA English Committee. Phil Stocker, NSA Chief Executive, then draws from this committee and others



The Derryman family keep 100 pedigree Suffolks at Mount Pleasant.

went out without rearing a lamb and one died. As Robert says, "Most of the flock were out in that dreadful weather post lambing, so if they can do all that this year they can't be doing much wrong."

A majority of Romney wether lambs are ready to sell by August/September



The biggest flock is the Romneys with 350-head, including 100 tupped as ewe lambs.

Farm facts

- Peterhayes Farm is 130ha (320 acres) of stony clay loam, 300ft above sea level.
- Mount Pleasant Farm is 49ha (120 acres) of clay loam 650ft above sea level.
- Winter keep for sheep on neighbouring dairy farms.
- Mix of permanent pasture and medium-term clover grass leys, plus 10ha (25 acres) of wholecrop barley rotated with 6-8ha (15-20 acres) turnips for shearing rams over winter.
- Lambing is December for the Hampshires, February for Suffolks, March for Romney ewes and April for Romney ewe lambs.
- 120-head all-year calving British Friesian herd milked at Peterhayes.



The pedigree Hampshires live at Peterhayes Farm and number 100-head.

approach to politics. He is also very willing to take any issues we raise to Westminster."

On current topics looming over the sheep sector, Peter highlights the discussion over live exports as being of particular importance. He says: "If live exports are banned what's next? I can see pressure groups trying to control journey times in this country, and these so-called welfare lobbyists are very good at making themselves heard.

Role of NSA

"We should also be concerned about the Sainsbury's and Asda merger and the continuous drive for cheap food supplies. I think all sheep farmers should seriously consider becoming NSA members if they would like to see their industry survive and succeed in these uncertain times, because NSA is very well respected at Government level due to the people we have operating behind the scenes for us."



Three generations of the Derryman family work across two farms in Devon.

GB collaboration growing as part of post-Brexit trade plans

Exports of lamb from the UK surpassed the £95m mark in the first three months of 2018 – up 19% in value terms on the same period last year.

According to the latest figures from HMRC, the total amount of sheepmeat exported around the world in the first quarter increased by 8% to 21,100 tonnes. The lion's share of the shipments, more than 90%, was destined for the EU with France remaining the UK's largest market. However, the biggest increase in volume was recorded in shipments to Germany, up 20% to 3,901 tonnes.

These new figures build on a strong year in 2017, when the UK exported more than 89,000 tonnes of lamb valued at more than £385m, an 18% increase from 2016.

Dr Phil Hadley, AHDB International Market Development Director, says the latest data shows a strong start to the year with the UK currently exporting around a third of its production. He says: "Exports of sheepmeat remain strong and these latest figures build on an impressive year in 2017. While the EU is still a strong focus for our sheep exports, we also recognise the need to look at opening new markets outside of Europe as Brexit approaches."

Fact-finding

"One of the ways we do this is by organising fact-finding missions around the world to look at where we can increase international trade, and by attending trade shows and exhibitions in key target markets."

"At these shows, we are able to showcase the high quality and superior taste of our lamb and we are seeing an increased interest in our West Country PGI Lamb in particular, which is now highly regarded in the global marketplace."

Among the extensive list of shows attended by AHDB, was the recent SIAL Canada where AHDB exhibited alongside HCC and QMS to showcase lamb from England, Scotland and Wales, as well as beef and pork.

SIAL is now the only event of its scale in Canada, with almost 1,000 national and international exhibitors from 50 countries, hosting more than 18,000 visitors. The show brings together the retail, foodservice and equipment industries and, throughout the three-day event in Montreal, the British meat levy



Cooperation between AHDB Beef & Lamb, HCC and QMS is stimulation demand for prime British lambs overseas.

bodies showcased high quality pork and lamb with cooking demonstrations from chef Robert Pendergast.

The visit was financed by the £2m fund of AHDB red meat levies that is ring-fenced for collaborative projects and managed by the three GB meat levy bodies – AHDB, HCC and QMS. The ring-fenced fund is an interim arrangement while a long-term solution is sought on the issue of levies being collected at point of slaughter in England for animals which have been reared in Scotland or Wales. The British red meat levy bodies also joined forces for this year's Food and Hotel Asia in Singapore, to showcase premium meat products to the Asian market.

Asia presence

The three-day show attracted more than 40,000 trade delegates looking to supply hotels, restaurants and other food outlets. The event is the largest in the region and attracts buyers from across South East Asia. Exports of British lamb to Singapore have been growing in recent years and in 2017 shipments increased by 29%.

Dr Hadley says: "Singapore is a market that loves high-value consumer products. It's a vibrant, dynamic city-state with one of the highest standards of living in the world, yet very competitive. British products are

generally well recognised and respected in Singapore and our exports have been growing year-on-year."

AHDB plans to follow up on the visit to Singapore with targeted activities with the country's food service sector this autumn.

Also later this year, AHDB will be showcasing lamb at Asia's leading fine dining and bar exhibition, Restaurant and Bar Hong Kong. With its focus on the top-quality food service, the event attracts top-end buyers from Hong Kong, Macau and Guangdong.

Meeting importers

And in October, lamb from the UK will sit alongside the country's beef, pork and dairy products at SIAL Paris, the world's leading food show of 2018. AHDB will be joined by exporters from the UK who will be looking to meet potential importers of red meat.

"These shows are crucial for our export markets," says Dr Hadley. "It not only gives us the opportunity to look at new markets, it also allows our lamb exporters to build and enhance their relationship with importers."

"The latest export figures show that our lamb is desirable and in demand, not just at home but overseas, but we must continue to build on these levels and ensure British lamb is top of mind for importers around the world."



0% FINANCE AND FIXED MONTHLY PAYMENTS



Whether to maximise lamb sales or ensure correct dosing rates, regular and accurate weighing can have a significant impact on farm profitability. Our interest-free finance packages make owning a livestock handling and weighing system more affordable than ever.



0845 600 80 81 Quoting Finance 18

www.coxandritchey.co.uk

Minimum order value £6000.00 excl VAT. Credit subject to status. Other fees apply. Allflex UK Group Ltd is an Introducer Appointed Representative of Rural Finance Ltd. Alligator, Prattley and TruTest are distributed in the UK by the Allflex UK Group.

NEW RACE-WEIGH

NEW IN-YARD WEIGHING FOR RAPID IN FIELD WEIGHING



LAUNCHING ON 18TH JULY AT THE NSA SHEEP EVENT

PROVIDES EVERYTHING YOU NEED IN ONE TOW

DESIGNED TO FIT AND BE USED INSIDE YOUR RAPPA MOBILE YARD

Manufactured from five aluminium components its extremely quiet, lightweight and easy to assemble.

COME AND SEE FOR YOURSELF

The NSA Sheep Event, Malvern or visit www.rappamobileyards.co.uk or call Mark on 01264 810665

RAPPA 1978 2018 40TH ANNIVERSARY

ABC of heritage breeds

By Bob Kennard, NSA Heritage Sheep Project Manager

NSA is entering the final phase of the Heritage Sheep feasibility study, and the signs are positive that something can be achieved.

The aim is to establish a marketing route and support for our native breeds of sheep, all ages of sheepmeat (lamb, hogget and mutton) and the countryside and landscapes they are reared in.

Known as the ABC (Age, Breed and Countryside) scheme, these three aspects will be highlighted for all sheepmeat sold under the Heritage Sheep marketing system. This is not to say the standard lamb market should be downgraded, but that consumers should have a more readily available variety, which will encourage new consumers to enjoy its diversity of flavour and the stories behind it.

Diversity

The market for virtually every other foodstuff has diversified so it is unusual that sheepmeat relies almost entirely on standard lamb for the majority of its sales and marketing. Especially given the aging profile of lamb eaters, there is much we can learn from other sectors.

The largest age group currently drinking gin and tonic is not the over 60s, as it used to be, but people in their 20s and 30s. The standard mass market gins still sell well, but younger people are increasingly enjoying tasting and comparing the newer artisan varieties.

With the choice of more than 60 native breeds, together with mutton,

hogget and lamb, and the diverse landscapes in which they were reared, there are plenty of different combinations to arouse interest in younger people and expand our market.

Already we have found for older sheep the different flavours of individual breeds, reared and cooked under similar conditions, are very real. This opens up a whole range of possibilities for diversity of sheepmeat. And this in turn this gives hope that commercial use will lead to the preservation of our priceless sheep gene pool and our iconic sheep-created landscapes. Furthermore, it should offer farmers, in particular young ones, new business and marketing opportunities.

Consumer research

NSA asked the industry what they thought of our proposals on Heritage Sheep, and although the clear majority strongly approved, there remains a number of questions that must be answered, much of which we hope to understand more fully through consumer research, which will be a major part of the final phase of the feasibility study.

