

CHAROLLAIS TIMES



April 2021



*Charles Sercombe, New Chairmen for the Society
Charollais Lambs on fire at Spring Lamb Show & Sales*



APRIL 2021 ISSUE

- Interview with new Chairman
- AGM Notice
- Annual Accounts
- Export new rules
- Chairman's Report
- Regional News
- New Members

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Charollais Times is published by the British Charollais Sheep Society.

Editor : Carroll Barber

For more information on any of the subjects covered in this edition, please call the office or visit our website at www.charollaisheep.com Although every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy neither the Charollais Society nor the authors can accept liability for errors and omissions.

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NEW CHAIRMAN - CHARLES SERCOMBE

Charles Sercombe, new Chairman of the Charollais Society, answers our questions on his Charollais flock and his hopes and ambitions for the Society under his leadership.

Charles runs a multi-layer sheep business with his wife Helen, from just outside Melton Mowbray in Leicestershire. At the home farm, Sandlands of 150 hectares he runs nucleus pedigree flocks of Charollais, Lleyln, Blue Texel and Abermax. They rent a further 200 hectares from a large estate 8 miles away where they lamb 1,600 commercial ewes.

The Dalby Charollais Flock

I have had a flock of Charollais sheep since 1986, when I started with one shearling and 3 ewe lambs and built it up since then. The breed has been ever-present in my farming business. We fell in love with them early on because they do so much that we feel is important for the sheep sector. We have met so many really nice people and had tremendous fun and enjoyment from our association with Charollais. I certainly can never envisage not have Charollais sheep on the farm.

What do you want to achieve for the breed as Chairman?

I would really like over the next few years to build on the sound foundations that we have as a breed. I am totally convinced that the Charollais breed has a highly important role to play in the UK sheep industry moving forward. I think we have unique qualities as a breed that will be a perfect fit as we move into a more sustainable, easy care and diverse way of agriculture. The attributes of easy lambing, quick growth and easy fleshing will really come to the fore in the next few years. The breed will nick well with the crosses that will be used; Texel cross, Suffolk cross, as people move away from the stratified system to keeping self-contained flocks. This will open up many opportunities for the Charollais.

What areas do you think the breed can improve on?

I think every breed can improve. The work that has been done over the 44 years that Charollais have been in the UK has been phenomenal. We have changed the breed out of all recognition from the first animals to arrive. But there is still work to do. We have to address the perception of lack of hardiness, we have to make sure that we maintain the quick growth, easy lambing and natural fleshing but put in there a tougher sheep that is more robust that suits a wide variety of systems.

How can we boost the profile of the Charollais breed?

I think we have a major role in the next 12-18 months to boost the profile of Charollais. If I have a disappointment over the past few years, it is that we have lost ground to our competitors in the way that we have gone about it. Those of us who work with Charollais on a day-to-day basis know the fantastic job they do. There is a large tranche of commercial sheep farmers out there that reap the rewards from using Charollais rams. What we need to do now is to tap into that commercial base and resource; identify role models who can give us statements and articles to persuade other farmers that Charollais really do deliver on the ground. The breed does as we claim.

What is it like having your daughter (Victoria) part of the breed?

Interesting! It causes some very interesting and lively debates and discussions when we talk about sheep. But I wouldn't have it any other way. She enjoys the Society as much as Helen and I do, meeting people and really likes the sheep. She misses working with the sheep on a daily basis due to her other work commitments. But I hope her interest will remain and she will continue to be successful with her flock.

What previous roles have you held in the Society and how will this help in the role as Chairman?

I have held a number of roles within the Society; for the past 6 years I have been Chairman of the Finance and General Purposes Committee. Prior to that I was a Trustee on behalf of the Eastern Region. I sit on the Judges Committee and have carried out sale inspection at all the major sales and provided sheep and promoted the breed on exhibition stands. These jobs I think give me a really full understanding of what the needs are of our members and the Society. I think we are at a crossroads, not only in agriculture but as a Society and we will have to change the way in which we operate. The world has changed dramatically over the past 12 months and I think it will continue to change over the next few years. As a Society we will have to adapt and adjust to the needs of our members. But I believe with the talented people we have on Council, the fantastic administration and support that we have from the office at Crogham Farm, we will be able to do that. My wish is that we can take all of our members with us on that journey; we can listen to the needs of members and take on board what they are saying and then try and make the best informed decisions to move the breed forward to make it better for everyone.

What roles do you currently hold in the farming sector?

Currently within the wider agricultural industry I have a number of roles; Chairman of the Sheep Health and Welfare Group, currently I am Chairman of the Sheep Breeders Roundtable which is a fascinating group of people who meet biennially to discuss the genetic trends and the changes in the industry and this helps keep Charollais in the forefront and involved. My most high profile role at the minute is to be the sheep industry lead on the Defra Animal Health and Welfare Pathway. That has been 2 ½ years so far and looks like we still have a way to go. But their proposals will change completely the way we look after our sheep in the UK. There are some highly innovative and interesting ideas coming out of this group and hopefully, as I mentioned earlier, the Charollais will fit into some of these requirements; easy lambing, easier care do impact on animal welfare. These wider roles give me a really good take and feel for what is around the corner and what the likely trends and developments will hold.

What are the benefits of selling tups at sales as opposed to off farm?

