

JANUARY 2020

The AGM of members of the association is to be held on Wednesday, 29th January 2020 at 7.30pm at the offices of Welshpool Livestock Sales, Buttington Cross, Welshpool

2020 SALE DATES:

WELSHPOOL:

- Wednesday, 9th September (Ewes)
- Thursday, 10th September (Ewe Lambs)
- Thursday 8th October (Ewes & Ewe Lambs)

BUILTH WELLS:

- Friday, 11th September (Ewes & Ewe Lambs)
- Tuesday, 13th October (Ewes & Ewe Lambs)

RUTHIN:

- Saturday, 12th September (Ewes & Ewe Lambs)

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Welsh Mules Sheep Breeders Association Newsletter

Welsh Mule Sheep Breeders Association Ltd;
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Sales Report 2019

The association's September sales saw a steady trade throughout with increase in demand for stronger ewes and lambs in particular.

The yearling ewes sale held at Welshpool on the 11th September saw a similar average to 2018 at £144 for the 5,783 of sheep sold. H & E Powell, Llwyngwilym, Rhayader topped the market at £235 for a pen of ewes sold to R P Richards, Glanlerry, Borth. 7,764 ewe lambs were sold the following day averaging £100 and a £6 increase on the previous year with the highest price of £210 received by G T Davies & Son, South Hill Farm, Wiston for a pen bought by Messrs Evans, Upper Ffridd, Caersws. G T Davies & Son were the winners of the competition for the best pen of ewe lambs entered at the sale with a pen of coloured-faced lambs.

At the Builth Wells sale on Friday 13th September, prices for yearlings increased by £9 compared to the same day in 2018 on the back of very competitive bidding for stronger ewes. Yearlings averaged £151 with H & E Powell, Llwyngwilym, Rhayader again obtaining the best price, this time of £255 for a pen sold to Messes R T Jones & Co, Corrin, Garth. 7,513 ewe lambs were entered, with the average for the day at £97 up £4 on 2018. RG & BM Jones Tymawr topped the market with a pen sold for £212, sold to H & E Powell, Llwyngwilym, Rhayader. RG & BM Jones & Son, Tymawr also won the prize for the best pen of ewe lambs at the sale while the Elwyn Bennett Memorial Cup for the best total consignment of 80 or more ewe lambs was won by Elwyn Bennet's son Stephen.

The last sale of the Welsh Mule Week at Ruthin on 16th September saw an increase in prices for both yearlings and ewe lambs. Yearling ewes averaged £130, with the top price of £145 being gained by HC & TC Hughes, Llangwyfan Farm, for a pen bought by T H Powell, Gil Eirych. G W Davies, Fferm, Trofarth won the Keith Evans Memorial Cup for the best pen of yearling ewes. Ewe lambs averaged £84 up by £10 on 2018 with Gareth Jones, Ty Nant receiving the best price at £128 from R J Ryan, Llannerch, Dolwen, while G Davies, Penrallt were awarded the prize for the best pen of ewe lambs.

The October sale in Welshpool, saw yearling prices increase significantly to £130 up nearly £20 compared to 2018 while ewe lambs saw an increase of £9 to £84 from £75 compared to the previous year. R M & G Hughes, Ty Canol topped the yearlings at £160 for a pen sold to J D Jones, Croggin-Iddon while T E & D Jones, Penlan Gwnnws topped the ewe lambs at £112 for a pen sold to R G Rogers, Fron Ganol Farm. The final sale at Builth the following week followed a similar pattern with the average yearling price up £5 on the year at £126 with Messrs Douglas, Willis Farms getting the best price of £132 from Mr PR & SM Sherriff. Ewe lamb trade also bloomed at £84 where RG Jones & Son, Ty Mawr obtained the best return of £118 for the pen bought by Brian Roberts, Stingwern. The Vernon Wilson Memorial Cup for the best pen of ewe lambs was awarded to Stephen Bennet and family, Trellwydion.

For the full sale results visit the association website: www.welshmules.co.uk

TAGGING SEQUENCE

The association's executive committee has approved the following tagging colour sequence for the next seven years.

2020	PURPLE
2021	GREEN
2022	BLUE
2023	ORANGE
2024	WHITE
2025	PINK
2026	BROWN

2019 Sale results in detail

Welshpool	2019	2018
September:	Av Price	Av Price
Yearlings	143.63	143.15
Ewe lambs	99.23	93.74
October:		
Yearlings	130.10	111.10
Ewe lambs	83.76	74.46
Builth Wells		
September:		
Yearlings	150.05	141.94
Ewe lambs	96.86	92.89
October:		
Yearlings:	125.72	120.51
Ewe lambs	84.33	73.94
Ruthin		
Yearlings	129.72	113.45
Ewe lambs	84.03	73.08

Red Meat Development Programme

Hybu Cig Cymru – Meat Promotion Wales (HCC) is leading a five-year, £9.2 million Red Meat Development Programme to help Welsh farming prepare for a post-Brexit world.

