

JULY 2015

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Welsh Mules Sheep Breeders Association Newsletter

Welsh Mule Sheep Breeders Association Ltd; Gorseland, North Road,
Aberystwyth, Ceredigion SY23 2WB Phone No 01970 636688;

e-mail: info@welshmules.co.uk website: www.welshmules.co.uk

2015 Sales Preparations

The 2015 association's sales will soon be upon us. Members are reminded that all sale entry forms need to be returned to the relevant auctioneers by **Monday 27th July**.

A number of members had requested that the sale draw be made open so that they could be present when the draw was made. The executive committee have agreed to that and so members that wish to be present for the draws for all September sales at the three venues of Welshpool, Builth Wells and Ruthin will need to come to the offices of Welshpool Livestock Sales at Buttington, Welshpool by 6.30pm on Wednesday 5th August, prior to the meeting of the association's executive committee when the draws will take place.

An announcement on the arrangements for the sale draws for the October sales (which will take place locally at the sale venues) will be made at the September sales.

The association has been present at the NSA Wales and NSA South West Sheep Events to promote the sales and will again be at the Royal Welsh later this month:

members will be most welcome to call by at our usual venue in the NSA stand.

These events will be supported by an advertising campaign in the main agricultural journals as well as local media.

2015 Sale Draw:

The draw for the association's September 2015 sales will be conducted at

6.30pm on Wednesday

5th August 2015

at the offices of Welshpool Livestock Sales, Buttington, Welshpool, prior to the meeting of the executive committee of the association



New Association Chairman

Kevin Parry, Llwynrhidyll, Upper Chapel, (photo left) has been elected chairman of the association, succeeding Brian Roberts, Stingwern, Brooks who had served as chairman since 2002. Mr Parry thanked Mr Roberts for his outstanding contribution as well as the executive committee for the honour of appointing him. He will be supported by Richard Thomas, Tanhouse, Dole who was elected vice-chairman

Ewe Lamb

Competitions:

Please remember that the rules for the ewe lamb competitions changed recently. The two classes now are one for white-faced ewe lambs, the other for coloured-faced ones

Grateful if you can submit your entries by 9.00am on the day of sale.

NSA Wales Open Day 2015

The association was one of the main sponsors of the NSA Wales Open Day in May, held on the farms of association members Geraint & Morton Powell in Kerry, Newtown in May.

The event was exceptionally well attended despite some inclement weather at times and proved to be a great success for both NSA Wales and the Powell family.

Sheep for the association's display, outstanding examples of the Welsh Mule, had been prepared by Howell Powell, Llwyn Gwilym, and John & Richard Thomas, Tanhouse. The sheep's quality went a long way to help the Welsh Mules win the competition for the best breed society stand at the event with association Field Officer, Marcus Williams also deserving much credit for his preparation & hard work. There was a steady stream of visitors throughout the day (see photo right) with much interest both from producers and potential buyers. A number of the association's executive committee were on hand to support Marcus, who was very grateful for the help that he received.



Sale Entry Forms: selling 'Performance' Mules? Please note

Members who are selling both 'Performance' Welsh Mules and the regular Welsh Mules need to remember to complete the reverse of the relevant sale entry form to choose the order that wish to sell their sheep. The following shows an example from the sale entry form of a member selling nine lots of sheep, three of them being 'Performance' Welsh Mules and he wants to sell them last. He should do that by indicating that by placing the letters **PM** against the relevant lot numbers.

Lot No	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Place Performance Mules to be sold							PM	PM	PM

Sale Inspections & Yearling Ewes: a gentle reminder!

All members who enter sheep for sale at the association's sales, sign the sale entry form to say that they accept the Conditions of Sale Entry.

Those conditions stipulate that all sheep entered for sale can be inspected by an inspector appointed by the association to ensure that standards are maintained. By signing, the vendor is accepting that the decision of such inspectors is final and while vendors and inspectors can ask for guidance from an association referee, the last word rests with the inspectors. While that may appear unduly harsh to many, that is a condition of sale entry that has been insisted upon since the association's first sales.

As was pointed out to members last year, one of the issues that causes most problems is when yearlings bought as ewe lambs at an association sale are subsequently rejected by inspectors the following year because they are not considered to be true to breed type when entered for sale as yearlings. It has happened on a number of occasions and happened last year again. Vendors naturally get a bit annoyed with association inspectors but unfortunately, some yearlings will develop later than others and characteristics do come to light that would have been difficult to spot when those yearlings were ewe lambs.

We therefore re-iterate that the association's policy is (regrettable as it may seem) that yearlings may very well have to be rejected by inspectors as not true to type if they later develop characteristics that are not those of the Welsh Mule.

