

AUGUST 2013

At this year's sales, ewe lambs will be tagged with a yellow electronic tag in the left ear and a

PURPLE

coloured tag in the right ear

**2013 SALE DATES:
WELSHPOOL:**

- Wednesday, 11th September (Ewes)
- Thursday, 12th September (Ewe Lambs)
- Thursday 10th October (Ewes & Ewe Lambs)

BUILTH WELLS:

- Friday, 13th September (Ewes & Ewe Lambs)
- Tuesday, 15th October (Ewes & Ewe Lambs)

RUTHIN:

- Saturday, 14th September (Ewes & Ewe Lambs)

Welsh Mules Sheep Breeders Association Newsletter

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Good entry for our September sales

The association's 2013 sales will get on their way on 11th September at Welshpool with a sale of **9,000 yearling ewes** that will provide buyers with an excellent choice of breeding ewes of exceptional quality. The yearling ewe sale at Welshpool traditionally kicks off the Welsh Mule sale week and is often a bell-weather of what is to follow.

7,000 ewe lambs have

been entered for sale on the following day at Welshpool while **11,700 sheep** will be offered for sale on Friday, 13th September at Builth Wells and **7,700 of them will be ewe lambs**.

The final sale of the week will be held at Ruthin on Saturday 14th September where **3,000 yearlings and 3,500 ewe lambs** will go under the hammer.

If any buyers wish to discuss

their particular requirements then please do not hesitate to contact the association's Field Officer, Marcus Williams or our official auctioneers, all of whose contact details can be found overleaf.

Please also find overleaf the association's revised conditions of sale entry.

We look forward to seeing you at our sales. You'll be very welcome

Introducing 'Performance' Welsh Mules in 2014

Next year, the association will be offering for sale 'Performance' Welsh Mule ewes, ewes that will be identified as having been sired by above-average, performance recorded Blue-faced Leicester Rams. It's been made clear at this

year's shows and demonstrations that a number of farmers, especially younger ones, wish to buy stock that are accompanied by recorded performance indicators. The executive committee have therefore agreed to try and meet those aspirations

by offering 'Performance' Welsh Mules for sale from 2014.

Interested buyers will be provided with information on ewes that have been sired by high performing,

Continued Overleaf

2013 Sale Entries:

Welshpool: **9,000** yearlings

& **7,000** ewe lambs

Builth Wells: **4,000** yearlings

& **7,700** ewe lambs

Ruthin: **3,000** yearlings & **3,500** ewe

* Rule Change for Ewe Lamb Competitions:

This year's classes for the ewe lamb competitions have been changed. There will be one class for coloured-faced ewes lambs and another one for white-faced ewe lambs with the champion selected from the two class winners

Please remember to submit your entries by 9.00am on the day of sale.

'Performance' Welsh Mules in 2014 (continued from page 1)

rams resulting in ewes that benefit from the maximum amount of hybrid vigour. The crossing of the recorded Blue-faced Leicester Rams with the Beulah Speckle-face, the Welsh Hill Speckled-face or Welsh Mountain breed is a proven method of maximising the benefits of hybrid vigour to produce Welsh Mules of real quality for the farmers that are capable of delivering superior finished lamb.

In 2014, Welsh Mule breeders will be able to market their Welsh Mule ewe lambs as 'Performance' Welsh Mules if the rams that they will use this autumn meet a few specific qualifying criteria.

Welsh Mule breeders will need to purchase rams that will be sold through the Blue-faced Leicester Association sales as having an above-average index of performance as recorded by Blue-faced Leicester breeders.

In this year's ram sales, Blue-faced

Leicester Rams with an index of 98 and above will be marked as a 'Qualifying' ram to produce Performance Welsh Mules in the sale catalogues: this status will remain with the ram for its lifetime.

Each Mule breeder can contact the Blue-faced Leicester Association for a certificate which highlights the identity of the Qualifying Ram or rams to be used. These certificates can then be displayed on the pens at the Welsh Mule sales. Pens of 'Performance' Welsh Mules will be identified in sale catalogues and on the pens themselves on sale days.

All 'Performance' Welsh Mules in any one pen must be sired by a Blue-faced Leicester with an index in the top 50% on the year of purchase, according to Signet performance recorded data. This data is also available on the BASCO website.

All 'Performance' Welsh Mules will be identified by the initials 'PM' on their ear

tags in a similar way as the Blue-faced Leicester Sheep Society use the initial 'L'. Breeders will need to contact their tag supplier to produce appropriate tags for 2014 born Performance Mule ewe lambs.

The Welsh Mule Sheep Breeders Association and Blue-faced Leicester Association will work together as this initiative develops.

REMEMBER!
THE CLOSING DATE FOR ENTRIES FOR THE TWO OCTOBER SALES IS:
MONDAY,
16TH SEPTEMBER

New Conditions of Sale Entry

"The association has been advised to update its sale entry conditions to bring them in line with best practice"

- "The Association is not a party to any contract to purchase animals at the sale. The Association accepts no liability whatsoever for any loss arising from the sale of sheep in the Association's official sales.
- Whilst the Association makes available to intending and actual purchasers the services of its Field Officer, the Association does not accept liability for any advice, omission, opinion or inspection undertaken by the officially appointed Panel of Inspectors or the Association's Field Officer either prior, during or after the sale. It is for the Vendor and the Purchaser to satisfy themselves as to the quality of the livestock in the auction.
- Whilst the Association endeavours to ensure the quality of sheep presented in the official sales and arranges for all sheep on offer to be inspected by an approved Panel of Inspectors the Association makes or gives no warranty in relation to the sheep presented for sale and the Association does not accept any liability whatsoever for any issue that may arise in relation to the quality or health of the animals presented for sale.
- Whilst the Association will use its best endeavours to ensure the quality and health of the livestock on offer for sale, the Association and its Officers accept no liability, howsoever arising, to either Purchasers or Vendors for any injuries or illness suffered by livestock entered into the sale. It is the Vendors obligation to ensure that all livestock entered is suitable for the sale and in compliance with the conditions of entry.
- If the parties are unable to agree upon the determination of any sum or monetary obligation due from one party to the other in connection with this agreement or in relation to any other dispute relating to livestock sold or purchased at the auction, the buyer and the seller agree that the dispute or difference shall be settled by an expert to be appointed by agreement between the parties or, in default of agreement, by the Association, such person to act as expert and not as arbitrator and his decision to be binding on the parties."



YOUR CONTACTS WITH THE WELSH MULES

The association's Field Officer, Marcus Williams is on hand to help both vendors and buyers and can be contacted on 07768 816919.

The association's official auctioneers

For the Welshpool sale:

Welshpool Livestock Sales; Buttington Cross, Welshpool, SY21 8SR
(01938) 553438

For the Builth Wells sale:

Brightwells; 33 High Street, Builth Wells, LD2 3DL (01982) 553614

For the Ruthin sale:

Vale of Clwyd Livestock Market; Plas Glastir, Ruthin LL15 1PB(01824) 702025 & Jones Peckover; 1 The Roe, St Asaph, (01745) 583260