The Programme will engage with all aspects of the supply chain, boosting farm productivity while ensuring that future red meat production meets the demand of an ever-changing and increasingly discerning consumer, both at home and abroad.

The Red Meat Development Programme will be delivered by HCC in collaboration with a range of industry partners, and will consist of three strategic projects that will focus on animal health, genetics and meat quality.

Within the animal health planning project, HCC will deliver – in conjunction with partner organisations and veterinary practitioners – an ambitious workstream which will demonstrate the long-term benefits of proactive flock and herd health planning.

The genetics project will seek to highlight how using rams with known genetic performance can have a positive impact on the Welsh sheep flock.

The third component of the Programme will be a supply chain led project that will look to assess and develop the meat quality of Welsh Lamb. The project will centre on evaluating practices that can be adopted pre and post farmgate to secure and enhance Welsh Lamb's position as a premium product.

These three elements within the Red Meat Development Programme will help the red meat industry to efficiently produce high quality products that will grow market share at home and abroad, as the future trading landscape continues to evolve.

For more information please visit: <https://meatpromotion.wales/en/industry-projects/red-meat-development-programme>



2019 Competition Winners



Louise Davies of G T Davies & Son, South Hill Farm, Woosten receives the champion cup for the best entry of ewe lambs from judges EH Pennie, Gwern Yr Ychain and Eric Hughes, High Park Farm, Stoneheath. Also pictured is Joe Hamer, Field Officer



R G & B M Jones & Son, Tymawr, Garth, Builth Wells receiving the cup for the best pen of ewe lambs from judges Messrs Chris & Andrew Whitehead, Grenville Lodge, Chackmore, Buckingham. Also pictured is Joe Hamer, Field officer



Mr WC Gittins, Ashton Farm, Castle Caereinion, Welshpool presents the Elwyn Bennet Cup for the best consignment of ewe lambs to Stephen Bennet, Trellwydion, Llanbister, Llandrindod Wells



Gwyndaf Davies a'r teulu, Penrallt, Nant Y Rhiw, Llanrwst wins the best pen of ewe lambs at Ruthin. Also pictured are judge Dylan Roberts, Cil Llwyn, Bont Uchel and Joe Hamer, Field Officer

University of Liverpool Fluke Survey

Liver fluke is a common disease in sheep and cattle in the UK. Rumen fluke is an emerging disease and has been linked to fatal outbreaks. As part of its research into these parasites and their control, Liverpool University have produced a **short** online survey. It takes less than 15 minutes and is completely anonymous and participants can win an **Apple iPad** or a **Fortnum and Mason Luxury Hamper!**

The online survey closes on 31st March 2020 and can be completed in English or Welsh.

The survey can be accessed following the link: <https://liverpool.onlinesurveys.ac.uk/fluke-survey>

Rebecca Hoyle, University of Liverpool

2019 Competition Winners (continued)



Left: G W Davies, Fferm, Trofarth, Abergele receiving the Keith Evans Memorial Cup from judge Dylan Roberts Cil Llwyn, Bont Uchel. Also pictured is Joe Hamer, Field Officer

Right: E H Bennet & Son, Trellwydion, Llanbister, Llandrindod Wells receiving the Vernon Wilson Memorial Cup from judge Mr J Morgan, Tynllwyn, Myddfai, Llandovery for the best pen of ewe lambs. Also pictured is Joe Hamer, Field Officer.

Field Officer

The association's Field Officer since June 2018, Joe Hamer has informed us that he wishes to step down from the post due to his increasing workload at home. He brought an unique style to the position with a number of innovative ideas to evolve the association. We are grateful to him for all his efforts on our behalf over the past couple of years and wish him and his family the very best for the future.

Joe's departure creates an opportunity for someone else. If you know of anyone who may be interested in becoming the next Field Officer, details of the position and an application form are available on our website www.welshmules.co.uk with closing dates for applications being **29th February 2020**.



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For the 2020 sales, ewe lambs must be tagged with a yellow electronic tag in the left ear and a PURPLE coloured tag

YOUR CONTACTS WITH THE WELSH MULES

Secretaries can be contacted on (01970) 636688.
Our website address is: www.welshmules.co.uk
Email: info@welshmules.co.uk

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



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