

JANUARY 2015

The AGM of members of the association is to be held on Wednesday, 11th February 2015 at 7.30pm at the offices of Welshpool Livestock Sales, Buttington Cross, Welshpool

2015 SALE DATES:

WELSHPOOL:

- Wednesday, 9th September (Ewes)
- Thursday, 10th September (Ewe Lambs)
- Thursday 8th October (Ewes & Ewe Lambs)

BUILTH WELLS:

- Friday, 11th September (Ewes & Ewe Lambs)
- Tuesday, 13th October (Ewes & Ewe Lambs)

RUTHIN:

- Saturday, 12th September (Ewes & Ewe Lambs)

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Welsh Mules Sheep Breeder's Association Newsletter

Welsh Mule Sheep Breeders Association Ltd;
Gorseland, North Road, Aberystwyth, Ceredigion SY23 2WB

Review of 2014 Sales

There was steady demand in the September sales with over 33,000 sheep forward. Favourable summer weather had helped to bring sheep forward in good condition and ensured buyers had sufficient forage available. There were also 'Performance' Welsh Mules available for sale for the first time, sheep that had been sired by a performance recorded Blue-faced Leicester ram.

Sales got off to a good start when yearling ewe prices at Welshpool averaged £138, up £7 on 2013 with H&E Powell, Llwyngwilym, Rhayader obtaining the best price of £212 for a pen sold to G Price, Parc y Deri, Llanilar. Ewe lambs averaged £98, up by £1 on 2013, with Eric Hughes, High Park Farm, Stone Heath obtaining the highest price of £205 for the pen that won the cup for the best entry of ewe lambs bought by RA Jones, Red Gwentrew, Sarn, Newtown: this was a record price for an entry of ewe lambs at the association's sales.

H & E Powell, Llwyngwilym, topped the yearling market at Builth Wells the following day as well with a pen selling for £215, with G Price, Parc y Deri, being the buyer once more. Yearling ewe prices averaged £147, up by £23 on the previous year. RG & BM Jones & Son, Ty Mawr, Garth, Builth Wells achieved the best price of £156 for a pen of ewe lambs sold to Lewis Farming, Nash Farm, Milson, Cleobury Mortimer.

The final September sale at Ruthin saw yearlings selling for an average of £126, up £18, with RD & CE Davies, Ty Canol, Llanfair TH obtaining the highest price of £165 from GN & MEM Morris, New Santley, Santley, Wrexham. Ewe lambs were up a £1 on the previous year at £81 with G Davies, Penrallt, Nant y Rhiw, Llanrwst winning the ewe lamb competition and achieving the best return of £118 from Rita Lloyd Evans, Fron, Cyffylliog, Ruthin.

The association's October sales maintained the momentum with demand for yearling ewes being particularly buoyant.

At Welshpool, yearling prices averaged £131, with G Price, Hafod, Llaithddu, Powys obtaining the highest price of £151 for a pen sold to Glanterrig Farms, Nercwys. Ewe lambs averaged £84 each, up £2 on 2013 with J Thomas & Son, Tanhouse, Dolau obtaining the best return of £126 for sheep purchased by EM Eaton, Sulby Lodge, Naebly Rd., Northampton.

At Builth Wells, yearling ewes averaged £141, with the top price of £158 paid by DR Williams & Son, Cwmystym Farm, Walton, Prestigne for a pen sold by GE Powell, Cwmfardry, Abbeycwmhir. Ewe lambs averaged the same as at Welshpool at £84 with the top price being £146 for a pen sold by DE & G Davies & Son, Llwynpiod, Garth, Messrs Philips, Maesydderwen, Trawsmawr, Carmarthen.

Association chairman, Brian Roberts felt that trade had been fair with buyers looking for and finding quality stock. "Buyers and vendors were generally pleased. A significant number had travelled quite a distance to come to the sales, just reward for the promotional efforts put in by the association in 2014" said Mr Roberts

Field Officer, Marcus Williams was satisfied that the effort to market 'Performance' Welsh Mules had been worth it, adding that "We can build on what we have started this year as there are clearly a growing number of buyers interested in receiving more data about the stock that they purchase."



