

FEBRUARY 2013

The AGM of members of the association is to be held on Thursday, 21st February 2013 at 7.30pm at the offices of Welshpool Live-stock Sales, Butting-ton Cross, Welshpool

PROVISIONAL 2013 SALE DATES:

WELSHPOOL:

- Wednesday, 11th September (Ewes)
- Thursday, 12th September (Ewe Lambs)
- Thursday 10th October (Ewes & Ewe Lambs)

BUILTH WELLS:

- Friday, 13th September (Ewes & Ewe Lambs)
- Tuesday, 15th October (Ewes & Ewe Lambs)

RUTHIN:

- Saturday, 14th September (Ewes & Ewe Lambs)

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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;

2012's Tales from the Sales

The 2012 sales were well regarded by vendors and buyers alike with buoyant demand throughout the season.

7,400 yearlings were entered for the first sale in Welshpool where prices averaged £152, with H & E Powell, Llwyngwilym, topping the market at £200 with a pen sold to DJ Lloyd & Co, Cefnbarrach. 7,000 ewe lambs were sold the following day at an average price of £106. J Thomas & Son, Tanhouse, achieved the best price of £142 for a pen bought by W Handy & Son, Home Farm Market Harborough. RG & BM Jones & Son, Ty Mawr, were the winners of the Ewe Lamb Competition.

The sale at Builth Wells was also buoyant with yearlings averaging £156. H & E Powell, Llwyngwilym, again topped the market for a pen sold to DJ Lloyd & Co, Cefn Barrach for £205. DIL & E Jones, Llanilltyd, won the ewe lamb championship for the second year running with RG & BM Jones & Son, Ty Mawr, achieving the best price of £158 for a pen sold to TR

Jones, Maescelynog, Welshpool. Yearlings and ewe lambs both averaged some £11 more than 2011 in Welshpool and Builth.

The last sale at Ruthin saw 2,650 yearlings selling for an average of £141, up £6 with B Edwards, Bodlywydd Uchaf, winning the Keith Evans Memorial Award for the best pen of yearling ewes and the highest price of £160 for yearlings sold to G Parry, Coedlys, Prices for the 3,750 ewe lambs forward rose £8 on 2011 at £98. GP Williams & Co, Bryn Dansi, won the ewe lamb competition and G Davies, Penrallt, received the best price for a pen of ewe lambs at £116 from AG & MT Davies, Llys, Dinbych.

The October sale at Welshpool saw yearlings averaging £134, up £3 while ewe lambs averaged £91 each. G Price, Hafod, and Brian Roberts, Stingwern, both topped the market for pens sold for £152 to JR Jones, Bryn Robin and to RA Jones, Llys Helyg, respectively. Mr Eaton & Sons, of Sulby Lodge, Naseby paid the top price for ewe lambs

at £125 for a pen sold by J Thomas & Son, Tanhouse.

The Builth Wells October, maintained momentum with yearlings averaging £128 with the top price of £158 obtained by AD Powell, Llwyn Neuadd, from Mr DO Williams & Son, Womaston, while ewe lambs averaged £92 with the top price being £138 for a pen sold by K&G Jones, Cornel to Messrs Evans, Blaencarreg, The winners of the Vernon Wilson Memorial Cup for the best pen of ewe lambs were RG & BM Jones & Son, Ty Mawr,

Keen bidders under the big top at the association's October sale in Builth



New Association Website:

The association has just launched a new website to provide information about its activities to members, buyers and the general public alike. It's got some great photos from the Royal Welsh 2012 by Rachel Thomas, Tanhouse

The full web address is: <http://www.welshmules.co.uk/>

If you have any information that you feel is appropriate to be considered for inclusion on the website, we'd be please to receive it. We'd be particularly pleased to receive photographs of Welsh Mules and their progeny. Any photo need to be a high resolution .jpg; most modern digital cameras produce such

photos in any case. All photos supplied must be free of copyright and available for publication.

The e-mail address for all matters relating to the Welsh Mules is

info@welshmules.co.uk

Thank you.

THE WELSH MULES AT THE 2012 ROYAL WELSH SHOW



In deep thought. Eric Hughes, High Park Farm, Stoneheath, Leigh was the judge for the Welsh Mule competitions at the Royal Welsh Show last year.



Ben Powell of H & E Powell, Llwyngwilym, Rhayader with the overall champion at the 2012 Royal Welsh Show with judge Eric Hughes

If problems occur at the sales ...

The association's sales generally run smoothly, with few problems. Occasionally, disputes do occur and buyers raise concerns about some of the sheep that they've bought. The association endeavours to minimise the likelihood of such problems happening in the first place and sale inspectors have a very important role to play. However, they can't be expected to identify each and every problem and difficulties sometime come to the fore. More often than not, vendor and buyer will sort the mat-

ter out without involving the association but sometimes buyers will contact us to ask for help to resolve a dispute.

The association promotes and advertises its sales widely including the fact that vendors provide assurances that the sheep being offered for sale are sound in mouth, udder and feet on the day of the sale. Both association and auctioneers act as agents in the sale and can't be held liable if there is an issue with sheep sold: it is the

vendor's responsibility. The association does not wish to see dissatisfied buyers who may not return to our sales in future thus placing all members at a disadvantage, not just the vendor in dispute. The conditions of sale entry make it clear that each member has to accept that if a dispute does occur, the association will act as arbiter to try and resolve the matter and that members are expected to abide by the association's decision if the association finds in favour of the buyer.

