

**JANUARY 2024**

**The AGM of members of the association is to be held on Tuesday, 30th January 2024 at 7.30pm at the offices of Welshpool Livestock Sales, Buttington Cross, Welshpool**

## **2024 SALE DATES**

### **WELSHPOOL**

**Wednesday 11th September**  
(Ewes)

**Thursday 12th September**  
(Ewe Lambs)

**Thursday 10th October**  
(Ewes and Ewe Lambs)

### **HEREFORD**

**Friday 13th September**  
(Ewes and Ewe Lambs)

**Tuesday 15th October**  
(Ewes and Ewe Lambs)

### **RUTHIN**

**Saturday 14th September**  
(Ewes and Ewe Lambs)

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# **WELSH MULE SHEEP BREEDERS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER**

**Welsh Mule Sheep Breeders Association Ltd; Gorseland, North Road, Aberystwyth, Ceredigion SY23 2WB  
Phone: 01970 636688 • E-mail: info@welshmules.co.uk • Website: www.welshmules.co.uk**

## **Sales Report 2023**

### **September Sales**

The yearling ewes at Welshpool on 13th September saw a buoyant trade with an average of £200 with H. & E. Powell, Llwyngwilym, Rhayader topping the market at £320 for a pen of ewes sold to M.M. & R. Morris, Maestanyglwyden, Oswestry. The following day, ewe lambs averaged £142, up £8 on the previous year with Wyn Jones, Maesyderi, Ffairfach receiving the best price for the champion ewe lambs at £290 from G. Scrivens, Oldberrow Hill Farm, Ullenhall, Warks.

The association sale in Hereford was held on 15th September. Prices for both yearlings and ewe lambs were up from 2022. Yearling ewes averaged £197, with the top price of £300 again being gained by H. & E. Powell, Llwyngwilym, Rhaeadr for a pen bought by D.J. Lloyd, Cefnbarrech, Trefeglwys, Powys. Ewe lambs averaged £142 with D.E. Thomas, Grofft, Llanwrda receiving the best price for ewe lambs at £255 from Barton Farms, Home Farm, Barton Hartshorn.

The association's September sales continued at Ruthin with yearling ewes averaging £183, with the top price of £225 being gained by A.E. Evans, Ffrith Fedw, Prion, Denbigh for a pen bought by C. & H.V. Parry, Sychdyn, Tremeirchion. Ewe lambs averaged £124 with E. Jones, Ty Nant, Eglwys Bach, Colwyn Bay receiving the best price at £160 from R.J. Ryan.

### **October Sales**

The October sales of Welsh Mule breeding sheep saw steady prices with good demand.

Yearlings at Welshpool averaged £1187, up by £46 on 2022 with the top price of £200 achieved by W.C. & J.M. Gittins, Ashton Farm, Castle Caereinion, for a pen sold to W. Handy & Son, Home Farm, Gumley, Leicester. Ewe lambs averaged £133 each, up £31 with J.C. Hamer & Co, Cwm, Dolwen, Powys obtaining the best return of £175 for sheep purchased by I.F.N. Samuel, Lower Ystrad, Builth Wells.

Yearlings at the association's sale in Hereford averaged £184 with the top price of £240 obtained by D.K. Williams, Alltmawr Isaf, Builth Wells, sold to D. Kear, Kittle Hill Farm, Kittle. While ewe lambs averaged £140 with the top price being £202 for a pen sold by E.H. Bennett, Trellydion, Llanbiser, Powys, which were purchased by High Ash Estate, Cappers Lane, Spurstow, Tarp.

Richard Thomas, association chairman was also pleased with the overall outcome. "I'm generally satisfied that the sales have held up so well. We are confident that the sheep forward will be up to the association's usual excellent standards and there will be a very good choice available for buyers."

# WELSH MULE SHEEP BREEDERS ASSOCIATION FORMER SECRETARY WINS PRESTIGIOUS JOHN GITTINS MEMORIAL AWARD

One of the most prestigious prizes in Welsh agriculture, the John Gittins Memorial Award for outstanding contributions to the Welsh sheep industry, has been won this year by Mr Moss Jones, of Llandre, Aberystwyth.

Mr Jones has dedicated his life to both the Welsh sheep and beef industry through his work with the various agricultural organisation societies and numerous sheep associations, particularly the Welsh Mule Sheep Breeders Association. Mr Jones served as the company secretary for over thirty years and has provided a sound and strong platform for the association moving forward. He also managed the Farm Assured Welsh Livestock scheme (FAWL) from 1998, working with colleagues at Welsh Lamb & Beef Producers Ltd in Aberystwyth. Mr Jones is widely known and respected throughout the UK for his tireless work, knowledge, and contribution to the industry.

Born and raised in Pen Llŷn, Mr Jones began his young working life on the milk round with South Caernarfon Creameries. Over the years Mr Jones maintained his close relationship with Caernarfon Creameries and through his support of them became their President. A position he is extremely proud of.