A Owen, Ty'n yr Odyn, Llanelian, Amlwch, Ynys Mon receives the Keith Evans Memorial Cup for the best pen of yearling ewes at the Welsh Mules' Ruthin sale from Keith's sister, Rita with chairman Brian Roberts and judges, Adrian Morgan and George Herdman looking on.

NSA Welsh Sheep 2015 is to be held at Glanmiheli and Derfor Farms, Kerry near Newtown on 19th May 2015 by kind permission of brothers Geraint and Morton Powell. The Welsh Mules Sheep Breeders Association was very pleased to be able to help back the event by becoming one of the main sponsors.

Geraint, Morton and the whole Powell family in fact have long been stalwarts of the association and so the association's executive committee considered it a privilege not just to support the family and the NSA but an opportunity to promote the breed at one of GB's premier sheep events in 2015. For further details visit the NSA website or contact event organiser Helen Davies on helen@nationalsheep.org.uk

Last year's sale results in detail

Welshpool	2014 Av Price	2013 Av Price
September:		
Yearlings	137.94	130.69
Ewe lambs	98.17	97.62
October:		
Yearlings	131.17	110.15
Ewe lambs	84.17	81.98
Builth Wells		
September:		
Yearlings	146.79	123.88
Ewe lambs	99.13	95.34
October:		
Yearlings:	140.80	125.10
Ewe lambs	83.88	82.11
Ruthin		
Yearlings	126.34	108.20
Ewe lambs	81.43	80.39

Association at NSA Sheep 2014 display well received

The NSA 2014 Sheep Event at Malvern last year proved to be very successful one for the association.

The executive committee had decided on a larger display than usual which created more space to show the sheep on offer. The display layout had been planned well in advance and the work paid off handsomely because the exceptional sheep prepared for the demonstration by John & Richard Thomas of Tanhouse and TV Hughes & Co Godreccarreg, Llangadog were shown to best effect, so much so that the association's display won the first prize for having the best display of sheep throughout the whole event.

The stand itself, enhanced by Mary Gittins, Ystum Colwyn's floral arrangement, was also awarded the third prize in the competition for the best stand by a sheep society. Executive committee members including chairman Brian Roberts, Stingwern,

Brooks and Mike Rees, Upper Pentre, Llanbister Road as well as John & Richard Thomas, Tanhouse were kept busy.

throughout the day with a steady stream of enquiries from potential buyers.



Marcus Williams with the first prize certificate for the best sheep on display at the NSA 2014 Open Day & Brian Roberts with the third place certificate for the best sheep society stand. Pictured (l-r) are Andrew Walton (judge of the competition for the best sheep) Marcus, Robert Addison (best pen of sheep judge) Brian, Susie and Hamish Dykes (judges of the best sheep society stand competition)

Sheep identification and flock record update - changes since 1st January 2015

Since 1 January 2015, keepers are required to record the individual tag numbers of sheep which were tagged before 2010 on the movement document (AML1). Sheep sent direct to slaughter or moved within the same ownership can continue to be moved by batch recording. The table below illustrates the recording requirements for different movement scenarios:

Minimum information required on **movement documents** and **flock records**

BLUE – MOVEMENT DOCUMENT

RED – FLOCK RECORD

*movements direct to abattoir means a move from your holding to the abattoir and not via a market/dealer/co-operative.