However, there is a large black cloud on the horizon. The infrastructure to deliver this diversity of sheepmeat is disappearing before our eyes. Over the past 10 years, more than a third of our small local abattoirs have closed with a further six having shut this year alone. Unless something can be done to stop and reverse this collapse, many parts of the country will be unable to participate in the Heritage Sheep scheme due to loss of local abattoirs - see facing page.



Marketing schemes that differentiate sheep age, breed and the rearing environment could add value under the Heritage Sheep initiative.

Local abattoirs need urgent action

By Bob Kennard, Campaign for Local Abattoirs

Small local abattoirs are the essential but unappreciated infrastructure for local meat marketing – yet the UK is at risk of losing ‘private kill’ services, threatening many marketing initiatives, not least the NSA Heritage Sheep project.

As more small abattoirs close, so the distances to the nearest suitable slaughterhouse increase, until it is no longer financially viable for farmers to travel the extra miles to slaughter stock. Eventually, the farm shops, farmers' markets, local butchers, mail order meat businesses and caterers they supply are also forced to close. We have already reached a critical level with blackspots around the country where smaller abattoirs do not exist.

Why are smaller abattoirs at risk?

- Strong downward pressure on profitability from high volume abattoirs supplying supermarkets.
- Increased costs of waste disposal.
- Excessive regulation hitting these smaller businesses disproportionately and often unnecessarily.
- Low prices paid to small abattoirs for hides and skins.

What are we set to lose?

- Production of quality, traceable meat.



Smaller abattoirs offering private kill services are an essential part of local sheepmeat marketing initiatives.

- Shorter supply chains and the associated lower greenhouse gas emissions of lower transport miles.
- Local economic benefits including skilled and semi-skilled employment.
- Catalysts for new local/family businesses to sell their own meat direct to consumers and outlets in the vicinity.

What can be done?

In February, the Sustainable Food Trust published a report on the current state of smaller abattoirs, including the fact over one third of the country's small abattoirs have closed in the past decade. This report has been well received and resulted in interested organisations, including NSA, forming the Campaign for Local Abattoirs (CFLA).

The purpose of CFLA is to help ensure a sustainable future for a UK-wide network of smaller local abattoirs, through encouraging the UK Governments to take urgent action, and by working with the industry and Governments to find longer-term solutions to the problems facing the sector.

What does CFLA want the Government to do?

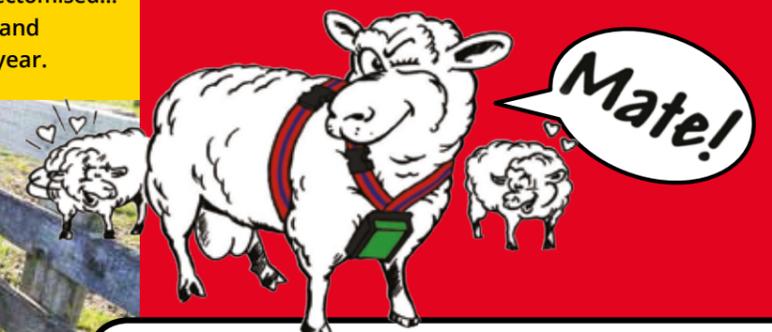
- Publicly recognise the importance of smaller abattoirs, and ensure this support is put into practice at all levels of national and local government.
 - Establish an urgent in-depth enquiry to understand the multiple problems facing the sector, and with the help of the industry to come up with practical long-term solutions to these problems.
 - Consider help to enable the establishment of mobile and small static abattoirs for on-farm slaughter, especially in areas where smaller abattoirs no longer exist.
- More at www.localabattoirs.com.

NO MATE™

Turn your tups into teasers temporarily with the NO MATE Harness (fitted behind a MATINGMARK Harness). Now your boys can do two jobs and save you the cost of vasectomies, and feeding the vasectomised... NO MATE Harnesses are proven as secure and durable, and can be used again year after year.



When you want the most rugged and durable construction ever seen in a ram harness, choose MATINGMARK. The click-in crayon change alone makes it easy to see why farmers have voted MATINGMARK the World's #1 Seller! And with longer lasting crayons, now in 7 vivid colours, you've got to ask, why isn't everyone using MATINGMARK?



MATINGMARK™

Insist on the World's Best! Available from all leading farm supply stores, supplied by AgriHealth.

More information on the Rurtec YouTube channel, or contact AgriHealth on 028 3831 4570 or info@agrihealth.co.uk



Sheep scab blood test proving its worth in commercial flocks

Amid growing concern about the escalating economic impact of sheep scab on the UK sheep industry and the emergence of resistance to the endectocides, some farmers are looking to use new tools in their fight to control this serious threat to their flocks.



Lesley Stubbings of SCOPS explains: "Over the last 25 years our reliance on endectocides has increased dramatically. In the mid-1990s nearly all ectoparasite treatments were dips – but OP dips currently only make up some 10% of treatments for sheep scab today.

"Because the endectocides have a narrow spectrum of activity for ectoparasites (effectively only sheep scab), while dipping covers the broad spectrum of parasites including lice, keds and blowfly, this means that for the endectocides correct diagnosis is essential. However, in many cases farmers have used endectocides without knowing if scab was really the issue and this has led to overuse. This is a worry, because the injectables are anthelmintics and there is increasing resistance in worms to these medicines, as well as the more recent reports of resistance in scab mites."

Blood test

As part of its campaign to raise awareness of the threat sheep scab poses to the UK sheep industry, SCOPS is encouraging farmers and their vets to take advantage of a new ELISA blood test. This provides a quick, accurate diagnosis, and also detects exposure to sheep scab much earlier than the traditional skin scraping.

Cumbrian farmer Will Rawling runs sheep on common grazing in the Lake District and used the new blood test this winter to improve the control of sheep scab on his farm, while ensuring he does



Scab control, particularly in upland areas, has become unsustainably reliant on injectable endectocides.

not treat unnecessarily.

Mr Rawling says: "I have long championed the need for a quick, efficient and accurate method of diagnosis of scab to help reduce unnecessary treatment. It's essential when, as farmers, we only have two options to treat sheep scab, injectable MLs or OP dips.

"As well as giving the information on whether a treatment is required, the blood test results are also helpful as part of an overall flock health plan. It is impossible to be certain if a sheep has scab without a diagnosis, yet thousands of sheep are treated every year on little more than guesswork."

Reducing treatments

Mr Rawling trialled the ELISA blood test after he attended a SCOPS workshop in January this year. In his case he did the recommended 12-sheep screen and was very pleased when the test came back negative. This gave him the confidence not to routinely treat the whole flock, as he would have done before the test was available.

The blood test, which measures

antibodies produced by the sheep in response to a sheep scab infestation, was developed by Moredun and is now commercially available through Biobest Laboratories. The test has been

evaluated in several different flock types to determine how it may best be applied. It can detect exposure as quickly as two weeks after infestation, which means it also has great potential as a test while sheep are in quarantine, as an alternative to routine treatment against sheep scab.

If coupled with information on management and scab control activity, carrying out the test on 12 sheep will reveal a flock disease status. The cost of the blood test on 12 sheep, plus vet visit and lab fees, will be in the region of £100, which can be made back several times over if the test confirms whole flock treatment is not needed.

Benefits

Mrs Stubbings continues: "The SCOPS group welcomes this new blood test. Used correctly it will have a significant impact on the control of sheep scab, particularly in common grazing areas which we know rely heavily on the use of injectables because of the difficulties they experience with dipping. If farmers such as Will can target treatments, gain better control, reduce the pressure on the ML group of anthelmintics, and avoid the use of OP dip via jetting or spraying, neither of which have been demonstrated to be effective against sheep scab, it is a massive step forward."

anthelmintics. All anthelmintics should be used responsibly, in response to existing resistance problems and to slow down the development of increased resistance. This is particularly true for endectocides, as using them to kill scab (external) can put resistance pressure on roundworms (internal).

Understanding scab terminology

Endectocides are active both against endoparasites (internal parasites) and ectoparasites (external parasites). Endectocides for sheep are injectable MLs (macrocyclic lactones) where the active chemical is ivermectin, moxidectin or doramectin, and these belong to the clear group (3-ML) of

NSA fighting for Government clarity on OP dip disposal costs

By Phil Stocker, NSA

In relation to sheep scab, the UK sheep industry is in a position that it never expected nor would have wanted.

Rather than see sheep scab incidents decline (hopefully to the point of eradication), we are seeing them increase. And rather than having more tools in the box to treat sheep against this parasite we are ending up with fewer.

There are growing numbers of cases where injectable scab treatments, which have been so convenient and effective in the past, are becoming less so. Parasites are a resilient bunch and there are numerous examples where, after time and where usage has not been as careful as it should have been, resistance builds up.

So where we would have hoped the treatments we have at hand would reduce the need for 'heavy' farm infrastructure, negate the nuisance of disposal of high volumes of waste material, and reduce the risks and dangers to operator health, the opposite is true. Here we are in 2018 with reliable treatment options reverting mainly to dipping with organophosphate (OP) dips. At least we have far better diagnostic tools available, a good understanding of the scab mite life cycle, and an understanding of the value of good biosecurity.

