

# 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](http://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.



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