

JANUARY 2016

The AGM of members of the association is to be held on Wednesday, 3rd February 2016 at 7.30pm at the offices of Welshpool Livestock Sales, Buttington Cross, Welshpool

2016 SALE DATES:

WELSHPOOL:

- Wednesday, 7th September (Ewes)
- Thursday, 8th September (Ewe Lambs)
- Thursday 6th October (Ewes & Ewe Lambs)

BUILTH WELLS:

- Friday, 9th September (Ewes & Ewe Lambs)
- Tuesday, 11th October (Ewes & Ewe Lambs)

RUTHIN:

- Saturday, 10th September (Ewes & Ewe Lambs)

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Welsh Mules Sheep Breeders Association Newsletter

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Review of the last year

Prices eased back from 2014 levels at the 2015 September sales but vendors were generally pleased with steady demand, especially for the better ewes with many commenting that prices had not fallen by as much as might have been anticipated by the poor returns for finished lamb. 'Performance' Welsh Mules, ewes that are the progeny of performance recorded Blue-faced Leicester rams, were also available for sale for the second year running.

Yearling ewe prices at the first sale in Welshpool averaged £134, down £4 on 2014 with H&E Powell, Llwyngwilym, Rhayader obtaining the best price of £170 for a pen sold to DJ Lloyd & Co, Cefnbarrach, Trefeglwys. Ewe lambs averaged £95, down by £3 on 2014, with G & A Powell, Glanmiheli, Kerry obtaining the highest price of £188 from H&E Powell, Llwyngwilym, Rhayader for their ewe lambs. D Williams, No 1, Carnedd, Caersws won the cup for the best entry of ewe lambs with a pen of 'Performance' white-faced Welsh Mules.

H & E Powell, Llwyngwilym, Rhayader obtained the best price for yearlings at Builth Wells as well with a pen selling for £214, bought by G Price, Parc y Deri, Llanilar. Yearling ewe prices averaged £136, down £10 on the previous year. RG & BM Jones & Son, Ty Mawr, Garth, Builth Wells achieved the best price of £152 for a pen of ewe lambs sold to H & E Powell,

Llwyngwilym, Rhayader. The ewe lambs averaged £93, down £6 with the winner of the competition for the best entry of ewe lambs being TW Price, Tyrosser, Llanafan. Wyn Jones Maes-y-deri, Llandeilo was awarded the Elwyn Bennett Cup for the best total consignment of lambs in the sale.

The sale at Ruthin was more challenging with yearlings selling for an average of £113, down £13, with Gareth Jones, Ty Nant, Eglwysbach achieving the highest price of £145 for a pen sold to RG Owen & CO, Foel Gadeiriau, while RD & CE Davies, Ty Canol, Llanfair TH won the Keith Evans Memorial Cup for the best pen of yearling ewes entered. Ewe lambs were down £5 on the previous year at £76 with three vendors, G Jones, Ty Nant, Eglwysbach, G Davies, Penrallt, Nant y Rhiw and M&G Parry, Orsedd Fawr, Pencaenewydd obtaining the best return of £104 for pens sold to I H Morris & Son Penrheol, Tregeiriog; R Lloyd Evans, Fron, Cyffylliog and DI Roberts & Son, Stingwern, Brooks respectively. G Davies, Penrallt, Nant y Rhiw, Llanrwst won the ewe lamb competition.

The October sales saw yearlings ease back to £116 at Welshpool and £113 at Builth while ewe lambs averaged £82 in Welshpool and £84 in Builth.

D Williams, No 1, Carnedd, Caersws obtained the highest price of £158 for yearlings at Welshpool for a pen sold to A

Jones, Little Croft, Main Street, Leicestershire with G Price, Hafod, Llaithddu topping the ewe lamb prices at £117 for sheep purchased by H Rogers, Lower Dolfawr, Churchstoke.

At Builth Wells, the top price for yearlings was £130 paid by Mr Nixon, The Willows, Cwmbach, for a pen from WH Evans & Son, Nant y Gwared, Penycae while the top price for ewe lambs was £122 for a pen sold by RG & BM Jones & Son, Ty mawr, Garth to Mr Williams, Broadaxe, Prestigne. The Jones family also won the Vernon Wilson Memorial Cup for the best pen of ewe lambs at the sale.

Association chairman. Kevin Parry was generally pleased with the 2015 sales. "Congratulations to the vendors for the high quality of ewes on offer" he said. "I'm confident that they'll be able to maintain

Dilwyn Davies, Ty Canol, Llanfair TH was presented with the Keith Evans Memorial Cup for the best entry of yearling ewes at Ruthin by Rita Evans supported by association chairman, Kevin Parry



TAGGING SEQUENCE

The association's executive committee has agreed the following sequence of tag colours for the next seven years. The NSA has been informed as well so that hopefully other societies might want to adopt the same sequence.