OP dips

With OP dips so necessary in the fight against scab, we would be wise to look again at making sure the practice is as welfare and environmentally friendly as possible, and take every precaution to safeguard the health of dippers and those handling sheep after dipping. The good thing is that we are in a new age of innovation and technology – something we should be using to make sure we are utilising these products responsibly. One of the big innovations is in the world of mobile dippers, where product efficiency and safety can be optimised. However, there is also much new thinking that

Environment Agency fees from Spring 2018

- Initial permit application for sheep dips – £2,708.
- Annual licensing fee – £273 and £917 depending on volumes being disposed of.



More cases of disease, resistance to injectables and increasing dip disposal costs – the scab situation is not where the UK sheep industry wants to be.

can be applied to on-farm dip tanks and possibly waste collection and disposal too.

Whatever approach you take, OPs do have health risks and it is important to remember the need for full and proper protective equipment, including ventilation. NSA reminds members there are tests that can be done to determine the susceptibility of individuals to OP products and we encourage speaking to GPs about this. Dippers and those handling dipped sheep should always read the safety guidance included with sheep dip products and, more importantly, make sure for your own safety that do what you are being advised to do. There are many out there who are in no doubt their health has been affected by using dips, but many too who have dipped for a long time with no adverse effects – make sure you are one of those who takes every precaution.

Challenges

The problem is, at this time where dipping is crucial in our toolbox of scab control approaches, the Environment Agency in England and Wales (in the most disjointed way possible) has chosen now to significantly increase charges for waste permits for sheep dip. This may increase the role of mobile dippers further still, but there are issues and costs involved in dippers or licenced waste contractors taking used dip away. The Environment Agency consulted

What to know more?

Information about sheep scab, blood tests, responsible use of endectocides and other topics will be on offer at NSA Sheep 2018. Attend a workshop on the topic, and visit the NSA or SCOPS stand to take part on a sheep scab treasure hunt. *More details on page 12.*

on the increased costs early this year, but robust responses by NSA and others, explaining that making dip disposal increasingly expensive would put more pressure on endectocides to control scab, potentially increasing the likelihood of resistance, seemingly fell on deaf ears.

NSA action

In response, NSA has persuaded Defra, via the Animal Health and Welfare Board England, to facilitate an industry meeting involving the Environment Agency, industry bodies and representatives of dip manufacturers, dippers, and the Chartered Institute of Waste Contractors to identify solutions and find a way forward. Everyone is lined up to attend and we are just waiting on Defra for a date.

There can hardly be a worse example of conflicting policy objectives with different Government agencies pulling in opposite directions (in this case Defra's rhetoric around increasing animal welfare versus Environment Agency cost recovery) but NSA will do what it can and keep you informed in the process.

The hills need sheep – and we need politicians who know that

By Lorraine Leuscher,
Moredun Regional
Advisor



We are fortunate in the Meggat Valley in the Scottish Borders that there are still open hills where hefted sheep can graze as they have done for centuries.

But it's not necessarily the same in other valleys, and there is a chill wind blowing through the hill farming community that has nothing to do with the sub-zero temperatures we endured this spring.

All sectors of agriculture are under increasing pressure to farm more efficiently. Low ground farming systems have responded to this by intensifying production and modern farming enterprises, particularly dairy, pigs and poultry, have changed beyond recognition in recent years with robotics now playing a big part in production. In direct contrast to this the hill livestock sector still relies almost entirely on stockmen and women with traditional skills of the kind that can never be matched or replaced by gadgets. The ancient system of hefting sheep on the hills is still the way we farm today, and remote rural communities still depend on the economic and social activity generated by what we do.

Instead of recognising the historic value of traditional farming and looking at ways to improve its sustainability for the future, the Government has chosen to pursue a blinkered and relentless policy that is encouraging the removal of sheep from the hills to be replaced with commercial forestry on the kind of ground that is best suited to the extensive grazing systems we run.



In her role as Moredun Regional Advisor, Lorraine Leusher aims to draw attention to the importance of hill farming, such as around her home in the Scottish Borders.

The role of Moredun Regional Advisors

Lorraine Leuscher is a sheep farmer and Moredun Regional Advisor for the South of Scotland.

As a regional advisor she represents the views, opinions and issues of those working in the livestock sector in the area she lives. She also acts as a local ambassador to identify and facilitate strategic partnerships with other organisations and supports initiatives for the benefit of the Moredun

The Government is offering eye-watering amounts of money as incentive to plant trees, mostly on the basis that trees absorb carbon and are therefore contributing to Scotland's ambitious climate change targets. While Scotland undoubtedly needs a vibrant forestry sector, the effect of the policy is that financially-motivated rural businesses are lured into taking advantage of this easy money with little consideration of the damaging consequences for other sectors.

Risk of loss

A decline in farming activity will have a ripple effect through the rural economy. Agriculture keeps people living and working 365 days a year in the most remote areas. Although the forestry sector boasts big employment figures, there is no regular daily activity on afforested land, except at establishment of woodland and again some 40 years later when the trees are felled. Encroachment of commercial forestry means loss of the iconic open landscape that is a part of our identity and is a magnet to visitors from all over the

Foundation and the livestock sector.

Lorraine and her fellow advisors ensure Moredun maintains a close working relationship with the UK livestock industry so its research remains rooted in the practical needs of farming today. The membership of each regional board has a balance of skills and expertise including agricultural, veterinary, scientific, business and industry.

world. It risks loss of the hefting system and the genetics of the hardy native species of sheep that we work with, and loss of our ability to produce a valuable high protein food crop from low-grade forage. It risks loss of the habitats of countless fragile and rare plants and ground-nesting bird species, loss of archaeological features and drystone dykes and stells that are complete ecosystems in themselves, and loss of management of Scotland's peatland resources that store vast volumes of carbon and are of international conservation value. Finally, it risks loss of the complex skills that are required to manage the sheep that graze the hills and uplands. The list is long and most of what we stand to lose could never be recovered.

Finding balance

The Scottish Government is unlikely to be distracted from its tree planting policy but woodland expansion must not be at the expense of extensive livestock production, which deserves at least equal status. To address the current inequity, we would like to see a special protected designation attached to native species of livestock hefted on Scotland's hills along with dedicated support measures to improve the viability and quality of this traditional farming practice. This is already happening in other parts of the UK, for example in the Black Mountains in Wales and in the Lake District.

Our hope is that in 2018 those who make political decisions on our behalf will have the wisdom to recognise that the hills need sheep. It's not yet too late for policy to be revised and new measures developed to reflect the interests of all who live and work in upland rural areas.

It's CLiK®...but with extra clout



CLiK® EXTRA – 19 WEEKS FULL FLEECE* BLOWFLY PROTECTION

*The CLiK range of products. Active ingredient dicyclanil. †Spreads to areas covered by fleece, other areas may not be protected, including the feet.

For further information call Elanco Animal Health on +44 (0) 1256 353131 or write to Elanco Animal Health (the animal health division of Eli Lilly and Company Limited), Lilly House, Priestley Road, Basingstoke, Hampshire, RG24 9NL. CLiK® EXTRA contains 65mg/ml dicyclanil. Legal category: [POM-VPS] in UK, [LM] in IE. Information regarding the side effects, precautions, warnings and contra-indications can be found in product packaging and leaflets; further information can also be found in the Summary of Product Characteristics. Advice should be sought from the medicine prescriber. Elanco®, CLiK® EXTRA, FleeceBind™ and the Diagonal Bar™ are registered trademarks owned by Eli Lilly and Company, its affiliates or subsidiaries. UKSHPLC.K00074(1). rdp20480.

Use medicines responsibly (www.noah.co.uk/responsible). ©2018 Eli Lilly and Company.

Elanco

Good husbandry and vaccination needed to cut pneumonia risk

By Amanda Carson, APHA

Pneumonia caused by the bacterium *Mannheimia haemolytica*, sometimes known as 'pasteurella pneumonia, is the most common sheep respiratory disease in Great Britain, according to samples submitted to the veterinary surveillance network in 2017.



Animal & Plant Health Agency

This is primarily a pneumonia seen in lambs but, of the samples submitted in 2017, 28% were diagnosed in pre-weaned lambs (mainly during May and June), 24% in post-weaned lambs (frequently store lambs in the autumn) and 27% in adult sheep.

The bacterium is found naturally in the upper airways of sheep, but any stress or husbandry changes, for example other diseases such as viral infections, liver fluke and worms, can also increase the risk in adult sheep and weaned lambs. Therefore, prevention can be attempted by reducing stress (see separate panel), reducing other diseases and



Reducing stress, reducing other diseases and implementing a vaccination programme can reduce deaths and reduced performance from pasteurella pneumonia.

implementing a vaccination programme.

