

JULY 2018

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PINK

coloured tag in the right ear

Welsh Mules Sheep Breeders Association Newsletter

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

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New association Field Officer

The association's has appointed a new field officer to succeed Marcus Williams who stepped down recently.

Joe Hamer from Arscott, Pontesford grew up on a mixed farm in south Shropshire where he now farms with his partner. They produce finished lambs as well as Welsh Mules that are sold as breeding ewe lambs. He's played an active role in Young Farmers in Shropshire becoming county chairman in 2013-14. He was educated at Walford & North Shropshire College and Reaseheath College in Nantwich. As well as working at home, Joe has held a number of roles as a contract shepherd and teaching students. He's also participated in R&D projects for the Texel Sheep Society.

Association chairman, Kevin Parry was pleased to welcome Joe to his new role. "Joe will have a very important role to play in developing the association in future, ensuring that we are aware of changes that



are taking place in the sheep industry and ensuring that the association evolves to meet those challenges" said Mr Parry.

2018 SALE DATES: WELSHPOOL:

- Wednesday, 12th September (Ewes)
- Thursday, 13th September (Ewe Lambs)
- Thursday 11th October (Ewes & Ewe Lambs)

BUILTH WELLS:

- Friday, 14th September (Ewes & Ewe Lambs)
- Tuesday, 16th October (Ewes & Ewe Lambs)

RUTHIN:

- Saturday, 15th September (Ewes & Ewe Lambs)

2018 Sale Draw:

The draw for the all the association's September 2018 sales will be conducted at:

6.30pm on Wednesday 8th August 2018 at the offices of Welshpool Livestock Sales, Buttington, Welshpool,

prior to the meeting of the executive committee of the association

Ewe Lamb Competition:

Please submit your entries for the ewe lamb competitions to the association's auctioneers by 9.00am on the day of sale.

There will be two classes of competition as usual, one for white-faced ewe lambs, the other for coloured-faced ones. The champion will be selected from the winners of the two classes.

And many thanks

In welcoming Joe as the new Field Officer, we also thank Marcus most sincerely for his contribution to the association's for more than ten years. Marcus is highly respected by vendors, buyers and auctioneers alike. We wish him, Lisa and Daisy all the best for the future and in their new venture together.

2018 Shows and demonstrations:

The association will be present at two events this summer, The Royal Welsh at the end of July and the NSA's sheep event in Malvern on Wednesday 18th July.

Please remember that the event at Malvern is a full two weeks earlier than usual and before the Royal Welsh.

We plan to have the same size displays as usual at both events but since the Malvern event is probably the best show for promoting our wares, we'll be

putting in a considerable effort to promote the breed. There will be an extensive display of high quality Welsh Mule breeding ewes, including ewes with crosses from terminal sires from the main finishing sheep breeds.

We usually have a good number of members of the association's executive committee on hand to help but if any member is coming to the show, please call in on the stand. You'll get the opportunity to meet the new Field Officer for

the first time but you may also have the opportunity to extol the virtue of the Welsh Mule to potential buyers.

There will be extensive advertising throughout the summer starting from early August through to October with the focus being the traditional farming journals as well as local ones while Facebook and Twitter will also be used.

Please remember to check social media to see the results achieved at the association's sales over the season.

Changes to sale entry forms

Please note that the association has introduced changes to the usual sale entry forms for Ewes (but not Ewe lambs or Performance Ewe lambs). Members are now requested to identify any product used to vaccinate against foot problems, enzootic abortion or toxoplasmosis as well as vaccines for clostridial disease, pasteurised and/or orf that may have been used.

The change has been introduced following requests from buyers and potential buyers for more information about the sheep on offer at our sales and in particular, for information about medicinal treatments sheep on offer may have been treated with prior to sales. The association is actively looking at ways that we may be able to provide such information to buyers. **The changes are included in the Declaration for Sale Entry on the sale entry form that each vendor is required to sign.**

The prize-winning stand at Malvern in 2016 (below) drew a lot of interest particularly for the quality of the ewes on display. It's planned to repeat the layout in 2018 where we are confident it will catch the eye of potential buyers once again.



For your information - Last year's sale results

Welshpool	2017		2016	
	Nos	Av Price	Nos	Av Price
September:				
Yearlings	6307	144.10	7203	139.96
Ewe lambs	8873	99.89	8979	101.25
October:				
Yearlings	1313	106.21	996	130.08
Ewe lambs	6446	79.81	7105	84.06
Builth Wells				
September:				
Yearlings	2811	150.82	3591	134.03
Ewe lambs	8491	101.15	7860	101.55
October:				
Yearlings:	441	111.95	460	128.59
Ewe lambs	6504	80.89	7921	84.91
Ruthin				
Yearlings	1770	130.83	1642	136.22
Ewe lambs	2609	83.77	2328	86.39

REMEMBER!

BATCH REPORTING COMES TO AN END ON 1ST SEPTEMBER:

Wales is proceeding with its plans to remove the batch reporting exemption for sheep, as part of the Welsh Government's package of measures introduced to the CPH system.

As of Saturday 1st September 2018, sheep moving between separate CPHs will need to be individually recorded on EIDCymru and/or the movement licence and flock book. Lambs can continue to move on the flock number if identified with a single electronic slaughter tag, but the number of lambs per flock number would be required to be recorded in the flock record. Moves to Central Point Recording Centres (CPRCs) (markets, abattoirs, collection centres and assembly centres) will remain the same and the CPRC can supply you with the list of tag numbers for the flock record and to attach to the licence. To assist keepers, a 'return move' button will be available on EIDCymru so, when animals return from tack, the movement can be recorded more easily. Further details are available at www.eidcymru.org.