Sheep	Move within ownership (e.g. tack)	Movements direct to abattoir*	Other moves (e.g. market/private sale/show)
Identified prior to 31 st December 2009 (i.e. non EID double tags pre 31 Dec 2009 or single tags if before 22 Feb 2008)	Total number of sheep moved Total number of sheep moved	Total number of sheep moved Total number of sheep moved	Full individual number e.g. UK741234 000123/ J1234 005 Total number of sheep moved
Identified after 31 st December 2009 (Full EID)	Total number of sheep moved Total number of sheep moved	Full Individual UK number e.g. UK074123600001 Full Individual UK number e.g.	Full Individual UK number e.g. UK074123600001 Full Individual UK number e.g. UK074123600001
Lambs identified with a single slaughter tag (non-EID or EID)	Total number of lambs moved Total number of lambs moved	The total number of lambs moved The total number of lambs moved with each different flock number recorded e.g. UK741234 x 24; UK741235 x 26 Total lambs moved = 50	The total number of lambs moved The total number of lambs moved with each different flock number recorded e.g. UK741234 x 24; UK741235 x 26 Total lambs moved = 50

Sheep Tagging: Lambs born on your holding must be identified before they move off the holding of birth or before they reach

- 6 months of age for sheep kept under intensive husbandry systems (i.e. housed rather than on grass)
- 9 months of age for sheep kept under extensive husbandry systems.

Tagging options- Changes in Wales from 1st January 2016

There are changes to the tagging requirements following the outcome of the EIDCymru and slaughter derogation consultation in 2014.

The table below illustrates the options available now and from 1st January 2016.

When	What tags	Non-Electronic (conventional /plastic) Slaughter tag*	Electronic Slaughter tag	Full EID
Current position up until 31st December 2015		Lambs intended to be slaughtered in an UK abattoir prior to reaching 12 months of age.	Lambs intended to be slaughtered in an UK abattoir prior to reaching 12 months of age	Breeding Lambs kept beyond 12 months of age Store/finished hoggets intended for slaughter but kept beyond 12 months of age Lambs intended for live export.
1st January 2016		This will not be an option for lambs identified after 1st January 2016.	Lambs intended to be slaughtered in an UK abattoir prior to reaching 12 months of age.	Breeding Lambs kept beyond 12 months of age. Store/finished hoggets intended for slaughter but kept beyond 12 months of age Lambs intended for live export.

Lambs identified (in Wales) with a non-electronic (conventional) slaughter tag prior to 1 Jan 2016 can continue to move with this identifier until they are deemed to be 12 months old. This includes movements across the border into England/Scotland. Some markets/abattoirs have made commercial decisions to only accept electronically identified lambs. Keepers are advised to check if the non-electronic (conventional) tags are acceptable with these markets/abattoirs. Contact Details: If you require further assistance, please contact the Farm Liaison Service or Livestock ID helpline: 01267 245022 Customer Contact Centre: 0300 0625004



**Welsh Mule Sheep
Breeders Association Ltd**

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Remember: For the 2015 sales, ewe lambs must be tagged with a yellow electronic tag in the left ear and a BLUE 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

2014 Sales Ewe Lamb Competition Winners



Top Left: Mr Eric Hughes, High Park Farm, Stone Heath receives the cup for the best pen of ewe lambs at the September sale in Welshpool from Field Officer Marcus Williams with judges MJ Woodward and S Mason from Leicester.

Top Right: Owen Jones from I & W Jones, Upper Rheol, Erwood, Builth Wells receives the ewe lamb championship cup in Builth Wells from Marcus flanked by judges William & Alun Jones, Llanerfyl.

Bottom left: Gwyndaf Davies, Penrallt, Nant y Rhiw, Llanrwst won the cup for the best pen of ewe lambs at the Ruthin sale. Sons Carwyn (l) and Caron (r) seen here with the cup and rosette presented by Marcus with judges John Jones, Berain, Llanefydd and Neil Morris, New Sontley, Sontley Nr Wrexham

Bottom right: Neil Jones, Ty Mawr, Garth receives the Vernon Wilson Memorial Cup from Marcus for the best pen of ewe lambs at the Builth Wells October sale supported by judges Ben and Jake Powell, Llwyngwilym with Neil's father, Gwyn looking on.