Annual booster vaccination of ewes four to six weeks before lambing allows lambs to acquire antibody protection from colostrum for the first three to four weeks of life. In flocks with pasteurella pneumonia it may be necessary to vaccinate lambs from three weeks of age, and lambs may need booster vaccinations at times of peak risk, for example at weaning.

Other diseases

'Pneumonia other' was the second most common diagnosis of sheep respiratory disease during 2017, and this would include diagnoses of parainfluenza virus, lung abscesses and other bacterial causes of pneumonia not specifically

listed.

Ovine Pulmonary Adenomatosis (OPA, or Jaagsiekte) was the third most commonly diagnosed disease. This is a 'slow virus' infection of sheep and more commonly affects adults from two to four years of age. There is no treatment and culling of affected animals is the only option.

Interesting trends

Further analysis of the data also shows a number of interesting trends:-

- Sheep were found dead in 40% of cases.
- In 16% of cases sheep were recorded as 'wasting'.
- Only 20% of sheep had observed respiratory signs.

Where does the data come from?

The role of APHA is to analyse data and track diseases, allowing farmers and other animal care professionals to keep abreast of and prepare for any health issues that may arise.

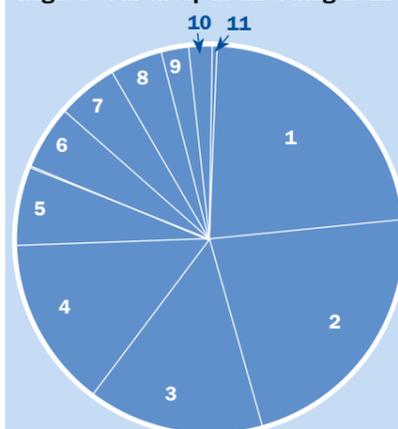
APHA collects data from diagnostic submissions submitted to the veterinary surveillance network of APHA Veterinary Investigation Centres (VICs), partner providers of post mortem services in England and Wales, and SAC Disease Surveillance Centres in Scotland. The diagnoses are recorded in the VIDA (Veterinary Investigation and Data

Analysis) system and reviewed annually by the APHA Small Ruminant Species Expert Group.

This enables identification of the most common respiratory syndrome diagnoses recorded for sheep of all ages from carcasses and samples submitted from animals with clinical signs of disease to the surveillance network in Great Britain during 2017.

The majority of submissions were to investigate disease in adult sheep (48%), followed by post-weaned lambs (20%) and pre-weaned lambs (15%).

Respiratory syndrome diseases diagnosed in sheep in GB during 2017



1. Pneumonia – Mannheimia (Pasteurella) haemolytica
2. Pneumonia – other
3. OPA (Jaagsiekte)
4. Diagnosis not reached
5. Pneumonia – parasitic
6. Laryngeal chondritis ('Texel throat')
7. Diagnosis not listed
8. Pneumonia – Mycoplasma ovipneumoniae
9. Maedi visna
10. Pneumonia Pasteurella multocida
11. Interstitial pneumonia of unknown cause

Stress factors for pasteurella pneumonia

- **Housing.** Cases often occur three to six weeks after animals are housed and can continue for two weeks. Overcrowding, poor ventilation and inadequate/heavily soiled bedding can lead to high environmental ammonia levels and increased humidity.
- **Pasture change.** Moving lambs from poor pasture to richer aftermath pasture in late summer. A move back to poorer pasture often resolves the outbreak.
- **Extreme weather conditions or changes.**
- **Concurrent infections** involving other respiratory pathogens such as mycoplasma and tickborne fever.
- **Stress due to handling or transport.**
- **Inadequate nutrition**

- In 8% of cases the observed clinical signs were not reported.
- In the remaining 16% of cases other clinical signs were recorded, including malaise, diarrhoea, recumbency, nervous signs and lameness.

Submit samples

Working with your vet to submit samples in this way is important, as respiratory disease usually presents as individual cases and accurate diagnosis is important to inform flock health planning for vaccinations and to ensure flock health status.

Post mortem examinations are cost effective and frequently the best way to determine the cause of death and disease and help to inform flock health plans.

Consult your vet to investigate losses, and find your nearest post mortem centre by using the APHA postcode search tool and carcase collection map at www.gov.uk/government/organisations/animal-and-plant-health-agency.

Healthy Hooves® Eco™

Solutions for Footbaths



Visit Us at
SHEEP

www.healthyhooves.eu

Tel 02475 090133

old mill
accountants and financial planners

Tax, Accountancy and
Financial Planning from the
heart of the West Country



www.oldmillgroup.co.uk

Exeter 01392 214635
Melksham 01225 701210

Wells 01749 343366
Yeovil 01935 426181



Premier Lamb Drench

Maximise livestock performance
with the best
Organically Chelated
trace element vitamin
supplement



Not all mineral drenches are the same

For more information contact

Jonathan Guy

T 01886 880482

M 07866 607466

E jganimalhealth@aol.com

W www.jganimalhealth.com

Exploiting grassland to produce more meat from the same area

Knowing that good grassland is like gold dust for sustainable livestock production, one young farmer has been mining nuggets of wisdom from colleagues in New Zealand on how to nurture every precious green blade on his mid-Wales farm.



Thomas Howells believes rotation grazing has the potential improve flock efficiency on his farm in Powys.

Thomas Howells of Llanerfyl, Welshpool, Powys, won a HHC scholarship in 2017 (in the 20th anniversary year of the award) to study technograzing in upland sheep systems in New Zealand. This is a system that uses bespoke electric fencing and water equipment to divide an area of land into precisely defined lanes. These are then subdivided into 'cells' to create a grazing rotation, the length of which can be quickly adjusted to suit requirements while maintaining access to water.

The trip has changed Thomas' working life and he recommends other Welsh farmers follow in his footsteps and take advantage of the 'fantastic opportunities' the HCC travel scholarship offers.

"I live on a family farm and I'm one of two brothers so there was always a bit of competition on who could help out the most," says Thomas. "But sometimes it's important to take a step back and ask yourself, 'Why am I doing it this way' and 'How can I improve?'"

"When I applied for the scholarship, I felt visiting New Zealand would be

beneficial to my education because of their pioneering work with the technograzing system."

After seeing it in action, he estimates the system can produce as much as 40% return on the same acreage by planning and using the land in a smarter fashion.

He says: "Here in Powys we have a 350-acre farm and there is no room to expand. Ground doesn't come up for rent or for sale very often, so it's difficult to increase flock size. That means it has to come down to improving efficiency with what we have here."

Efficient grazing

Thomas explains sheep farmers have to be patient: "Nothing happens overnight. Improving the sward and genetics takes years – decades even – but unless started nothing changes. To improve grassland production doesn't mean we all have to put a techno system in place but if we started to subdivide it would be a great step forward, as this allows you to start rotating the stock.

"A blade of grass is like a solar panel, catching every bit of energy from the sunlight. Three days after being grazed, the plant will try and grow back and grazing at this stage harms and reduces yields significantly. Water plays a huge role in grazing management. You have to make sure water isn't too far away as this will enable you to graze areas much more efficiently".

Looking into the New Zealand system, Thomas says livestock must be trained on to and build respect for the electric

fence to keep them in the grazing cell.

"If done incorrectly, they get out and you lose the intensity," he says. "Technograzing is all about building that pressure so that they graze the paddock clean."

He says a set stocked method of grazing can utilise up to 50% of grassland and on the techno system this could be boosted up to 80-90%. According to Thomas, taking the Kiwi mindset means thinking production per hectare not production per head.

Grazing plan

"We all now realise how important having a health plan with a vet is for the animals and for getting the best returns, but few people talk about having a grazing plan," he says. "It's as important in my view, as, if you have the nutrition right, then you have less problems with health. The best thing about technograzing is the next paddock they go in to graze is always fresh and we all know how much livestock appreciate fresh grass."

"Farmers in Wales and across the UK are working hard but not always efficiently. They could use smarter techniques, but that requires exposure to best practices that other farmers in other parts of the world have tried and tested."

Thomas Howells is now speaking at several events in order to disseminate and discuss his work on the use of technograzing in upland sheep systems. Details at www.hccmpw.org.uk/news_and_events.

HCC Grassland support

The 2018 Recommended Grass and Clover List (pictured) is now available as a result of a cross-industry venture co-funded by HCC and others.

The list is based on extensive field trials and highlights the characteristics of the best grasses on the market.

Download the Recommended Grass and Clover List at www.hccmpw.org.uk/publications/farming_and_industry_development/grassland_management



LET'S STAND TOGETHER AGAINST WORMS



CYDECTIN® Oral Solution for Sheep

The ONLY long acting sheep drench



TAKE YOUR STAND speak to your animal health adviser today.