We do both, I would say there are benefits in both systems. If you sell from home you can build up a one-to-one relationship with your customer and get feedback on how your rams have performed. By going into the live auction system, you can raise the price but often you don't have any further contact with the buyers. I am a keen supporter of the live market system of selling stock; it helps us set the price. As a breeder you can visit sales and see the trends and see what other breeders are producing and get a feel for the direction and standard of other flocks.

NATIONAL ELECTIONS

Your new National Chairman of the Society has been elected and will be Charles Sercombe, from Nr Melton Mowbray in Leicestershire. Charles has answered our questions on his thoughts and hopes for the breed under his chairmanship. The full interview can be viewed on YouTube - just search Charollais Sheep.

We would like to thank Amelia Watts for her interest in the post and for standing in the election.

As Charles was Chairman of the Finance and General Purposes Committee, the Trustees sought to appoint a new member to this role. We are delighted that David Sloan from Dumfriesshire has agreed to act in this capacity.

REGIONAL ELECTIONS

Elections were due in three regions this year.

In the Eastern Region, Stuart Dunkley was returned unopposed for a further 3 year term of office.

In Wales we have a new Chairman in Adrian Davies from Carmarthenshire.

In Northern Ireland, Sheila Malcomson takes over the post.

We wish the new Trustees all the best and hope they enjoy their stint with the Society.

Our thanks go to our retiring directors; Dewi Evans in Wales, and William McAllister in Northern Ireland. William is not escaping duty as he will be joining the F&GP committee as an independent member.

These positions will be confirmed at the AGM on 4th May.

WORCESTER PREMIER SALE

What do you feel is the importance of performance recording?

I believe, and for me rightly that performance recording is an essential part of genetic improvement in any form of livestock. We have used it in our flock for over 30 years and it has helped us with decisions on which lines to continue to develop.

“If you don’t measure it, you can’t manage it”. it is a simple saying but it is absolutely true. The future of agriculture will be more about performance recording, benchmarking, comparing yourself to others, trying to run an efficient, effective and sustainable business.

What wisdom can you give to new breeders coming into and our younger breeders?

I don’t have any wisdom but I can pass on what I have learnt from mistakes I have made! We all make mistakes, young or old newcomers to the breed. I found it pretty daunting as a 21 year old when I bought my first sheep. I was lucky I made some good contacts and friendships.

The advice I can give is to get involved within your region, pick the brains of more established breeders, try and watch, look, learn and listen to all the things they are doing with their sheep and try and embed yourself into the breed. Then it’s time to ask questions; historically the older generation have been somewhat reticent to pass on those pearls of wisdom to younger breeders.

This is something I really want to change and hopefully we can get our Next Generation Group going and involve more experienced breeders to pass on hints on selection, growing, preparation of stock. The skills are all there, we have a tremendous wealth of knowledge within our ranks; we now need to establish the route by which to pass these onto those who want to learn. But there is no silver bullet, you have to put the effort in yourself and learn from your mistakes.

Inspection Team for Worcester

The timetable for the Worcester Premier Sale will be back to Inspection and Show Classes on Friday, with the sale of Gimmers and Rams on Saturday.

The inspection team will be led by Robert Gregory with the help of Andrew Thomas, Patrick Tully and Harold McBratney.

Inspection is a condition of entry of the Society and compliance with the inspection shall in no way form a guarantee to the purchaser of the animals so inspected.

Worcester Premier Sale

All being well with the Covid Roadmap, we should be in a position to hold a ‘normal’ sale at Worcester this year.

The timetable will be inspection and show classes on Friday 25th June. Sale of Males and Females on Saturday 26th June.

CLOSING DATE FOR ENTRIES IS FRIDAY 21ST MAY

- No late entries
- Entries on BCSS forms or via Grassroots
- Scrapie results with entries; all sheep to be ARR/ARR
- Entries accepted for shearing ewes - maximum 2 per flock

We are delighted that the show classes, should be able to go ahead. These will be judged by Robert Towers, who runs the Camp House Flock with his wife, Jackie, and daughter, Josie, at Greenlands Farm, Ingleton, Lancashire. Robert is an expert at prime lamb shows and took numerous championships this spring, with his lambs.



We are moving ahead with some exciting and new approaches to our promotional campaign for this year.

As we all know there will be no NSA Events and very few shows; so the platform for breed promotion has to alter. We will be using social media to a far greater extent, not just Facebook but Instagram and YouTube.

SALE CAMPAIGNS

We have employed the skills of Chrissie Long, Countrygirl Media to lead pre-sale marketing. Chrissie is well known to many of you as a professional photographer. She is also skilled in feature writing, PR, website design and brand identity. She will be running campaigns around Worcester Premier Sale and NSA Built Sales. Currently she is looking at working up some new brand identity options for social media cover artwork, website header images and strapline messages. We have also asked her to take a look at our website and suggest alterations and improvements.

To assist with the everyday requirements for social media posting, Elizabeth Barber has been taken on at the office. Elizabeth runs a Charollais Flock with her partner Mitchel Britten and has a passion for our breed. She is also very much up on the requirements for posting on social media (it is a skill of the younger generation!).

FEATURE FARMS

Elizabeth has also been putting together a group of commercial feature farms, who she will talk with on a regular basis. You will have already seen her posts with Beth Withers and Dan Phipps. Our strong focus here is on commercial farmers who use Charollais and pushing our breed traits of easy lambing, hardiness, quick growth and quality carcass. Elizabeth also did the interview with Charles Sercombe. She will be working closely with Chrissie Long to co-ordinate our campaign.