2016	ORANGE
2017	WHITE
2018	PINK
2019	BROWN
2020	PURPLE
2021	GREEN
2022	BLUE

A change to the practice adopted in the past became necessary after yellow became the compulsory colour for electronic tags

Last year's sale results in detail

Welshpool	2015	2014
	Av Price	Av Price
September:		
Yearlings	133.77	137.94
Ewe lambs	95.15	98.17
October:		
Yearlings	115.99	131.17
Ewe lambs	82.15	84.17
Builth Wells		
September:		
Yearlings	136.19	146.79
Ewe lambs	92.75	99.13
October:		
Yearlings:	112.89	140.80
Ewe lambs	83.65	83.88
Ruthin		
Yearlings	112.72	126.34
Ewe lambs	76.27	81.43

Winning double for Maesyderi

Wyn Jones, Maesyderi, Llandeilo had more than one reason to celebrate in 2015. He won the inaugural Elwyn Bennett Memorial Cup at the Builth October sale for the best total consignment of ewe lambs on the day and received the cup from Elwyn's son, Stephen with judge John Roberts, Stingwern, Brooks and Stephen's son, Huw looking on.

Wyn had also won the Welsh Mule championship in the Royal Welsh in July with his ewe lamb that was also reserve inter-breed champion as well



Changes to sheep identification rules from January 2016

Identifying lambs for slaughter

From 1 January 2016, the non EID slaughter tag will not be permitted to identify lambs for slaughter. Lambs identified from this date onwards must be electronically tagged either with a single electronic slaughter tag (if going to slaughter within 12 months of age) or full EID (1 electronic tag and a matching non electronic tag). • You must have used up or disposed of any non EID slaughter tags by this date. • Lambs identified with a non EID slaughter tag prior to 1 January 2016 can continue to move with this identifier until they are deemed to be 12 months old.

There are 2 tagging options since 1 January 2016:

1 Full EID tag displaying the country code 'UK' plus the 6 digit flock number (preceded by a zero) + a five digit animal number.

Full EID can be used in: (1) Lambs kept beyond 12 months of age for breeding purposes. (2) Store/finished hoggets intended for slaughter but kept beyond 12 months of age. (3) Lambs intended for live export.

2 Electronic Slaughter tag displaying the country code 'UK' plus the flock/herd mark of the holding where the tag was applied.

Electronic slaughter tag can be used in: (1) Lambs intended to be slaughtered in an UK abattoir prior to reaching 12 months of age.

Some markets/abattoirs may have made commercial decisions to only accept electronically identified lambs/sheep. Keepers are advised to check if lambs identified before 1 January 2016 with the non-EID tags are acceptable to these markets/abattoirs.

Frequently Asked Questions:

Q. Will I be able to insert non EID slaughter tags from 1 January 2016?

A. No. Non EID slaughter tags will no longer be a tagging option from 1 January 2016. All lambs identified from 1 January 2016 must be identified with either Full EID or a Single EID Slaughter Tag (if they are being slaughtered before 12 months of age).

Q. If I have identified lambs with a conventional non EID slaughter tag before 1 January 2016, do I need to re-tag the lamb with an EID slaughter tag before moving off holding of birth?

A. No. Lambs identified with a non-electronic (conventional) slaughter tag prior to 1 January 2016 can continue to move with this identifier until they are 12 months old. This includes movements into England and Scotland.

Q. How do I dispose of my non EID slaughter tags if they are no longer a tagging option come 1 January 2016?

A. You should destroy or dispose of surplus non EID slaughter tags in a secure manner that prevents their use. Under no circumstance can they be used to identify a lamb intended for slaughter after 1 January 2016.

EID Cymru

EIDCymru is the new electronic sheep reporting system for Wales. It enables farmers, markets, abattoirs and all sheep keepers to report movements electronically and it will provide Wales with a modern robust movement reporting and traceability system to respond quickly and effectively in any disease outbreak. For further information on EIDCymru, visit the website www.eidcymru.org. From 18 January 2016, farmers will have the option to either report movements electronically or continue to report movements on the paper movement licence.

Changes to the movement licence

Movement of sheep onto your holding:

From 18 January 2016 onwards

A new version of the movement licence must be used. The white copy of the new version of the movement licence must be returned to EIDCymru (instead of your local authority).

If you need a supply of the new licence version, please contact the EIDCymru office on 01970 636959 or email contact@eidcymru.org

The address is: EIDCymru, Ty Merlin, Parc Merlin, Aberystwyth, Ceredigion SY23 3FF



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**For the 2016 sales, ewe lambs must
be tagged with a yellow electronic
tag in the left ear and an ORANGE
coloured tag in the right ear**

YOUR CONTACTS WITH THE WELSH MULES

The association's Field Officer, Marcus Williams has many roles to play from promoting the Welsh Mules at shows and events to following up queries after sales. He is on hand to help both vendors and buyers and can be contacted on 07768 816919.

The association's official auctioneers can be contacted at:

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

2015 Sales Ewe Lamb Competition Winners



Marcus Williams receives the September sale award at Welshpool from association President, Ceiriog Jones & judges P Walters, Rugby and G Chandler, Abergavenny for a pen of 'Performance' Mules

Marcus Williams presents the award for the best pen in the Sept sale at Builth to Price, Ty Rosser, Llanafan flanked by judge, Carwyn Jenkins, Lower House, Spittal



Association chairman Kevin Parry presents the winners' cup to Caron Davies of Penrallt, Nant-y-Rhiw with his parents and brother Carwyn looking on.

Gwyn Jones, Ty Mawr, Garth with son, Neil (left) receives the Vernon Wilson Memorial Cup for the best pen of ewe lambs in the Oct Builth sale with judges J & J Bennett of Bronreval, Llanbister