Zoetis.co.uk/parassist

CYDECTIN® 0.1% Oral Solution for Sheep contains moxidectin POM-VPS. For further information, see the SPC or contact Zoetis UK Limited, Walton Oaks, Dorking Road, Tadworth, Surrey KT20 7NS. www.zoetis.co.uk. Customer Support: 0845 300 8034. Use medicines responsibly (www.noah.co.uk/responsible) Date of preparation: March 2018 AH213/18 MM-03240

Avoiding and treating common causes of poor liveweight gain

By Chris Bailey, Kingsway Veterinary Group
Maximising daily liveweight gain in lambs ensures effective and efficient production, potentially hitting the higher early season price and getting the most out of home-grown forage. However, there are many factors that can affect lamb growth rates and make this objective difficult to achieve.



Many factors affect when lambs are weaned, but ewes in poor body condition or lack of grass for lambs should prompt earlier action.

Lambs have a minimal daily feed requirement for maintenance; only once this requirement has been met can extra feed be used for growth. The longer a lamb is present on the farm the more opportunity it has to contract disease and more feed will be needed for maintenance. This results in more total feed being required throughout its life to achieve slaughter weight.

A New Zealand study shows the total amount of feed required for a lamb to grow from 24kg to 34kg (see table 1). It found lambs growing at 100g/day required nearly double the amount of feed and took an extra 67 days to reach the target weight when compared with lambs growing at 400g/day.

Early growth

During a lamb's first eight weeks of life the most important factor controlling growth on most farms is ewe milk supply. Ensuring ewes are in the correct body condition at lambing time (see table 2) and have received adequate nutrition throughout pregnancy will have a substantial effect on lamb birth weight and ewe milk yield.

Nutritional stress restricts mammary growth and development, depletes ewes' body reserves and reduces lamb birth weights. Ewes losing body condition in late pregnancy will be slower to reach peak milk yield, will not peak as high and will not maintain high yields for as long.

Poorly fed ewes produce poorer quality colostrum, making lambs more

susceptible to starvation and diseases. Milk production peaks two to three weeks post lambing then starts to decline, meaning ewes will produce 50% of their annual milk yield in the first four weeks post lambing. Diseases that affect ewes, such as mastitis, chronic fluke or lameness, will have a massive influence on the daily liveweight gain of young lambs.

Weaning

When lambs should be weaned will vary from farm to farm and from year to year. In an ideal scenario lambs would be weaned at 25kg+, but in practice this is often not possible. When to wean lambs should be determined by ewe body condition score, the availability of feed and lamb growth rates. Assessing ewe body condition scores at eight weeks post lambing is useful, with the aim of 90% of them being at target body condition score. If too many ewes are falling below this target weaning may need to be sooner to enable the ewes to recover before tupping time. It takes six to eight weeks for ewes on unrestricted

Table 2: Target ewe body condition scores

	Hill ewes	Upland ewes	Lowland ewes
At weaning	2	2	2.5
At tupping	2.5	3	3.5
Mid-pregnancy	2	2.5	3
At lambing	2	2.5	3

Source: ADBB Beef & Lamb

grazing to gain one unit of body condition score.

Eight weeks is also any important milestone for lambs, as up to this age they should be achieving a growth rate of at least 250g per day. This means a 4kg lamb at birth should be at least 18kg by eight weeks of age. If this is not being achieved it should be investigated.

Energy provision

For the first eight weeks of life the lamb receives more energy from its mother's milk than it does from pasture – but after eight weeks of age the lamb is in competition with the ewes for high quality grass. If grass is in plentiful supply this won't affect growth rates. However, if grass is limited the lambs' growth rates will suffer and, if rates drop to 200g a day, this should trigger weaning. If creep feed is being offered, lambs won't be competing with ewes for forage so growth rates shouldn't decline after eight weeks of age and weaning can be delayed.

Veterinary advice is that treatments, such as vaccines or wormers, should

Table 1: Feed requirements for lambs to reach 34kg liveweight

	Lamb growth rate (g/day) from 24-34kg			
	100g/day	200g/day	300g/day	400g/day
Feed requirement (kg DM/day)	1.2kg	1.5kg	1.9kg	2.4kg
Days to target weight of 34kg	100	50	33	25
Feed consumed (kg DM)	120kg	75kg	63kg	60kg
Conversion efficiency (kg DM / weight gain x 100)	8.3%	13.3%	15.8%	16.6%

Source: Geenty, New Zealand, 2000

Parasites affecting lamb DLWG

Coccidiosis

- **Symptoms:** Scouring with blood or mucus.
- **Prevention and treatment:** Avoiding grazing on high risk pastures that have had older lambs on. Anticoccidials can be used either as a drench or in feed.

Nematodirus battus

- **Symptoms:** Watery green diarrhoea that may contain blood and mucus. If not spotted and treated, dead lambs will be seen.
- **Prevention and treatment:** The best way to avoid nematodirus is to not graze young lambs on pasture that was grazed by young lambs the previous year. There is little resistance and so white wormers are normally effective.

Parasitic gastroenteritis

- **Symptoms:** Scour and poor daily liveweight gain.
- **Prevention and treatment:** Control must focus on trying to reduce pasture contamination, and strategic drenching of lambs with anthelmintics in line with SCOPS principles to slow the rate of anthelmintic resistance development. As with coccidiosis and Nematodirus battus, regular faecal egg counts are useful to get the correct diagnosis and help target control.



Worms burdens, mineral deficiencies, footrot, scab and pneumonia all need to be treated quickly to avoid checks to liveweight gain.

be given before weaning as stress can affect the immune response, especially to vaccines, making lambs more susceptible to disease. Ideally lambs should be weaned onto a pasture they know but out of sight and sound of the ewes. Once they have settled they can be moved to pasture with a known low worm burden.

Disease

Parasites can massively affect liveweight gain (see panel above) while the main mineral deficiencies that affect lamb growth rates in the UK are selenium and cobalt. Deficiencies are common and can make lambs more susceptible to other disease. Cobalt-deficient lambs are more susceptible to roundworms, and heavy roundworm infestation often leads to cobalt deficiency. Blood sampling lambs is an effective way to assess their mineral status to help guide what supplementation may be beneficial. Other common causes of uneven growth in lambs are footrot, scab and pneumonia and, if seen, should be quickly treated.

Weighing lambs and recording daily liveweight gains when possible are a good way to monitor how well lambs are growing. If the liveweight gains achieved are below targets it is worthwhile investigating, as the reasons can be wide and varied, from forage availability to management practices to disease processes.

ROXAN TagFaster

SUPPLEMENTING TAGGING MADE SIMPLE READING



BEFORE I USED ROXAN TAGFASTER I HAD NEVER TAGGED LAMBS FROM BIRTH. SINCE USING TAGFASTER I NOW HAVE THE CONFIDENCE TO DO SO IN FUTURE YEARS.

THE AUTOMATIC TAGGER IS QUICK, EASY TO USE AND DELIVERS TAGS IN SEQUENCE, WHICH SAVES ME TIME WHEN LAMBING OVER 1,000 EWES.

READ CHRIS PRICE'S FULL CASE STUDY AT WWW.ROXAN.CO.UK/TESTIMONIALS



Automatic Applicator
£34.95

Single EIDs
Slaughter Tags: 20 tags per strip
From £0.74 / Tag

TWINS
Breeding Tags: 10 pairs per strip
From £0.89 / Pair

The fully automatic sheep tag applicator!
A time saving and organised system ideal for single handed use on both large and small flocks.

www.ROXAN.co.uk
01750 724 110 sales@roxan.co.uk

Defined breeding objectives essential when selecting rams

By Emily Grant, Quality Meat Scotland

While the environment, health and management are all important aspects of flock performance, genetics is also a factor to be considered. Genetics underpins performance and sets the upper limit on the potential of your flock, and its profitability.



EBVs allow greater emphasis to be placed on economically viable traits that looks alone can't tell you.

The genetic potential you purchase with every ram will influence flock performance, as an average or below average ram can only pass on his average or below average genetics. If you have a self-replacing flock, his legacy is even more critical to your business. Its therefore important to invest in the best genetics you can afford and maximise the return on your investment.

When faced with a pen of rams, or a large sale with hundreds to select from, it is easy to become focussed on how a ram looks. A visual assessment is necessary to check he's fit for purpose, but you want to be sure your ram will give you that best return on your investment. While farmers have been selecting for improvement for generations, the availability of performance data via EBVs allows selection to continue but with an even greater emphasis on economically important traits that looks alone cannot tell you. EBVs give you more control over flock improvement and a view to future performance.

Breeding objectives

Having clearly defined breeding objectives can help make the ram buying decision easier. By identifying the traits you'd like to change or maintain, your breeding objectives help set where you want your flock to be and which traits you need to change the most. Using breeding objectives when choosing rams will help you make the best use of the genetics available to help change the traits you want. They will also help ensure you remain on track over time. The genetic value of a ram depends on how well his individual performance strengths fit your breeding objectives. This will help you avoid investing in a ram that won't add value to your business.