YOU CAN HELP

We will be using advertising via Facebook and Instagram but all breeders can help spread our message by engaging with our sites. Please do 'share' our posts and also 'like' them. This increases the views right across these platforms and gets our messages to those potential customers out there. Also if you want us to see your posts, then just tag CharollaisSheep. Don't forget to use hashtags on your own posts; this also increases engagement.



CharollaisSheep
over 8,000 followers
Posts of interest to commercial farmers and pedigree breeders

Instagram

charollais sheep
2,000 followers
posts and stories
on Focus Farms, breeders



YouTube

charollais sheep
Longer videos on focus farms,
Charollais breeders and
activities.

PLEASE
'LIKE'
AND
'SHARE'
OUR
POSTS

WORCESTER PREMIER SALE LIVE RING STREAMING

Live sale internet bidding with video and audio for our Premier Sale at Worcester will be streamed via McCartneys website and works on desktop, tablet and mobile devices.
Bids are received in real time to the auctioneer so potential purchasers can conduct their business from home, farm or in fact anywhere with the added benefit of an online fully searchable catalogue.

EXPORT RULES AND SCRAPIE TESTING

With the exit of the UK from the EU, there are many changes in the rules for export of breeding stock to Northern Ireland and EU countries

If you are wishing to export sheep to either Northern Ireland or an EU Country, you will need to register with Defra as an exporter. You will need a Government Gateway and Defra account. This is so you can log on to their site to complete the applications for export. These no longer can be completed by email and must be done via their portal.

For guidance on the process required go to the Defra website and to the page below.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/export-live-animals-special-rules>

EXPORT OR MOVE LIVE ANIMALS TO THE EU OR NORTHERN IRELAND

You will need an EHC (Export Health Certificate) to:

- export live animals from Great Britain to the EU
- move live animals from Great Britain to Northern Ireland
- transit through the EU and Northern Ireland

You also need to:

- get your goods checked at an EU border control post (BCP) or Northern Ireland point of entry in the first country you enter
- make sure your EU or Northern Ireland-based import agent has notified the BCP or Northern Ireland point of entry that your consignment is arriving - check with the BCP or Northern Ireland point of entry for how much notice needs to be given
- comply with wider HMRC guidance on customs requirements for exporting to the EU
- follow HMRC guidance for moving goods from Great Britain to Northern Ireland
- follow rules on identifying animals, if you want to export or move them to the EU or Northern Ireland

The main issue for export of stock into the EU is that there is currently no Border Control Point anywhere approved in northern European sea ports. Applications have been made for Calais and Le Havre; but are unlikely to be in place until July.

SCRAPIE TESTING

The Society offers a service to members to process scrapie tests.

Members should contact the office to request sample collectors - one collector is needed for each sheep you wish to test. We will then send you all the details you need to take the sample and dispatch it to the laboratory. Sampling is by taking a small piece of ear tissue with the collector and special pliers. The costs will be :-

Sample collectors £2.00(+VAT) each

Genotyping test (+VAT)

1 - 10 samples £13 each

11 - 50 samples £12 each

51 - 99 samples £11 each

100+ samples £10 each

Hire of applicator £4 (+VAT) for 2 weeks

Purchase of applicator £30 (+VAT)

To get the best rate for breeders, BCSS will collect samples here and send in one batch, typically on the last Wednesday of each month. However during busier times, we will send two batches per month - please contact the office to find the next posting date to Germany.

Breeders should allow at least 4 weeks from sampling for their results. Results are supplied to the Society as well as the breeder, so we can enter these details on the sheep database.

We will use a German company called Agrobiogen this year. Their test is accredited under ISO. This is applicable to breeders in Northern Ireland. Flocks in England, Scotland and Wales who need a scrapie test result for export, will have to contact their veterinary surgeon and arrange for a blood sample to be taken. This sample has to be submitted to SRUC or APHA for processing.

THREE NEW POST-MORTEM EXAMINATION CENTRES ANNOUNCED

Cambridge, Liverpool and Nottingham universities have joined the existing network of post-mortem examination providers and APHA Veterinary Investigation Centres. Farmers within a one-hour drive of a post-mortem site are asked to transport the carcass there, whereas a free collection service is provided for several areas within England and Wales.

Use the post code checker at <http://apha.defra.gov.uk/postcode/pme.asp>. To check if you can access collection.

BRITISH CHAROLLAIS SHEEP SOCIETY LTD
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NOTICE is hereby given that the forty-third Annual General Meeting of the Society will be held by Zoom Conference on Tuesday 4th May at 7.00 PM

- 1.0 To read the Notice convening the meeting
- 2.0 To receive apologies for absence.
- 3.0 To approve the Minutes of the 42nd Annual General meeting
- 4.0 To receive the report of the Chairman
- 5.0 To receive and, if approved, to adopt the Report & Financial Statement to 31st December 2020.
- 6.0 To confirm the appointment of new Directors and Trustees of the Company
- 7.0 To re-appoint Messrs Argents as Independent Examiners for the ensuing year and to Authorise the Council of Management to fix their remuneration.
- 8.0 To transact any other ordinary business of the Society.
- 9.0 Date of next meeting

By Order of the Council of Management
CARROLL BARBER
Company Secretary

An extract of the Report and Financial Statements is included in this publication on Page 9. A full set of these accounts has been circulated to the membership via email.