The Welsh Government's CPH project is introducing a new 10-mile rule for all livestock species, which replaces the five-mile rule for sheep and goat holdings. This means sheep keepers are now able to register all their land within 10 miles under a single CPH number, using 'Manage My CPH' on RPWOnline. Further information can be found at: www.gov.wales/cphproject

CLOSING DATES FOR RETURN OF SALE ENTRY FORMS:

September Sales

Monday, 30th July

October Sales

Monday, 17th Sept

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 **YELLOW** forms;

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

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

Thank You.

SHEEP SCAB & DIPPING:

Members are reminded that when considering the options for treating sheep against scab or lice before sale that no product is licensed to be used for scab by showering. 2018 has proved to be a very difficult year for scab so vendors need to be especially careful that the correct product is used and that it is applied correctly. It's essential that we keep scab out of our sale. If scab is suspected by sale inspectors, all the sheep entered by a member will have to be immediately withdrawn. They may be removed from the sale yard without the owners consent if the owner is not present. Please see Rule 29 of the Conditions of sale entry & declaration 1) of the sale entry forms



**Welsh Mule Sheep
Breeders Association Ltd**

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Ceredigion SY23 2WB
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YOUR CONTACTS WITH THE WELSH MULES

The association's Field Officer, Joe Hamer 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 07527 174420.

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

Clostridial Diseases in sheep

Clostridia are a group of spore-forming organisms found in the soil and environment, which cause rapidly fatal disease by producing toxins. Blackleg, braxy, black disease, tetanus, malignant oedema, lamb dysentery, struck and pulpy kidney, are all caused by clostridia. Clostridial bacteria produce spores, a very resistant form, which can survive for very long periods in soil. These spores are frequently found in the soil, in faeces and intestinal contents of normal animals. As a result, some pastures can have high levels of spores and present a particularly high risk of clostridial disease for sheep. The germination of spores followed by rapid multiplication and toxin production result in fatal infection. Clostridial infections progress rapidly and many sheep may be found either dead or dying. Intensive treatment with antibiotics is rarely effective.

Pulpy kidney is a common and usually fatal disease caused by Clostridium. It is usually seen in growing lambs of 4 to 10 weeks of age and in finishing lambs of 6 months of age and above. The disease is very acute and the majority of cases are found dead. Trigger factors include abrupt changes in feed, such as sudden introduction to silage aftermath, brassicas or high levels of concentrates. It is often the best and fittest of a group of animals that develop the disease. Lamb dysentery is generally seen in stronger lambs under 14 days of age typically towards the end of the lambing period. Lambs are usually found dead. Struck caused by *Cl. perfringens* type C is the rarest of the enterotoxaemias type of clostridial disease. Blackleg usually follows trauma during shearing, docking, assisted lambing or castration but occasionally causes high losses in hoggets wintering on root crops. Soil-contaminated wounds are responsible for the vast majority of cases of disease. Black disease is frequently associated with liver fluke which create the conditions in the liver suitable for clostridial multiplication and toxin production. In the early stages of tetanus, the lamb or sheep becomes still and unwilling to move. More severe general stiffness and recumbency follow leading to tetanic spasms and ultimately death. The route of infection for the spores associated with tetanus is often through a wound eg castration, tailing or shearing; or via the navel. Braxy occurs in autumn and winter, usually in lambs born the previous spring. Malignant oedema is an acute, rapidly fatal wound infection caused by various combinations of clostridial

organisms.

Vaccines are readily available and ensure effective protection against most forms of clostridial disease encountered in the UK. Sheep that have never been vaccinated against clostridia need TWO injections at least 4-6 weeks apart for protection.

Vaccinated animals, including adults, require booster injections every 12 months. Breeding ewes should be vaccinated 4 weeks before lambing to ensure their colostrum contains high levels of antibodies to protect the new-born lamb. Failure to vaccinate against clostridial disease or forgetting to do so could result in the high levels of losses seen up until the early part of the 20th century. Ewes provide high levels of antibodies in colostrum. Lambs that get enough colostrum from adequately fed vaccinated ewes receive sufficient maternal anti-toxins to protect them for about 12 weeks. This maternal protection is essential to prevent lamb dysentery, tetanus and pulpy kidney. Lambs from fully vaccinated ewes can start their primary course from 8 weeks of age. Colostrum derived anti-toxin does not appear to interfere with response to the vaccine. The choice of vaccine to be used depends on the ultimate fate of the lamb. Those to be retained for breeding require full protection. Those for early slaughter may only require protection against pulpy kidney disease and tetanus, while lambs aimed at the store market or autumn finishing require a wider range of antigens to give additional protection against braxy, blackleg and malignant oedema. Control of an outbreak of clostridial disease involves management and therapy. It is usually too late to treat individual cases by the time they are identified. Vaccination in the face of an outbreak of enterotoxaemia can be effective. Alternatively, particularly for lamb dysentery and tetanus, antisera can be administered. Management measures for some of the clostridial conditions include the removal of the remainder of the flock from a particular pasture or a reduction in concentrate feeding. The reduction of stress factors, as well as the gradual introduction of any new feeds or feeding regimes, also reduces the likelihood of disease. Pay attention to hygiene at castration, tailing, shearing and lambing to reduce the risk of clostridial spores gaining entry.

(With thanks to HCC. From a HCC article available on their website <http://hccmpw.org.uk>)