It is important to ensure your breeding objectives are focused on performance traits that drive flock profitability. Consider not only what generates your income, but also what costs you money or where you can become more efficient. Also think about the wider farm system; getting lambs away earlier by selecting for high growth rates may allow you to increase total farm output by releasing more pasture for ewes in the back end, either optimising scanning percentage or allowing more breeding ewes to be carried through the winter.

Selecting replacements

If you keep replacements you'll need to set objectives for both the ewe flock and the slaughter generation, because they have different profit drivers. You'll then need to match your objectives to EBVs available. Ewe productivity drives profitability; your flock may already scan at an acceptable level, but you might want to increase the number of lambs weaned. Assuming that health and ewe nutrition is good, using maternal ability, lambing ease, lamb birthweight and lamb vigour EBVs will all contribute to this ambition. For store or slaughter lambs, high growth rate is an economically important trait. Using eight-week weight, scan weight and faecal egg count EBVs will contribute to this aim.

It's important to set a good balance of objectives, and not

too many at once. The more you set the harder it will be to find a decent selection of rams to choose from. Prioritise the traits so you know where you can compromise a little if need be. This will help avoid paying too much for the apparent 'super ram' when the second-best ram may be better value.

Chasing a single trait can have a negative impact on other traits. An example would be selecting for high growth rates in a self-replacing flock, as this would result in heavier, less efficient ewes over time. A good balance in this case is to select for high growth rates and low mature ewe size.

Identifying cull ewes

Not only can your breeding objectives help you identify suitable rams, but you can use it to help identify cull ewes too. This will help boost the benefit of selecting for some traits as, for example, if one of your objectives is to raise scanning percentage, culling out empty ewes (rather than giving them a second chance) and buying high litter size EBVs will both help contribute to your objective.

Buying the right ram is important to your business. Invest in the best for your flock – and defining your breeding objectives can help you do this.

QMS will be holding EBV workshops across the country throughout the summer. Visit www.qmscotland.co.uk/events.

FARMPLUS *Constructions Ltd*
TIMBER BUILDING SPECIALISTS

Sheep Housing Sheep Troughs & Barriers Cow Housing



CALL NOW ON 01772 785252
www.farmplus.co.uk

WHY CHOOSE GOLD FLEECE DIP?



FOR PROTECTION FOR TREATMENT

GOLD FLEECE

For the prevention and treatment of blowfly strike, keds and lice in sheep by plunge dipping.



NO LICENCE TO DIP/DISPOSE OF USED DIP? NO PROBLEM.
Find your local mobile contract sheep dipper at www.sheepdippers.co.uk



For more information speak to your supplier or call Bimeda on 01248 725 400
www.bimeda.co.uk Noah.co.uk/responsible. Use Medicines Responsibly

Gold Fleece Sheep Dip contains 60% diazinon w/v. Gold Fleece sheep dip provides protection from reinfection where infestation is diagnosed and prevents members of the flock exposed from being infected. See packaging for safety information. Seek advice from a prescriber before using. Legal Category: POM-VPS. For full product details including contra-indications see the SPC which can be found on the VMD website. Date advert prepared: June 2018. Manufactured and marketed by Bimeda, Unit 2 Bryn Cefni Industrial Park, Llangefni, Anglesey LL77 7XA.

More action needed on flystrike

The National Farm Research Unit has released the results for a blowfly survey commissioned by Elanco Animal Health, based on responses from 150 British sheep farmers. The data reveals that despite strong consensus that preventative techniques are more effective than treatment (97%), there is still a high proportion of farms hit by strike each year (79%).

Despite nearly all respondents agreeing with the statement that prevention, not cure, was best for blowfly strike, only 51% of farms caught out by strike in the past said they had adjusted their system to incorporate treatment earlier in the year – leaving almost half at risk.

A significant number of farmers find the timeframe of blowfly season increasingly difficult to predict, with 96% caught out by strike in the last five years. Just over 88% of respondents said they believed the season had extended in recent years, with significant activity sometimes being seen as early as April.

Controllable factors

Fiona Lovatt, an independent sheep veterinary consultant at Flock Health, believes the low use of weather forecasts, soil temperature and air temperature (26%, 37% and 31% respectively) by survey respondents indicates a wider issue. She says: "A lot of farmers think strike isn't in their control because of bad weather or other circumstances, but they're unnecessarily putting limits on themselves. By asking what they can control, what improvements can be put in place, farmers have the power to make their protection far more robust."

Dr Lovatt also noted the cost on production and time by



Protecting lambs against strike.

blowfly strike: "Many farmers couldn't estimate the cost of blowfly strike according to the survey. Even those who could make a guess were often not including loss of production or cost of labour, despite 86% of farms experiencing a considerable loss of time due to strike. And arguably even more significant – both financially and in terms of welfare – is the effect on the future performance of an animal that has been hit."

More information on on-farm implementation of blowfly prevention from your vet or SQP.

Product News

Breed synchronisation

Zoetis has launched CIDR Ovis, a progesterone breeding device to synchronise oestrus and ovulation in sheep, and advance the breeding season. The company is marketing the device as having a unique 'T shape' with low levels of local irritation and, therefore, less discharge and removal issues. It contains natural progesterone instead of the synthetic fluorogestone acetate used in sponges, with improved results for fertility, pregnancy and twinning rates. Zoetis says CIDR Ovis is easy to use by a farmer or vet.

Grass and brash mower

Weaving Machinery has released a Blade 260 Offset Flail (pictured), which it says is specifically designed to be compatible, versatile and suitable for regular jobs such as cutting grass and medium size brash. The completely offset flail prevents the tractor from running over grass before mowing, to offer a consistent and clean cut. A hydraulic break back prevents breakage if the flail strikes an obstacle, and a centre pivot contours the ground. The rear tractor mounted flail needs 120hp to run and has a 260cm cutting width.



Solar energiser range

New technology has allowed Gallagher to market a solar powered electric fencing energiser capable of powering up to 30km with a relatively small solar panel weighing just 12kg. The solar panel is integrated into the device (pictured) and as it works on daylight, rather than direct sunlight, is reliable in all weather conditions. The energiser also has a battery management system that ensures the device slows down the pulse on the fence when there is less daylight, such as short winter days. This spares the battery while ensuring the fence is sufficiently powered at all times.



Plantain variety

Commonly used in New Zealand for its high yield and forage quality, Limagrain has tested the Tuatara plantain variety in the UK and made it commercially available. Ian Misselbrook of Limagrain UK says: "Tuatara is well-suited to drier conditions and this was reflected in trials. We found yields of Tuatara were up to three times greater than Tonic in May and June. Although yields of Tonic were around 20% higher later in the season, yields overall for Tuatara were higher." More at www.lgseeds.co.uk/news/chicory-and-plantain-fight-the-drought.

New multipacks

Burgon & Ball has made its shearing combs and cutters available in a multipack. The new packs contain 76mm, 93mm and 96mm combs with the intention of there being one for every type of job and level of shearing experience. Packs available from country stores and online at www.burgonandball.com.

BELTEX
T: 015395 67973 www.beltex.co.uk

Blackface Sheep Breeders' Association
Information on the breed and sale dates available on our web site or from:-
Aileen McFadzean, Tel/Fax: 01738 634018
Email aileen@scottish-blackface.co.uk
www.scottish-blackface.co.uk

Be the smarter investor, use a Border Leicester
See what it can do for your flock!
It's as easy as ABC...
Added conformation
Built to last
Society of Border Leicester Sheep Breeders
Contact: Katie Kelley, Secretary 01556 660155, 07920 855440
www.borderleicester.co.uk

CHAROLLAIS for 2018
FAST GROWTH TO MARKET SPECIFICATION
EASY LAMBING
FIT FOR PURPOSE WITH IMPROVED HARDINESS
www.charollaisheep.com
01953 603335
office@charollaisheep.com

British Berrichon The HARDY, EASY LAMBING, EASY CARE sheep
Contact Sue Powell for information
01989 770071 / 07974 360807
berrichon@btconnect.com
www.berrichonsociety.com

Bluefaced Leicesters
Sire Of The UK Mule
Tel - 01228 598022
www.ukmules.co.uk
www.blueleicester.co.uk

Cambridge
Now providing genotyped rams of known prolificacy potential
Details from Alun Davies
Cambridge Sheep Society Secretary
01513 275699
alundavies392@btinternet.com
www.cambridge-sheep.org.uk

Charmoise Hill Sheep
• HARDY Hill Sheep
• Add SHAPE to your prime lambs
• EASY Lambing
• Terminal Sire suitable for tupping EWE LAMBS
Please contact David Trow Tel: 01686 688234
www.charmoisesheep.co.uk

SHEEP BREEDERS' POLL DORSET HORN ASSOCIATION Est. 1892
strength in versatility
Tel: 01305 262126
e-mail: dorsetsheep@xlnmail.com
www.dorsetsheep.org.uk

