

JULY 2021

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

GREEN

coloured tag in the right ear

Welsh Mule 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



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

For Performance Mule Ewe Lambs, please use the Performance Ewe lamb column on the Ewe lambs sale entry form.

2021 SALE DATES: WELSHPOOL:

- Wednesday, 8th September (Ewes)
- Thursday, 9th September (Ewe Lambs)
- Thursday 7th October (Ewes & Ewe Lambs)

HEREFORD:

- Friday, 10th September (Ewes & Ewe Lambs)
- Tuesday, 12th October (Ewes & Ewe Lambs)

RUTHIN:

- Saturday, 11th September (Ewes & Ewe Lambs)

We don't suppose anyone could have imagined this time last year that we'd still be grappling with the Covid 19 pandemic in the summer of 2021. While the vaccines have clearly been a tremendous help, the association have had to make some difficult decisions in the dark, without knowing what the situation will be like at the time of the sales. It was agreed early on that the 'Builth' sale would be held in Hereford again and that the association would not be attending any shows or demonstrations. However, we hope to hold the ewe lamb competitions and to see further easing of restrictions. It will probably be advisable though to maintain social distancing and caution as some of the new variants appear to be particularly virulent. Given the continuing uncertainty, it's been decided that regrettably, the sale draws will need to be closed ones for this year again. Please see separate notice.

2021 Sale Draw:

The draw for the all the September sales will be conducted at 6.30pm on Wednesday 4th August 2021 at the offices of Welshpool Livestock Sales. However, due to the continuing uncertainty about the Covid 19 pandemic, we may have to hold the draws locally if circumstances don't allow. For that reason, they will be closed draws, not open to members 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.

CLOSING DATES FOR RETURN OF SALE ENTRY FORMS:

September Sales

Monday, 26th July

October Sales

Monday, 20th Sept



HCC Red Meat Development Programme

A programme delivered by Hybu Cig Cymru – Meat Promotion Wales (HCC) aims to equip the red meat sector for the future; using external funding to promote efficiency, profitability and sustainability throughout the supply chain, and ensure a high-quality nutritious product that future consumers will demand. The Red Meat Development Programme consists of three projects focussing on animal health, genetics and lamb meat quality.

Flock and herd health project, Stoc+ is currently working with over 350 farmers and around 40 vet practices to promote active flock and herd health management.

As part of the project, farmers work proactively with their vets to identify priority areas of animal health improvements on their farms. 42% of Stoc+ farms who manage sheep identified worm control as one of their priority areas of focus. In response to this, HCC has worked with the other UK red meat levy bodies to update the information in the 'Worm Control in Sheep' publication which can be found on the HCC website.

The Hill Ram Scheme is investing in Welsh hill and upland farming by applying the latest breeding technology with traditional flock husbandry in the hill sheep sector. To date, over 50 flocks from across Wales are utilising DNA parentage technology to support the understanding of their flocks' genetic potential and performance.

The majority of flocks on the project gather DNA information by using Tissue Sampling Unit (TSU) technology. Last year, samples from a total of 15,650 ewes and yearlings were gathered as part of the project.

The Welsh Lamb Meat Quality project is working towards developing a blueprint for the whole supply chain to ensure that we continue to deliver top taste consistency to consumers of PGI Welsh Lamb.

The project is researching on-farm and processing factors that influence eating quality. This involves assessing the influence of farm and processing management process together with consumer cooking techniques. Examples of varia-

tions that are being assessed as part of the project are seasonality, slaughter age and specific lamb cuts.

The Red Meat Development Programme is a 5-year programme which is funded by the Welsh Government Rural Communities – Rural Development Programme 2014 – 2020, which is funded by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development and the Welsh Government.

Welsh Mules sales prices for last two years

Welshpool	2020		2019	
	Nos	Av Price	Nos	Av Price
September:				
Yearlings	5097	167.01	5613	143.63
Ewe lambs	8373	116.42	7764	99.23
October:				
Yearlings	280	158.38	647	130.10
Ewe lambs	5747	96.49	5417	83.76
Builth Wells				
September:				
Yearlings	2841	173.43	2719	150.05
Ewe lambs	7274	115.71	7512	96.86
October:				
Yearlings:	145	136.21	239	125.72
Ewe lambs	4971	99.20	4645	84.33
Ruthin				
Yearlings	1575	113.45	1770	130.83
Ewe lambs	2567	73.08	2609	83.77

YOUR CONTACTS WITH THE WELSH MULES

The association's Field Officer, Will Jones 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 07854 600667.

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 (Tel: 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



Like our page [Welsh Mule Sheep Breeders Association](#)



Follow us @[MuleWelsh](#)