... and issues that raised their head in 2012

Field Officer, Marcus Williams has evaluated some of the issues that inspectors came across during the 2012 sales for the executive committee. Marcus reported that the number of problems was quite small in comparison to the number of sheep sold. Nevertheless, it does create difficulties for vendors, buyers, auctioneers and the association alike when problems

occur and members are urged to take the greatest care when selecting ewes for sale.

Unfortunately, there were a small number of ewes entered for sale that were not true to type and were rejected. Other members also need to be careful to ensure that ewe lambs presented for sale are big enough. A handful of cas-

es of lameness came to light after the sales had taken some time to resolve, highlighting the need for vendors to be very vigilant. Marcus also reported individual examples of other problems such as pig mouth where the sheep had been replaced by the vendor to the satisfaction of the buyer.

2013 Promotions & Advertising

The association's publicity committee meets in February annually to plan the promotional and advertising campaign for the year.

As the NSA's sheep event in Malvern is biennial, there will be no event there in 2013 so alternative arrangements are made to attend other regional shows or demonstrations. Shows and demonstrations are effective ways of getting the association's message across to potential new buyers or buyers coming back. The NSA's regional events are well worth attending. Events that will

feature in the calendar for 2013 therefore include the NSA Wales & Border Region's Open Day at Beili Ficer Farm, Llansawel, Llandeilo on 21st May while other events such as NSA North Sheep or Sheep South West will be considered. The Royal Welsh Show will of course feature heavily, as usual. The association's executive committee is also very pleased that John & Richard Thomas have agreed once more to prepare sheep for shows and demonstrations.

Sale advertising continues to be an important part of

the association's work with specialist agricultural publications being the main focus followed by regional newspapers. In recent years, advertising costs have risen steadily but have shown their worth as a number of potential vendors follow up with enquiries having seen the advert.

It's likely that Farmers Weekly and Farmers Guardian will remain the main outlets but if any member has any suggestion to promote the breed and draw attention to the sales, we'd be pleased to hear from you.

Line-up of competitors at Llanelwedd 2012



There was an excellent entry of sheep for the Welsh Mule competitions in the Royal Welsh last year with an exceptional standard of entry: probably the most encouraging feature was the number of young handlers who were present—very ably assisted by some more senior competitors. The overall champion was entered by H & E Powell, Llwyngwilym, Rhayader—see facing page. All Royal Welsh Show photos: Rachel Thomas, Tanhouse

Treatment of scab and lice

The association has a clear policy that all sheep that are entered for sale must have been treated against scab and lice before sales by the use of appropriate medicines, be that by the use of injections or by dipping: in fact, members need to sign the sale entry form to confirm that sheep have been treated against sheep and lice and to indicate the name of the product used.

A number of vendors have raised the question of how effective some products are and a number of farmers are unaware that some products are not licensed for use against scab or lice even though they may contain a similar active chemical. For example, Ivomec Classic Injection and Bimectin are both based on the same active ingredient, Ivermectin but Bimectin is

not licensed for use against scab whereas Ivomec Classic Injection is. The situation is further complicated when two products with similar names sharing the same active ingredients are not both licensed. Cydectin Drench and Cydectin 1% Injection are both Moxidectin based products but only the 1% Injection is licensed against scab.

In order to try and clarify the position, we have reproduced with their kind permission, a pamphlet originally produced by HCC that lists the medicines that are licensed to treat external parasites of sheep. **If you are unsure as to what product to use, we strongly recommend that you discuss the matter with your vet or animal health advisor.**



The winner of the Keith Evans Memorial Cup for the best entry of yearling ewes at the association's Ruthin sale last autumn was B Edwards, Bodlywydd Uchaf, Llanelidan, Ruthin: he also obtained the highest price of £160. He's seen receiving the cup from Emyr Lloyd of Ruthin Farmers Auction Company, flanked by judges, Gareth Rees, Richard Thomas, their sons Hywel and Jonathan and Field Officer, Marcus Williams



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Remember: For the 2013 sales, ewe lambs must be tagged with a yellow electronic tag in the left ear and a PURPLE 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

Photos of the 2012 Ewe Lamb Competition Winners



Top Left:

Gwyn & Neil Jones, Ty Gwyn, Garth with their prize-winning pen at the September sale at Welshpool

Top Right:

Idwal Jones, Llanilltyd receives the ewe lambs champion's cup from Welsh Mules chairman Brian Roberts at Builth, flanked by (l-r) Marcus Williams, association Field Officer, Idwal's son Tom and judges Clwyd Jones and Sion Owen



Bottom left:

Gwyn & Neil Jones at the October sale at Builth where they received the Vernon Wilson Memorial Cup from Brian Roberts flanked by judges Gwyn Price (l) and Dewi Williams (r)

Bottom right:

Dewi Williams, Bryn Dansi, judge at Builth in October had himself won the ewe lamb competition at Ruthin where he is photographed being presented with his award from Marcus Williams with judges Gareth Rees (left), Richard Thomas and their sons Hywel and Jonathan. It's never too soon to start!