DORSET DOWN
Fast finishing lambs off grass
ANNUAL BREED SALE
Flock book registered breeding females and rams
Saturday 30th June 2018 12 noon
Langley's Lane, Whitchurch Farm, Ston Easton, Radstock, Somerset, BA3 4DN
Catalogues from the Dorset Down Sheep Breeders' Association
www.dorsetdownsheep.org.uk
secretary@dorsetdownsheep.org.uk
01579 320273

EXLANA SIG
Less work and more profit
The fully performance recorded woolshedding breed, selected for resistance to worms.
Tel 01985 845063 / 01647 252549
www.sig.uk.com

EASY CARE
LOW MAINTENANCE
NO SHEARING
EXCELLENT MOTHERS
HARDY
Take the stress out of shepherding
www.easycareheep.com
info@easycareheep.com

ILE DE FRANCE
The breed to meat your grades For 3Ls
use an Ile de France Lean, Liveweight and Lively lambs
Secretary Edward Adamson 07711 071290
www.iledefrancesheep.com

HAMPSHIRE DOWN
The UK native terminal sire for naturally fast finishing lambs off forage
Contact Janet Hill on 01700 831652
janet@hampshiredown.org.uk
www.hampshiredown.org.uk

LLEYN Sheep Society
Secretary 01758 730366
Promotions Officer 079666 99930
promotions@lleynsheep.com

Meatline
THE RAM FOR QUALITY LAMB
For details of your local breeders call Tel: 01904 448675
www.meatline.co.uk

NEMSA: North of England Mule Sheep Association
SIMPLY THE BEST!
The success of the North of England Mule has assured its place through the country's leading commercial flocks. Why have mutton when you can lamb?
www.nemsa.co.uk
Details from Marion Hope 01387 371777
nemsa@btinternet.com

MANX LOAGHTAN
Low input producer of gourmet quality lamb and mutton
Fine, naturally coloured wool
Ideal conservation grazer
Breed Secretary, Kim Everett, 01580 852691
www.manxloaghtansheep.org

NORTH COUNTRY CHEVIOT
The ideal crossing sire for all hill ewes
The ideal ewe for producing mules and half-breeds
Profit from Quality Store Lambs
Visit www.nc-cheviot.co.uk
Contact 07834817710 or secretary@nc-cheviot.co.uk

Southdown
Great on ewe lambs
Details from the secretary Mrs Gail Sprake 01986 782251
secretary@southdownsheepsociety.co.uk
www.southdownsheepsociety.co.uk
The breed that makes ends meet

BRITISH ROUGE SHEEP
The easy lambing terminal sire producing quick growing lambs with excellent meat to bone ratio
Secretary: Patricia Imlah secretary@rouge-society.co.uk 01651 862920 07803 897419
www.rouge-society.co.uk

suffolksheep.org
The leading domestic Terminal Sire Breed
enquiries@suffolksheep.org
028 2563 2342

SWALEDALE SHEEP BREEDERS ASSOCIATION
England's Premier Hill Breed. Ewes are supreme for breeding Mule Lambs.
Rams are ideal for crossing with other Hill Breeds for increased lamb production on the hill.
Secretary: John Stephenson Barnley View, Town Head, Eggleston, Barnard Castle, Co. Durham DL12 0DE
Tel: 01833 650516

THE BRITISH VENDÉEN SHEEP SOCIETY
Vendéen
www.vendeen.co.uk
'Make both ends meet with the modern Vendéen'
For more information contact the Secretary on 07950 256304 or info@vendeen.co.uk

SHROPSHIRE SHEEP
Traditional, Diverse & Productive "Tree Friendly"
Show & Sales 2018: Sun 29th Jul
Shrewsbury Livestock Market Fri 7th & Sat 8th Sep
Melton Mowbray Livestock Market
www.shropshire-sheep.co.uk
Sales Officer, Claire Jakeman on 07766 238346

George Mudges Shearing
New and second hand mains and 12V machines.
Full range of spares.
All requisites for shearers.
NZ Super Crook for only £25
Contact 01822 615456 or info@georgemudgeshearing.co.uk
www.georgemudgeshearing.co.uk

Suffolk and Texel Rams
Performance recorded - Grass fed
Selling 'Genetics not Cosmetics'
All stock sold direct from farm.
Peter Baber 01647 252549
Visit: www.baber.co.uk

PERFORMANCE LLEYNS
WWW.PERFORMANCELLEYNS.CO.UK
PEREGRINE AUBREY 07970 773840
THE UK'S LEADING COMMERCIAL, DUAL PURPOSE LLEYNS FLOCK SELECTING RUTHLESSLY FOR PERFORMANCE AND POSITIVE FUNCTIONAL TRAITS

World class shearer says quality and quantity of training is key

Skilled British shearers are recognised and sought after around the world – something that has inspired 23-year-old Lloyd Rees and presented many opportunities.



As well as running 550 breeding females with his parents at Tynewydd Farm, Brecon, Powys, he shears throughout the UK and New Zealand and competes at a high level. His top achievements to date include winning the Royal Welsh Intermediate Championship in 2014 and the Seniors Championship in 2016, following by gaining a place on the Welsh Development Team.

Lloyd credits both his grandfathers, his father and his uncles for his passion, having seen them shear from a young age. But he believes training has played a huge role in improving his skills and allowing him to follow his dream of making shearing a profession. He attended his first British Wool training course at 16, securing his Blue Seal, and has progressed through numerous courses since.

“Every course has taught me something and I think it’s important to continue training to improve your technique and understanding,” he says. “If you want to be a good at shearing your own sheep, attend a course so you can learn to shear in a basic fashion. If you want to compete, it’s vital you improve and develop skills and speed.”

Open mind

“Go with an open mind, as often people may just take advice from family members. My grandfather was a British Wool instructor and things have changed dramatically, so whatever advice you receive, your instructors will know more.”

“Complete as many courses as you can, as you can always learn. At the moment I am really interested to learn more about wool handling on farm and how that can benefit the farmer financially. I think this need for a broader understanding is now widely accepted and it’s good to see courses adapting to modern requirements.”

“Training also gives you access to industry professionals. When I was in the intermediate and senior grades I was helped by Tom Wilson, the former world individual and team shearing champion. What a privilege to have his wisdom and advice for my development.”

Lloyd credits travel for gaining valuable experience in shearing techniques, saying he was ‘heartbroken’ when he got to New Zealand in 2012 and only managed 96 sheep in a day compared to his normal 250. Realising he’d have to change his technique for sheep carrying more wool, he gained renewed determination to improve and got his numbers up to 300 a day



Young shearer Lloyd Rees.

by the end of the season.

He now shears 33,500 sheep in NZ and 10,000 in the UK each year, an impressive 601 lambs in a nine-hour day in Nonoriri, North Island, last year.

“That was an incredible day and a personal highlight in my career so far,” he says. “It’s great that I have a career in the industry I love. I could never have imagined the experiences it would offer me. Shearing in the World Championship is my ultimate goal – but I know there’s some fierce competition out there so will need to focus my efforts and hope I can earn my place.”

BRITISH WOOL PAYS MORE FOR YOUR WOOL



*Net value after all operating costs deducted and excluding VAT. Based on auction sales as at Spring 2018.

To find out more call us on **01274 688666** or visit our website at **britishwool.org.uk**

Together we're growing something special.



Business spotlight for Ambassadors

In their second of five delivery sessions in 2018, this year’s intake of NSA Next Generation Ambassadors spent two days in mid-Wales with some very generous on-farm hosts.

Up to 12 individuals are selected each year to take part in the NSA Ambassador programme to expand their sheep husbandry and business knowledge for the benefit of their own flocks/careers, while also being inspired and equipped to positively represent the sheep sector. This two-fold approach was very much in evidence at the second session.

Delivery focus

The first day focused on promotion of sheep farming and getting the public on board through events and social media activity, as well as promoting lamb to consumers through direct sales and initiatives such as Love Lamb Week. Will Evans showed the group around his farm near Wrexham, Powys, and talked about his voluntary work to produce the ‘Rock & Roll’ farming podcast. This passion for promoting agriculture online was shared by Hannah Jackson, an NSA Next Generation Ambassador from 2016, who shared her top Twitter tips. Another Ambassador from the same intake, Richard Taylor, talked about his successes in marketing lamb boxes and spit roasts for special occasions.



The second day looked at business planning and benchmarking, with Marc Jones opening up his farm at Welshpool, Powys, to show his business approach and close attention to costings. His enthusiasm for



Marc Jones (far right) spent the day with the NSA Next Generation Ambassador group.

grassland was evident, which worked well with the opportunity for the Ambassadors to also spend time with sheep consultant Lesley Stubbings to understand the SCOPS’ sustainable parasite control principles.

Joanne Briggs puts the programme together for NSA. She reports “The two fantastic farm walks with Will and Marc had very different focuses but both concluded with the same message – that successful businesses need to rapidly adapt to change and not stick with the same ventures or methods just because they always have. This positive attitude to change, and the need to think about the world beyond the farm gate, gave the Ambassadors a lot of go home and think about implementing.”