WAYS TO PAY YOUR BILLS WITH BCSS

Direct Debit

If you wish to pay all your invoices from the Society by Direct Debit payment, then please contact us for the relevant form.



Card Payment

If you would like to pay by card then just call the office and we will take the details over the phone. There is no charge for credit cards.



Ebank

To pay by ebanking, please put your Flock Reference letters as the reference on the payment, so we can allocate it correctly. The bank details are :



Sort Code : 20-99-08

Account No : 30196851

Please do let us have your up-to-date email address.



We use this method of communication for our bulletins, sending pedigree certificates, scrapie results and much more.

So it is very important that we can contact you via this route.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2020 - ARWYN THOMAS

Although my favourite pastimes does not include writing reports, I find it hard to believe that 4 years have flown and time has come for this last offering.

This time last year as a Council we were attempting to plan for the inevitable challenges that the Corona restrictions would bring but little did we think that the challenges would still be relevant to this degree one year later.

I would like to thank the Council, the office and all the auctioneers, in addition to our members who have all shown great tenacity to ensure that our sales could proceed with as great a degree of normality and safety as the rules would allow last year.

We established contingency plans with alternative options including online bidding sales but as most breeders would agree it was fantastic to see the Charollais Premier sale at Worcester being the first Pedigree sale to go ahead nationally, albeit subject to strict restrictions. It was wonderful to see so many of our fellow breeders after months of isolation. Let us hope that following vaccinations we can catch up on a more personal level over the summer.

Again, the final decision went down to the wire and I thank all the vendors for being so supportive until late in the day. In mentioning the Premier sale congratulations to the Alford family for a fantastic top price.

My last year was not what I expected and I regret not being able to visit more of the regional events apart from online but I did manage to visit Dungannon Premier and the Tullyear Sale. I was delighted to see the tremendous quality of the stock on offer across the water and also commend them for the tremendous trade relationships they have built up with breeders from the Irish Sheep Society.

On this note congratulations to

the Cowan family who lightened up the winter with the cracking trade at their sale with the Charollais ewe price record twice being broken.

It was also pleasing to see fantastic female sales during the Autumn this side of the water with total sale clearances and prices soaring. I congratulate all the vendors on the quality and presentation of their stock.

Under the guidance of Amy Pedrick & Russell Gray we are seeking to relaunch a Young Members Association and early steps to create a potential members list and framework are under way. One of the biggest difficulties has often been the distance involved but I feel positive that with our growing confidence with online meetings, this problem can be overcome.

As a Council we are always looking for initiatives to promote our market share and following our March meeting we will be firming up our pre-sale marketing strategy for the Premier, NSA and other sales and looking to improve our promotional materials. I thank the directors for consulting with their regions for constructive feedback.

Over the past 4 years I have come to appreciate the support from the office and the tremendous teamwork that is required by the unpaid regional Chairman who devote a huge time commitment to ensure that they represent fully their members interests for the good of the breed.

Not all decisions are popular but that goes with the nature of the role and I thank you unequivocally for your endeavours in seeking impartiality and fairness. I would also like to congratulate Jonathan Barber on his pending retirement from the Society after 44 years. His networking and organisational skills will leave the Society with a strong financial and constitutional base as part of his legacy.



Retiring Chairman, Arwyn Thomas with his wife Jane at the 2019 AGM in Southern Ireland.

I would also thank Emma Mellen for her contribution over the last 3 years and I am sure that the Society will benefit from her work on the Welsh Hill Project.

I must extend my congratulations and good wishes to our new National Chairman, Mr Charles Sercombe whose experience I am sure will ensure that we all work collectively to take this wonderful breed forward.

Finally I thank you, the membership, for allowing me the privilege of being your National Chairman these past 4 years
I Fyny For Nod

Arwyn

The Society would like to thank Arwyn for his 4 years of outstanding service as our National Chairman.

We will be making a virtual presentation to him at the AGM.

ANNUAL REPORT & FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2020

	2020	2019
	£	£
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS		
Donations and legacies		
Donations, sponsorship & gift aid	3,123	4,018
Other trading activities		
Sale of promotional items	807	1,846
Investment income		
Interest and dividends received on investments	6,105	8,178
Deposit account interest	125	197
Charitable Activities		
Registration fees	66,894	70,771
Commission on sales	8,219	14,361
Sale entry fees	18,182	23,817
Year book and other publications	14,807	14,023
Genotyping testing	14,574	19,983
Subscriptions	25,898	26,773
Total income	158,734	183,967
EXPENDITURE		
Raising donations and legacies		
Advertising and promotional expenses	20,257	30,280
Charitable Activities		
Show expenses	(552)	6,703
Regional expenses	100	1,887
Sale costs	5,263	7,808
Yearbook, newsletter & other pubs	4,878	4,651
Genotyping expenses	11,439	16,186
Research and Development	450	-
Sub Total	21,578	37,235
Other Costs		
Postage and telephone	9,865	10,618
Printing and stationery	1,172	2,503
Subscriptions	1,443	2,078
Office and storage accommodation	7,600	7,600
Motor and travelling	-	4,295
Hotel and meal charges	142	3,294
Office expenses	4,630	5,433
Meeting expenses	3,280	5,799
Other sundry expenses	-	-
Sub total	28,132	41,620
Support Costs		
Management and administration	61,000	66,000
Accountants fees	2,246	2,239
Bank and Card Charges	1,122	1,189
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	3,156	3,311
Loss/(gain) on sale of tangible fixed assets	-	-
Sub total	67,524	72,739
Total resources expended	137,491	181,874
Net gains on investments	849	30,030
NET INCOME	22,092	32,123
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS		
Total funds brought forward	337,631	305,508
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	359,723	337,631

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SELLER IN NEW
COLOURS**

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**WITH CHAROLLAIS
LOGO
£35 (+p&p)**



Jack Pyke, 300 g thermal fleece with Nubuk piping. Two lower zipped pockets, full length double puller zip.