Inspection in progress at the Builth Wells sale



For your information - Last year's sale results

Welshpool	2014		2013	
	Nos	Av Price	Nos	Av Price
September:				
Yearlings	6834	137.94	8033	130.69
Ewe lambs	7833	98.17	6491	97.62
October:				
Yearlings	1381	131.17	1461	110.15
Ewe lambs	6504	84.17	6019	81.98
Builth Wells				
September:				
Yearlings	2951	146.79	3280	123.88
Ewe lambs	7337	99.13	7138	95.34
October:				
Yearlings:	284	140.80	458	125.10
Ewe lambs	7473	83.88	8049	82.11
Ruthin				
Yearlings	2515	126.34	2766	108.20
Ewe lambs	3219	81.43	3188	80.39

CLOSING DATES FOR

RETURN OF SALE

ENTRY FORMS:

September Sales

Monday 27th July

October Sales

Monday 14th Sept

EIDCymru update from HCC

EIDCymru, the new livestock traceability database for Wales, is reaching the final stages of preparation.

EIDCymru has been developed from the successful ScotEID system to deliver for the Welsh industry.

The electronic reporting of sheep movements by livestock markets as well as by abattoirs, collection centres and gatherings will be compulsory from January 2016.

To assist these businesses in meeting this legislative requirement, EIDCymru has appointed a technical team to support businesses in meeting this new requirement.

The EIDCymru technical team is led by John Richards (who has been seconded to this role from Hybu Cig Cymru) and John will be working alongside Jonathan Pryce who has substantial experience in supporting users of farm software systems.

Their aim is to help businesses to meet the requirements for reporting movements electronically as easily as possible and with the minimum disruption to their business.

The team have already begun liaising with the businesses, organisations and individuals for whom electronic report-

ing will be compulsory in Wales to help them set up the systems needed to report sheep movements electronically.

They have had an extremely positive response to their offers of help and several markets have already offered to be involved in the pilot phase prior to launch.

Sheep keepers will be encouraged to report moves electronically after January but paper-based movements will still be facilitated via the EIDCymru office.

A dedicated helpdesk service is currently being established in Aberystwyth and this will be operational from the autumn to provide support to all EIDCymru users.

Industry stakeholders on the Livestock Identification Advisory Group (LIDAG) and individual farmers on the EIDCymru focus group will continue to be involved in the final stages of development so that the system is user friendly and the maximum benefit is gained from these positive changes.

A series of farmer meetings and information events is planned for the late autumn and throughout 2016.

Other News:

Mr Ceiriog Jones, Cilgoed, Derwen, Corwen was appointed the new Association President at the AGM of members, succeeding Welshpool auctioneer, John Jones. Mr Gwyn Davies, Llanfechan, Garth, Builth Wells was elected Vice-President. Ceiriog's appointment is quite unique as Ceiriog's father, Emrys also served as President, the first time that a father and son have held the post.

Another father & son double act saw Alun & William Jones, Llys Helyg, Llanerfyl judge the Builth Wells Ewe lamb Competition in September 2014





Welsh Mule Sheep Breeders Association Ltd

Gorseland, North Road, Aberystwyth
Ceredigion SY23 2WB
Phone No: (01970) 636688
Fax No: (01970) 624049

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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

Important: Changes to tagging options from 1st January 2016

Don't be caught with too many of the wrong kind of tags on your hands!

Members are reminded that from 1 Jan 2016, non electronic slaughter tag will not be permitted as the single tagging

option to identify lambs intended for slaughter.

Keepers should carefully consider the quantities of non electronic slaughter tags ordered in 2015 as any surplus tags can-

not be used to identify lambs from 1 Jan 2016.

The table below illustrates the sheep tagging options available to you from 1 Jan 2016

	Lambs kept beyond 12 months of age for breeding purposes
Full EID	Store/finished hoggets intended for slaughter but kept beyond 12 months of age
	Lambs intended for live export.
Electronic slaughter tag or Full EID	Lambs intended to be slaughtered in an UK abattoir prior to reaching 12 months of age

REMINDER:

We would be grateful if members could ensure that they choose the correct sale entry form to complete when entering sheep for sale.

Yearlings and older ewes, please use the **WHITE** forms;

Ewe Lambs, you need to use the **BLUE** forms and

Performance Mule Ewe Lambs, please use the **YELLOW** form.

Thank You.



Members of the Powell family (including the Welsh Mules Sheep Breeders Association's youngest member, Archie Powell) were on hand to witness the presentation of the award for Best Breed Society Stand at the NSA Wales Open Day on 19th May at Glanmiheli and Drefor Farms, Kerry. Association Field Officer, Marcus Williams, received the award and crystal bowl from Graeme Warnock of sponsors, Crystalyx supported by NSA Wales' Regional Development Officer, Helen Davies