Recently, Mr Jones has worked with organisations and colleagues to improve IT farm management systems and to establish a process to measure the use of antibiotics by Welsh sheep and cattle farms. The system provides data on antibiotic usage at farm level or a range of farm types and locations as well as on an all-Wales basis.

The Welsh Mule Sheep Breeders Association nominated Mr Moss Jones for the John Gittins Memorial Award for 2023.

Mr Dafydd Parry Jones, representing the Royal Welsh Agricultural Society, Mr Richard Thomas, from the Welsh Mule Sheep Breeders Association and Ms Kate Hovers, from the National Sheep Association Wales made up the panel of judges for the award.

The judges stated that the quality of all twelve candidates was once again outstanding. After interviewing a shortlist of four impressive candidates, the judges agreed that the 2023 John Gittins Memorial Award should be awarded to Mr Moss Jones in recognition of his lifetime contribution to the Welsh Sheep Industry.

Mr Jones was presented with the award at the opening ceremony of the Royal Welsh Winter Fair on Monday 27th November.



# 2023 EWE LAMB COMPETITIONS

		White-faced	Coloured-faced
<b>Welshpool</b>	14 Sept	Price, Tyrosser, Llanafan Fawr	<b>Wyn Jones, Maesyderi, Ffairfach</b>
		I & W Jones, Upper Rheol, Erwood	J Thomas & Son, Tanhouse, Dolau
		AM Jones, Middle Farm, Rorrington	I & W Jones, Upper Rheol, Erwood
<b>Hereford</b>	15 Sept	TB Phillips & Co, Twyn-Neuadd Farm, Libanus	<b>DE Thomas, Grofft, Llanwrda</b>
		I & W Jones, Upper Rheol, Erwood	RG & BM Jones & Son, Tymawr, Garth
		KA Hughson & Partners, Ty Mawr, Newbridge-on-Wye	G Davies & Co, Llanfechan Farm, Garth
<b>Elwyn Bennett Memorial Cup: EH Bennett &amp; Son, Trellwydion, Llanbister</b>			
<b>Ruthin</b>	16 Sept	GB Jones, Fron Bella, Pentre Foelas, Betws Y Coed	<b>HA &amp; SM Jones, Llwyn Gwgan, Llangwm, Corwen</b>
		E Jones, Tyn Nant, Eglwys Bach, Colwyn Bay	Dewi Jones, Plas Pigot, Llansannan
		Dewi Jones, Plas Pigot, Llansannan	T & NW Roberts, Gorswen, Llanrwst
<b>Keith Evans Memorial Cup: Alun E Evans, Ffrith Fedw Prion, Denbigh</b>			
<b>Hereford October Sale: Vernon Wilson Memorial Cup: AJT Powell, The Wern, Llanyre</b>			
<b>= Champion</b>			



## TAGGING SEQUENCE

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

**2024 – WHITE**

**2025 – PINK**

**2026 – BROWN**

**2027 – PURPLE**

**2028 – GREEN**

**2029 – ORANGE**

## 2023 Average prices in detail

	2023 Av Price	2022 Av Price
<b>WELSHPOOL</b>		
September: Yearlings	200.44	186.64
Ewe lambs	142.62	134.00
October: Yearlings	183.00	137.21
Ewe lambs	133.34	102.50
<b>HEREFORD</b>		
September: Yearlings	197.57	188.88
Ewe lambs	142.10	131.08
October: Yearlings	184.92	146.93
Ewe lambs	140.15	103.78
<b>RUTHIN</b>		
Yearlings	183.50	133.31
Ewe lambs	124.07	101.87

### Accounts for the year to 31st August 2023

A summary of the 2023 Financial Accounts is attached to the Annual General Meeting Agenda. The full detailed accounts are available on request by emailing the secretary on [info@welshmules.co.uk](mailto:info@welshmules.co.uk) or by calling the WAOS offices on 01970 636688.

### Welsh Mule Sheep Breeders Association FIELD OFFICER

Applications are invited for the provision of the service of a **FIELD OFFICER** for the association. The successful applicant will be responsible for promoting the breed, liaising with buyers and supporting the association's activities. For full details and application form, please contact: The Secretary, WMSBA Ltd, Gorseland, North Rd, Aberystwyth SY23 2WB (01970) 636688; [info@welshmules.co.uk](mailto:info@welshmules.co.uk)

**Closing date for applications: 31st March**



### Welsh Mule Sheep Breeders Association Ltd

Gorseland, North Road, Aberystwyth,  
Ceredigion SY23 2WB

**Phone: 01970 636688**

Email: [info@welshmules.co.uk](mailto:info@welshmules.co.uk)

**For the 2024 sales, ewe lambs must be tagged with a yellow electronic tag in the left ear and a **WHITE** coloured tag in the right ear**

## YOUR CONTACTS WITH THE WELSH MULES

Secretaries can be contacted on **01970 636688**

Our website address is: [www.welshmules.co.uk](http://www.welshmules.co.uk)

Email: [info@welshmules.co.uk](mailto: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 Hereford sale:

Builth Market Auctioneers, Market Office, The Smithfield, Builth Wells, LD2 3ED.  
01982 553228

#### 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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