GENTS

Medium 36"-38"

Large 38" - 40"

X-large 42" - 44"

Colours : Navy, Dark Olive and Charcoal

LADIES

Medium Size 10-12

Large Size 12-14

Colours : Navy, Roselle and Denim

They have the Charollais Logo embroidered on the left hand breast side together with the words 'CHAROLLAIS SHEEP'

We can print your Flock Name on for an additional £5.00

SOCIETY TIES

COLOURS

Navy Green

£10



HALF-ZIP SWEATSHIRTS

COLOURS

Pink
Purple
Kelly Green
Dark Green
Azure Blue

Sizes: S, M, L & XL -

£15.00



CHELTENHAM JACKET

Navy

Sizes: M,L & XL

£30.77



Hoodies Full Zip

COLOURS

Black
Maroon & Grey
M, L & XL

£18.40



David Sloan from Dumfriesshire who will be the new Chairman of the Finance & General Purposes Committee

NEW CHAIRMAN OF FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE IS FROM SCOTLAND

It's all change at the head of the Charollais Society this year. With Charles Sercombe taking over from Arwyn Thomas as National Chairman, there was a vacancy as Chairman of the Finance and General Purposes Committee.

We are delighted that David Sloan from Dumfriesshire has agreed to take on the role. David together with his wife Helen and daughter Hannah have a mixed livestock farm at Rigghead. Originally a dairy farm they now run 350 suckler cows, 600 ewes plus 2,500 store lambs and 800 fattening cattle.

David's involvement with Charollais goes back to 1983 when the Rigghead Flock was formed. Sadly they lost all their stock in 2001 during FMD and it was a while before the family ventured back into pedigree breeding.

With Hannah's increased interest the Rigghead Charollais Flock was re-established and was soon heading to the top at shows and sales.

The Committee has a two-fold role; checking and planning the financial matters of the Society and a wider remit to consider new ideas and plans, before reporting to the full Council for their approval.

On a monthly basis the Finance Chairman oversees all financial transactions of the Society and together with the Company Secretary reviews quarterly figures in comparison to budgets.

David will officially take the reins at the National AGM on the 4th May. At the 2022 AGM, David will present the accounts to the membership.

RAM COMPARE FIVE YEAR RESULTS WEBINAR THURSDAY 20 MAY 7-8 PM

As the second phase of RamCompare comes to a close, AHDB reflects on the culmination of data collected and research over the past five years to identify what we can learn from the results. Twelve farms across Great Britain and Northern Ireland and a number of industry partners have helped to make this one of the sheep industry's most successful research and knowledge exchange projects.

This webinar will discuss findings from the RamCompare project results:

- Breeding values can be successfully generated from abattoir data
- Breeding values currently generated in Terminal Sire breeding flocks are valuable indicators of commercial performance for lambs being finished for slaughter
- The value of CT scanning as an important tool to enhance predictions of carcase weight, yield and shape

There are important genetic differences between sires in both the physical and economic performance of their offspring, including differences that directly influence the consumer in terms of the distribution of meat within the carcase and meat tenderness

To find out more about the project results sign up to this free webinar today. You can still register even if you can't make the date and time, and you will receive a recording after the event. RamCompare results 2021

To sign up head to the AHDB website

<https://ahdb.org.uk/events/ramcompare-five-year-results>

CHAROLLAIS



Year Book 2021

We hope you all like the 2021 edition of our Year Book. Thank you to all the advertisers who have supported the publication, our contributors and photographers.

Why not have some extra copies for your on farm customers. Or do you have a link with a local college, market or agricultural supplier who could circulate copies? The Year Book is a great vehicle to promote our breed. Just get in touch with the office to order some additional copies.



DOG WORRYING

Very sadly too many Charollais breeders have experienced problems with dog worrying in their flocks, often with serious consequences. The incidences of this problem appears to have worsened during the past year.

If you are in this position, the Society can help with valuations on any lost or injured animals.

The National Sheep Association is leading a campaign to try to address this issue and are running a Sheep Worrying Fortnight from the 30th April - 13th May.

“Join NSA for a fortnight of activity surrounding sheep worrying by dogs. With the devastating issue of sheep worrying by dogs continuing to affect sheep farmers and their flocks across the UK the National Sheep Association (NSA) is ready to #LeadOn the fight against sheep worrying by dogs.

NSA has been running its 2021 sheep worrying by dogs survey, which closed on 19th April 2021. The fortnight will launch with NSA presenting its survey findings, followed by a whole host of activity including webinars, workshops and new online case studies and content on the NSA website to help both sheep farmers in reducing the risk of attacks happening on farm and the general public in preventing their dogs from being involved in sheep worrying attacks.