More from the Ambassadors on page 44.

Next Generation focus at Sheep ‘18

Younger people attending NSA Sheep 2018 on Wednesday 18th July in Worcestershire are invited to find out more about NSA Next Generation.

The NSA Next Generation programme is committed to supporting the sheep farmers of the future, offering guidance and support to young people with a passion to succeed. Whether you’re a new entrant or from generations of producers before you, the programme provides opportunities, support and information.

Workshops

Come to the NSA stand at the event to find out more, and meet with NSA Next Generation Ambassadors who are spending the day at the event and taking turns to be on the stand. Don’t miss the NSA Next Generation workshops, focusing this year on the role of employed shepherds. Find them in Workshop Area A at 9.45am, repeated at 12.35pm.

Another exciting feature of NSA Sheep 2018 is the national final of the NSA Next Generation Shepherd competition. Two finalists from each of the nine NSA regions around the UK will come together



Richard Carter won the NSA Next Generation Shepherd title in 2016. Who will it be this year?

to compete for this prestigious title.

Testing practical skills such as shearing and ATV handling alongside knowledge of sheep health and lamb selection, the final of the competition will take place throughout the day with the successful winners awarded their prizes from a prize pot of £2,000 by NSA Chief Executive Phil Stocker. The competition will also include a mystery challenge testing the young

NSA Next Generation Shepherd Finalists

- **NSA Central Region:** Will Leese and Harley Turner
- **NSA Cymru/Wales Region:** Dafydd Davies and Tomos Owen
- **NSA Eastern Region:** Robert Spink and Ryan O Sullivan
- **NSA Marches Region:** Sarah Dunn and Rollo Deutsch
- **NSA Northern Region:** Matthew Emmott and Rob Walker
- **NSA Northern Ireland Region:** Iain Wilson and Mark Hamilton
- **NSA Scottish Region:** Ryan MacLean and Kelly Blackwood
- **NSA South East Region:** Samuel Hewett and Emily Killick
- **NSA South West Region:** James Westcott and Sam Edwards

shepherds’ skills and knowledge of a topical subject currently affecting the UK sheep sector.

Visit www.nsanextgeneration.org.uk for more information, and find details of NSA Sheep 2018 on pages 12-13 and at www.sheevent.org.uk.

Next Generation Ambassadors share their views on the sector

Once a month the NSA Next Generation Ambassadors take a pause from busy schedules to answer a few quick questions about their sheep flocks and the wide sector. Read a selection here, and the full array at www.nsanextgeneration.org.uk.

Q. How is your 2018 lamb crop performing so far?

Sion Morgan, Scottish Borders. The lamb crop so far is looking very good. The sun and grass growth has just come in time for us so we are happy we didn't lamb earlier in the year.

Rollo Deutsch, Gloucestershire. My April-born lambs are performing the best, as those born in March have only just recovered from the terrible weather. I lost a lot of March-born lambs from hyperthermia in the first two to three weeks and then, when the weather did warm up, a few got pasteurilla. I'm sure I'm not alone in still feeling the effects from the bad winter.

Ollie Brayne, Derbyshire. Apart from a few problems with joint ill, this year's lambs seem to be doing well.

Q. What one fact would you could give the general public about sheep farming?

David McMullan, County Antrim. We are in the business of keeping everything as healthy as possible for as long as possible. Welfare standards are incredibly high in the UK sheep industry and I just don't think people realise how many hoops we jump through to produce a consistent and saleable product.

Richard Rossiter, Devon. Sheep help to create the open spaces and look after the countryside and keep it the way it looks today. The public doesn't realise the work farmers do to look after moorland and hills.

Lauren Bird, Oxfordshire. It's tricky to choose just one, but probably to realise how much work goes into producing meat and how often the odds are stacked against us.

Q. How do you feel about Defra's 'Health and Harmony' consultation on post-Brexit agricultural support being all about environment and welfare rather than food?

Joe Emmett, Norfolk. It's definitely the new reality we have to accept. I'm all for it, as it will stop farmers/landlords sitting on large blocks of land and doing nothing with them.



NSA Ambassadors. From top left to bottom right, Lauren Bird, Ollie Brayne, Tom Chapman, Bleddyn Davies, Rollo Deutsch, Joe Emmett, Kirree Kermode, David McMullan, Sion Morgan, Richard Rossiter, Catherine Sanderson, Zoey Symington.

Tom Chapman, Staffordshire. I think the future is a balance between helping the environment and maximising food production. I think the two must look after each other, as they used to in the past, but with new technology to make things more efficient.

Zoey Symington, Shetland. It doesn't make me feel very encouraged about farming in the future. I'm concerned what the outcome may be – but we need more detail before passing judgement.

Q. If you'd been invited to the royal wedding, what gift would you have given Prince Harry and Meghan Markle?

Catherine Sanderson, North Yorkshire. A British lamb hamper to show Meghan what she was missing out on in the USA.

Bleddyn Davies, Ceredigion. Woollen jumpers and scarves. It would definitely bring wool back into fashion and make British Wool trendy again.

Kirree Kermode, Isle of Man. A breeding pair of native Manx Loaghtan sheep, with the ram having the biggest four horns possible – a fierce-looking beast!

Q. What job do you really need to get done but can't find the time for?

Rollo. I'm contract shearing at the moment, but there's a hundred and one jobs that need doing at home, such as spraying those damn thistles and nettles.

Catherine. I have a list of indoor jobs but they'll have to wait till it's less sunny. At the moment I'm busy over-seeding our pollinator ley with more red clover to meet the stewardship scheme specifications.

Richard. I'm getting things ready to export some sheep export, but need chance to catch up with the paperwork.

Bleddyn. Everything! There never seems to be enough hours in a day or days in a week. But at least now the green stuff is finally growing the lambs have reacted similarly.



Pioneering solutions in animal health

Tracesure[®] LAMB FINISHER

Cobalt

Iodine

Selenium

BOLUS LAMBS PRE-WEANING to finish quicker and save on feeding costs

- ✓ Lasts for up to 5 months
- ✓ Maintains post-weaning vitality and growth
- ✓ Can be used from 20kg
- ✓ Available with and without copper



ANIMAX
veterinary technology

+44 (0)1359 252 181
www.animax-vet.com

f Animax Limited



MAYO HEALTHCARE
Enhancing Animal Health

COBALT 12 GUARD HIGH MICRO LAMB BOLUS

Cobalt 12 Guard High is a slow release multi-trace element and vitamin bolus providing cover for up to 8 weeks. Ideal for giving to growing/finishing lambs from just 4 weeks of age.

- ✓ Chelated Cobalt
- ✓ Selenium
- ✓ Iodine
- ✓ Copper (optional)
- ✓ Vitamin B12
- ✓ Vitamin B1
- ✓ Vitamin E
- ✓ Vitamin D3
- ✓ Vitamin A



FOR GROWTH AND FINISHING

MAYO HEALTHCARE
Enhancing Animal Health

ALL GUARD

LAMB

4 in 1 BOLUS

UP TO 6 MONTHS COVER

EACH BOLUS CONTAINS

- ✓ Cobalt
- ✓ Selenium
- ✓ Iodine
- ✓ Zinc
- ✓ Copper can also be added



FOR GROWTH AND FINISHING



MAYO HEALTHCARE
Enhancing Animal Health

ALL GUARD

EWE 5 in 1 BOLUS

EACH BOLUS CONTAINS

- ✓ Cobalt
- ✓ Selenium
- ✓ Iodine
- ✓ Zinc
- ✓ Copper (also available without Copper for breeds susceptible to Copper toxicity)

UP TO 6 MONTHS COVER



MAYO HEALTHCARE
Enhancing Animal Health



THE 'ROCKET-FUEL' DRENCH FOR SHEEP & CATTLE!

A super-concentrated, high-specification multi-vitamin and chelated trace element supplement to help maintain micronutrient balance that affects growth and immunity in sheep and cattle.

£85

Specification per Litre:

- ✓ Cobalt
- ✓ Selenium
- ✓ Iodine
- ✓ Zinc
- ✓ Copper (optional)
- ✓ Vitamin B1
- ✓ Vitamin B12
- ✓ Vitamin A
- ✓ Vitamin E
- ✓ Vitamin D3

Base: Propylene Glycol

Lambs up to 3 months: 2ml
Lambs 3 to 6 months: 3-5ml
Mature Sheep: 5ml

Cattle up to 1 month: 5ml
Yearlings: 10ml
Mature Cattle: 15ml



Lambs doses from just 5.6p
Ewe doses from just 14p

Calving doses from just 14p
Cow doses from just 42p

OFFER

2 x 2.5L for £140

For more information contact Pearce Hughes:

01978 799 774

07866 772 478

info@mayohealthcare.co.uk

www.mayohealthcare.co.uk