

JULY 2016

For this year's sales, ewe lambs must be tagged with a yellow electronic tag in the left ear and a

ORANGE

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;

e-mail: info@welshmules.co.uk

website: www.welshmules.co.uk

Getting ready for the 2016 Sales

The association's members will be receiving their sale entry forms with this newsletter. Please can you make sure that you return the completed forms to the relevant auctioneers by **Monday 25th July**.

You will recall that the association's executive committee arranged that the sale draw be open so that members could be present when the draw was made. Therefore, any member 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 3rd 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 will be present at the NSA Sheep Event in Malvern on 27th July and in

the Royal Welsh prior to that to promote the sales: members will be most welcome to call by at our usual venue in the NSA stand.

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

2016 Sale Draw:

The draw for the association's September 2016 sales will be conducted at

6.30pm on Wednesday
3rd August 2016

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

2016 SALE DATES: WELSHPOOL:

- Wednesday, 7th September (Ewes)
- Thursday, 8th September (Ewe Lambs)
- Thursday 6th October (Ewes & Ewe Lambs)

BUILTH WELLS:

- Friday, 9th September (Ewes & Ewe Lambs)
- Tuesday, 11th October (Ewes & Ewe Lambs)

RUTHIN:

- Saturday, 10th September (Ewes & Ewe Lambs)

Ewe Lamb

Competitions:

Just a reminder that the ewe lamb competitions have changed.

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.



Busy auctioneers at the association's sale at Welshpool in September 2015

Promotion campaign for 2016

The association will be present again at the Royal Welsh Show in Builth Wells and at the increasingly popular NSA Sheep event in Malvern on 27th July to promote the association's sales and the quality of sheep on offer there.

There will be a display of very high quality stock to see, led, as usual, by John & Richard Thomas of Tanhouse, Dolau Llandrindod Wells.

Members are encouraged to come and visit it us on the stand and would be

warmly welcomed to stay a while to talk to potential buyers that call in if they have the time. This is particularly true in Malvern where at times, there are a lot of potential buyers wanting information and we may be short-handed. Many potential customers from the length and breadth of the UK and beyond come to see us in Malvern and we hate to loose a potential customer: your help could be invaluable.

The association's advertising programme

for 2016 will be as extensive as usual with the main thrust being adverts in the Farmers Guardian and Farmers Weekly supported by further adverts in local publications. We've also agreed to continue advertising in the NSA's journal, the Sheep Farmer. The association restarted its support last year and it proved a worthwhile decision. If any member has a story or photo to support our promotional campaign, please get in touch.

Sale Entry Forms: selling 'Performance' Mules? Reminder

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



Two Welsh Mule hogs with Beltex-cross lambs at foot at Howell and Elizabeth Powell's farm, Llwyn Gwilym, Rhyader

For your information - Last year's sale results

Welshpool	2015			2014	
	Nos	Av Price		Nos	Av Price
September:					
Yearlings	6576	133.77		6834	137.94
Ewe lambs	8185	95.15		7833	98.17
October:					
Yearlings	972	115.99		1381	131.17
Ewe lambs	6861	82.15		6504	84.17
Builth Wells					
September:					
Yearlings	2737	136.19		2951	146.79
Ewe lambs	8036	92.75		7337	99.13
October:					
Yearlings:	751	112.89		284	140.80
Ewe lambs	7453	83.65		7473	83.88
Ruthin					
Yearlings	2604	112.72		2515	126.34
Ewe lambs	2835	76.27		3219	81.43

The association has developed a reputation as a source of the best quality breeding ewes over the years. One of the main reasons for that is by trying to ensure that vendors stand by the sheep that they sell, sorting out any complaint as they arise. However, we are not implying that any problem is always the vendor's fault.

The conditions of sale entry make it clear. The association is not a party to any contract to purchase animals at the sale and accepts no liability whatsoever for any loss arising from the sale of sheep. The Association cannot accept any liability whatsoever for any dispute about animals sold at our sales: it's a matter between vendor & buyer. If problems do arise, the association expects the vendor & buyer to try and sort the matter out between themselves. If that's not possible, the conditions of sale entry make provisions for the dis-

pute or difference to be settled by "... an expert to be appointed by agreement between the parties or, in default of agreement, by the Association, such person to act as expert and not as arbitrator and his decision to be binding on the parties." The association expects this condition to be adhered to. What would be disappointing is if a vendor was to ignore any complaint and fail to respond to a reasonable request to deal with the matter. If buyers are disappointed by the action of one vendor then they may decide that they would not come to a future sale and that would affect the position of members as a whole. As a consequence, the association would have no option other than to refuse to accept future sale entries of members who fail to respond to a reasonable complaint.

CLOSING DATES FOR

RETURN OF SALE

ENTRY FORMS:

September Sales

Monday 25th July

October Sales

Monday 12th 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 **BLUE** forms and

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

Thank You.



Association Field Officer, Marcus Williams can assist both vendor & buyer, if required.



**Welsh Mule Sheep
Breeders Association Ltd**

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

Remember: Ewe lambs must be tagged with a yellow electronic tag in the left ear and a **ORANGE** 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

The threat of Bluetongue

A recent updated bluetongue assessment shows that France has continued to report cases of Bluetongue disease, BTV8, but there has been no increase in the restrictions zones and no infection detected in close proximity to the North coast of France. The French have published a review of the situation so far, including clinical signs observed in a few animals. There is no immediate or significant increase in risk to the UK at this time (even though the risk is still estimated to be high as we get closer to late summer).

Vaccine will be made available by manufacturers to farmers in Great Britain from mid-July onwards and its use remains a commercial decision on the part of the livestock keeper, in consultation with their private vet. At this stage, MSD Animal Health and Zoetis Animal Health have confirmed they will sell vaccine.

How bluetongue is spread

Midges carry the bluetongue virus. The disease spreads when infected midges bite an animal affected by the disease. The midge season is normally March to September. The weather (especially temperature and wind direction) affects how the disease can spread.

Latest information

Surveillance in the UK is now including screening bulk milk samples from a randomised selection of dairy herds in South East and East England.

What to do

- Monitor stock carefully and report any clinical signs of disease.
- Source animals responsibly and check the health status

of animals you are looking to buy.

- Consider vaccination as a method of reducing the spread of infection; consult your vet about if you want help assessing the risk to your flock.
- Maintain good biosecurity, such as washing equipment after use.

What to look out for

- Lethargy, reluctance to move
- Ulcers in the mouth and on the muzzle
- Discharge of mucus and drooling from mouth and nose
- Swelling of the muzzle, face and above the hoof
- Redding of the skin above the hoof
- Redness of the mouth, eyes, nose
- Fever
- Lameness
- Breathing problems

Who to contact: Bluetongue is notifiable, which means if you suspect an animal is showing signs of disease you must tell the Animal Plant Health Agency (APHA) immediately. Failure to do so is an offence.

In Wales, call 03003 038268

Useful video links - <http://bit.ly/1T24Nfo> and <http://bit.ly/1rwWFKz>

Many thanks to the NSA and the Office of the Chief Vet for Wales for providing us with this information