Get involved by following NSA on Facebook and Twitter, and sharing your own experiences (good and bad) with #LeadOn. There will be plenty of content to share and interact with over the two weeks to get everyone talking about the importance of responsible dog ownership.

What's on? Alongside activity on social media every day of the fortnight, you can get involved with three workshops all dedicated to sheep worrying!



WORKSHOP: CONSTRUCTIVE CONVERSATIONS - HOW MEDIATION TECHNIQUES CAN HELP MANAGE CONFLICT WITH DOG OWNERS. FRIDAY 7TH MAY, 12PM.

WORKSHOP: RURAL CRIME - POSITIVE WAY TO WORK WITH THE POLICE ON SHEEP WORRYING CASES. MONDAY 10TH MAY, 12PM.

WORKSHOP: BEING PROACTIVE - TOOLS FOR POSITIVE ENGAGEMENT WITH DOG WALKERS. WEDNESDAY 12TH MAY, 7.30PM.

NSA has also produced a range of new graphics that have been recently shared successfully on NSA's social media pages. They have made one eye-catching sign into a downloadable sign for members to download and display.

These workshops are open to NSA Members. If you are not already a member this is an excellent organisation which is at the heart of all matters relating to sheep; policy, practical, campaigning and much more we suggest joining. The bi-monthly publication 'The Sheep Farmer' is a brilliant publication packed with information.

NSA can be contacted via their website www.nationalsheep.org.uk or telephone 01684 892661

Grassroots are continually making tweaks and improvements to their new system. Below are some notifications that might help you with entering your data

MOBILE APP

The mobile app is not free of charge. There is a monthly charge of £1.99 or an annual charge of £14.99. This is payable to Grassroots when you download the app through your App Store. You can try it free of charge for a month and after that you need to pay, if you wish to keep it.

The new system is available on your mobile phone, but at the moment you can only view your animals, not do any birth notifications, upgrade, transfers etc. So if you do not have access to a computer, tablet you will need to download the app. You can do this to enter your births and then cancel the app, so not having to make any payment. Grassroots are planning to update the new system to make it fully available on phones.

MEMBERS BIRTH SCREEN

When you are logging births on the birth screen, fill in the parent details, the date of birth and the number of males and females in the litter, and click on NEXT.

On the second screen you fill in the details for the lambs. There is now a list displayed on that screen of all the lambs they have already logged and not yet submitted. Hopefully this will help you from duplicating entries.

REMOVE FROM LIST

When you have finished logging your lambs, they click on Display List (top right) before you tick the Declaration and Submit. There is now the option for you to 'Remove' entries if you have made

Grassroots
PEDIGREE SOFTWARE SOLUTIONS

any mistakes. This removes these lambs completely. You can then relog them correctly before they 'Submit'.

Grassroots plan to add this 'Remove' option to the other confirmation screens in the near future.

LOGGING OFF

Do remember to 'Log Off' from the programme when you have finished entries. This is done by selecting the menu, top right hand of screen (the red/orange bars) and clicking the last option, Logout. If you do not do this, you may have problems logging in again at a later date.

HELP

If you are having problems with any functions, then do give the office a call. Wendy, who is charge of registrations is in the office every morning from 9 - 1. She can talk you through the processes.



SHOWS 2021

A small number of shows are planning to go ahead this year. Arrangements will be different to allow for covid measurements in force at the time.

ROYAL HIGHLAND 14TH JUNE

Classes for Charollais and other MV Accredited Sheep on this day. All competitions are open to exhibitors from the United Kingdom and Northern Ireland subject to the current Scottish Government Guidance. Please check the full entry conditions. Judge TBC.

GREAT YORKSHIRE 13TH & 14TH JULY

Entries are now open for sheep classes at the Great Yorkshire Show. MV Sheep will be shown on the 13th and 14th July. Entries close on the 6th May. Judge for the Charollais section will be Mr Tim Prichard, Glamorgan. www.greatyorkshireshow.co.uk

DEVON COUNTY 2ND - 4TH JULY

Entries are now open for the sheep classes. Charollais will be judged on the 2nd July and only required to stay for that day. Entries close on the 12th May. The judge will be John Andrew from Maybole, Ayrshire.

And later in the year :-

BALMORAL 22ND - 25TH SEPTEMBER

www.balmoralshow.co.uk

SCOTLAND

Hello from the Scottish Region. 13 months after the initial lockdown and we are still under lockdown!! With restrictions only beginning to be relaxed there seems to be a little light at the end of the tunnel.

The Highland Show are organising a livestock showcase which will be live streamed around the world and the Great Yorkshire is going ahead, with restricted visitor numbers. The sounds coming from Kelso Ram Sales and Builtl Main Sale are more positive and both look like going ahead.

On a really positive note the prime sheep trade has been an absolute flier! The Scottish Markets are a lot later than their English counterparts to start Spring lambs with many of them only just starting - see below for a quick roundup:

Lanark

Ewes - £180 (Langside)

Tups - £214 (Langside)

Stirling (UA)

Lambs - £181 to 385ppk (Langside)

Ayr

Cast Ewes - £168 (Lyonpark)

Lambs - £172 or 366ppk (Rowanston)

Carlisle

Lambs - £160 (Rigghead)

St Boswells

Lambs - £144 (Runningburn)

Lambs - £163 or 347ppk (Ladyflat)

Bentham

Lambs - £185 (Logie Durno)

Huntly

Ewes - £181 (Logie Durno)

Apologies if I have missed anyone from the market roundup.

I would like to welcome the new members and wish them the best with their purchases. I am sure we will manage to meet shortly.

We will assess the situation with regards to restrictions during the Summer and hopefully manage to organise some sort of flock competition.

Look forward to catching up.

Russell Gray

EAST OF ENGLAND

It seems no more than 5 minutes since the last report, but the 2021 one takes a more positive note.

A year so far that has seen market prices rocket for all prime stock, with Charollais well and truly making their name back into the top places for the breed to use. Congratulations to Alison Pittom for her exceptional £211 price for a Charollais ram at Rugby last week. Although not a Society sale the in-lamb sale at Melton Mowbray saw a 100% clearance rate.

Congratulations to Charles Sercombe of the Dalby flock on his appointment as National Chairman. We look forward to a farm walk round the Dalby flock on Sunday 23rd May as part of the region's AGM, and hope to see many of you there.

Although there are very few shows scheduled and currently none within the region, the Great Yorkshire looks likely to go ahead.

Zoom meetings have been held within the region. We keep our fingers crossed as vaccinations are rolled that we can return to some sort of normality for sales and shows in the coming months.

Oliver Chapman

WALES

In the recent zoom meeting Adrian Davies was elected to take over the Chairmanship from Dewi Evans who has been in the chair for the last six years. As a region we would all like to thank Dewi for his hard work and enthusiasm throughout his time. We now welcome Adrian in after 12 years as Vice Chairman! Emyr Hughes, Bronwydd Flock has been elected as Vice Chairman.

Due to the Covid situation we have not been able to conduct any events, but hope during 2021 we will be able to arrange an event and welcome new members.

We hope you've all had a good lambing and the sales for the

coming season will be successful. Feedback from members and market reports throughout the region have shown a fantastic trade for both spring lamb and cull ewes - long may it continue.

Adrian Davies

SOUTH WEST

Well here we are again, still under COVID restrictions but thankfully easing, and we now look forward to the summer months, and being able to catch up in person.

Lambing has gone well following a relatively kind winter and prime lamb, hogg and cull ewe prices have been fantastic. The early lambers have reaped this reward.

Zoom Quiz's and board games have continued with hysterics at the last Scatagories night kindly hosted by Tom and Katie. I think we all learned that Ed needs to get out more!! Our AGM was again via Zoom where we saw a new Vice Chairman - Tom Newth.

Tom Nancekivell is part of the new young breeders group recently formed with the help of our regional Chairperson, Amy. If you are interested in joining, please see details on the next page.

Unfortunately many shows have already been cancelled but Devon County is still going ahead with Charollais being shown on Friday 2nd July. Entries are still open if you would like to attend.

Royal Cornwall and Bath & West have both been cancelled for this year along with many one day shows. Please check websites for more up to date details as the year progresses.

Amelia Watts

NI REGION

It was all change at the top at the recent 31st Charollais Sheep AGM held via zoom, William McAllister steps down as Chairman after completing his six years in the chair, taking over is Mrs Sheila

Malcomson who has been Club Secretary for the past 27 years. Rebecca McBratney has taken on the role of secretary whilst Ian Goudy replaces David Mawhinney as treasurer. New Vice Chairman is Norman McMordie with new committee members Harold McBratney, David Anderson and Wesley Cousins.

William thanked everyone for the support he had received during his term as Chairman, in particular he thanked David for giving of his time as Treasurer and Sheila for her many years of service as Secretary. He wished all the incoming office bearers a successful term. Reflecting on the past year Charollais Sale prices were upheld throughout the season with females in particular being in high demand. On-line sales worked well with export sales continuing to flourish. Breeders have missed the competition and the craic of the show season, hopefully next year things will return to some sort of normality. In conclusion William wished the club every success in the future.

In coming Chairperson Sheila Malcomson thanked William for his hardwork and dedication, she welcomed the new committee and hoped that they and the members would ensure that the Club and Breed continued to thrive.

Premier Sale Date; Dungannon Market, Monday 26th July

In November a proposal was put to Council to start up and develop a Young Breeders Programme.

Myself (Russell Gray), Amy Pedrick, Eilidh Duncan, Tom Nancekivell and James Danforth met online for a brainstorming session. From this meeting it was decided to send out an open invitation to all young people involved in breeding Charollais to attend the next meeting in order to gauge the interest in such a

programme. We had an unbelievable 40 young people under the age of 30 registered their interest! At the next meeting everyone present said what they would like to gain from the group. It became clear that everyone was looking for the same things:

TRAINING

This covers a wide range of areas, all directed at introducing new skills or improving/developing existing skills. Almost everyone wanted to learn how to judge, how to prepare sheep for shows/sales, trimming and handling.

EDUCATION

There is a possibility of a weekend course through Duchy College on basic sheep husbandry, stock selection, stockjudging and show/sale prep. At the end of this they would have a qualification, but this has still to be looked into further. Online learning sessions seemed to prove popular in the form of question and answer sessions with top established breeders.

SOCIAL

One of the goals from the programme is to provide a social network for young members to make new friends and new contacts, but most importantly have fun along the way.

Once Covid 19 restrictions allow we will be looking to organise training days up and down the Country. Where any young person can come along and 'have a go' at judging a class of sheep, trimming and young handlers preparation. All of this will be done under the watchful eye of experienced breeders, who will offer advice to each individual. These training days will eventually be combined to form a weekend Young Breeders gathering. Not only will this be a great way to meet new people but will also enable skill improvement through competition. Stockjudging, sheep trimming, young handlers, lambing simulators, safe medicine usage, health and safety and a sheep based quiz are a few ideas

of a possible competition programme. Live demonstrations and seminars will also be incorporated.

THAT IS ALL IN THE FUTURE, SO WHAT IS HAPPENING NOW?

Our last meeting took the form of a question and answer session with Robert Gregory. No stone was left unturned as questions ranged from feeding, breeding and favourite animals to AI, Embryo transfer and the export market. It was a very informative and interesting meeting which was thoroughly enjoyed. These meetings are great for picking up top tips and useful advice, so our thanks go to Robert for giving up his time to talk to the Young Breeders. These meetings will be a regular event throughout the Summer, so any suggestions on speakers are most welcome!

ZOOM MEETINGS

Communication and learning have changed greatly throughout this pandemic. Social media (although heavily criticised at times) has been a great way of keeping in touch and of course where would we be without Zoom! Young people have embraced this technology far better than anyone. It is this motivation and enthusiasm that brings new ideas to the table and it is up to us (the older generations) to encourage and nurture this so that the Society has a bright future.

If anyone wishes to be part of this Young Breeders movement please do not hesitate to get in touch with Eilidh, Tom or James so that you can be included in our plans.

Tom 07582 379458
James 07592 820571
Eilidh 07909 074240



We are pleased to welcome the following new members to the Society. We hope that it will not be too long before you have the opportunity to meet other members at a Society event.

Please do contact the Society's office or your Regional Chairman if there is any aspect of breeding Charollais that you would like to discuss. For some members this may be their first experience with pedigree sheep, so don't be afraid to ask for help. The Charollais Society prides itself on the friendly attitude of its members and a lack of elitism; so, however small or large your flock, please take an active part. If we all work together the Charollais breed will continue its rise in popularity amongst lamb producers.

REGION 1

Ms Henderson **Shermid** **VIY**
Tigh Na Leitir, Skye-of-Curr Road, Dulnain
Bridge, Invernesshire PH26 3PA

Miss McAuley **Speyburn** **VJC**
9 Ashgrove Place, Elgin IV30 1UJ

REGION 4 EAST OF ENGLAND

Mr Hoggard **Manor House** **VIJ**
Station Road, Kirton, Newark NG22 9LH

Mrs Keeling **Mendlesham** **VIL**
Poplars Farm, Tan Office Lane, Mendlesham
Green, Stowmarket, Suffolk IP14 5RL

Mr & Mrs Hinton **Furrow Hill** **VIT**
Furrow Hill Farm, Wappenham, Towcester,
Northants NN12 8ST

Mr Read **Lowfield** **VIX**
Little Farm Cottage, Gainsborough Road,
Langford, Newark NG23 7RP

Mr Farnan **Holy Oak** **VIZ**
Holy Oak Farm, Church Road, Combs,
Stowmarket IP14 2EH

Mr Venn **Venn** **VJB**
Hartwell Hill Farm, Dunton Road,
Whitchurch, Aylesbury, Bucks HP22 4EL

REGION 5 CENTRAL ENGLAND

Mr Goodwin **Slimbow** **VIH**
Bromley Wood Farm, Abbots Bromley,
Rugely, Staffs WS15 3AG

Mr Jones **Gwasted** **VIP**
Gwasted, Selattyn, Oswestry, Shropshire
SY10 7HX

REGION 6 WALES

Mr Chinn **Celyn Fach** **VIE**
Hollybush Farm, Mathry, Haverfordwest,
Pembrokeshire SA62 5LG

SCOTLAND

Mr & Mrs Howatson **Owenant** **VIS**
Blaen-Y-Nant, Llanefydd, Nr. Denbigh
LL16 5EP

REGION 7 S. W. ENGLAND

Miss S L Osborne **Lowenna** **VIF**
Tobarn, Jacobstow, Bude, Cornwall EX23
0BU

Messrs Searle & Wilkins **Greinton** **VIM**
Coates Farm, Greinton, Bridgwater,
Somerset TA7 9BW

Miss Runnalls **Torveld** **VIN**
Hill View Farm, Liverton, Newton Abbot,
Devon TQ12 6HZ

Messrs Smaridge **Borough** **VIU**
& **Myers**
Littleborough, East Allington, Totnes, Devon
TQ9 7QP

REGION 8 NORTHERN IRELAND

Messrs Skelly **Shanaghan** **VIG**
& **Skelly-Smith**
4 Shanaghan Hill, Katesbridge, Banbridge
BT32 8NH

Messrs C & E Graham **Jockeys Quarter** **VIR**
Newparks, 125 Church Road, Glenwherry,
Ballymena, Co. Antrim BT42 3EJ

Messrs Scott **Tullindoney** **VIV**
40 Tullindoney Road, Dromara, Dromore,
Co. Down BT25 1ES

Miss McAleer **Gorticrum** **VIW**
9 Gorticrum Road, Strabane, Co. Tyrone
BT82 0HU

Mr Stevenson **Lenaderg** **VJA**
19a Manse Road, Portadown, Co. Armagh
BT63 5NW