

CHAROLLAIS TIMES



December 2020



Records smashed for Charollais Females and winning prime lambs



DECEMBER 2020 ISSUE

- COUNCIL NEWS
- END OF AN ERA
- SALES REPORTS
- RAM SURVEY REPORT
- WELSH PROJECT
- REGIONS NEWS
- SHOW DATES 2021

NEW STOCK IN!

*Perfect Christmas Present for
Charollais Breeders*



Jack Pyke Micro fleece gilet with nubuk piping and two lower zipped pockets. Good quality gilet, great country look and outstanding value for money.

Charollais Logo left breast side + your
Flock Name to order



Mens - Navy or Dark Olive Green
Large 42" - 44" Navy and Olive Green
XL 44" - 46" Navy and Olive Green
XXL 46" - 48" Navy only

Womans Navy and Roselle (pink)
XL Size 14-16 Navy only
L Size 12-14 Navy and Roselle
M Size 10-12 Navy and Roselle

Price - £35 including personalisation
(+ post and packaging)

Order now for delivery for Christmas.

FREE TO MEMBERS

If you would like a Lambing Book for this season's crop of lambs, then give the office a call and we will send you one out. We hope you find this useful to record all your lambs as they are born. We have left columns for your comments and also one to mark if you have culled or birth notified each lamb to the Society. Use one line for each lamb born.

Please do use the correct identification method for all your lambs. Some breeders continue to use alternative methods when their lambs are first born, but this just leads to queries, delays and mistakes later in the year. Use the proper 5 digit number and then it is plain sailing!

CHAROLLAIS LAMBING BOOK



Name : _____
Flock Name : _____
Flock Reference : _____
Year/s : _____
Grassroots Password : _____



*Merry Christmas and
Happy Lambing to
all our members*



END OF AN ERA FOR JONATHAN BARBER

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For more information on any of the subjects covered in this edition, please call the office or visit our website at www.charollais sheep.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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Cover Pictures :

Record breaking ewes at the Tullyear Charollais Production Sale

South West Flock Competition winners, Willow Flock

Reserve Champion lambs at Royal Ulster Beef & Lamb Championships from William McAllister

JONATHAN BARBER HAS RETIRED FROM HIS VARIOUS ROLES IN THE SOCIETY AFTER 43 YEARS.

The journey began for Jonathan in 1972, in France while on a trip to select a Charolais heifer. Discussions began to arrange the first importation of Charollais sheep into the UK. Eventually the first five ewe lambs and one ram lamb arrived for the Barber family on Boxing Day 1976. The British Charollais Sheep Society was formed the following year and Jonathan has been very much instrumental in its success over the intervening years.

“The first 10 years was non-stop selecting, purchasing, organising group trips and finding a way through health regulations as the UK stocked up with French genetics.” The margins from those activities were ploughed into the Society and allowed the healthy fund to support promotion and research on the breed in the UK.

There have been many Landmark achievements during his role with the Society including the launch of the first Sire Reference Scheme in 1988, scrapie genotyping in the USA, ‘Q’ scheme to identify rams with superior fleshing, innovative prize winning display stands, up to 45 auction sales each year and many more. Jonathan has never been short of ideas to keep the Charollais in the limelight.

In the early years Jonathan crisscrossed the UK as all lambs born were inspected prior to registration into the Flock Book.

“It is immensely satisfying that the breed has fared so well as a leading terminal sire for quality lamb production in the UK. The challenges have been tough at times, but the breed continues to improve and find new markets, whilst other breeds have fallen by the wayside.”

Early research confirmed that the Charollais has the genetics to produce a better eating experience than its contemporaries; coming to the fore again during the RamCompare project. It's easy lambing shape, especially for ewe lambs is a winner.

Jonathan is excited that the breed has more recently experienced strong demand from a wide range of countries across the world. “As farming changes in the sheep sector many developing markets have been investigated and promoted, with very encouraging results for the Charollais breed.” UK flock masters are producing a superior quality Charollais.

Over the years Jonathan has worked with 10 National Chairmen, 60 Council members and over 3,000 Society flock owners. He is confident the breed will continue to thrive in the future.

“Since advising the Chairman and the Board, that I wished to retire I have experienced great satisfaction, happiness and relief.”

“I shall continue with my mixed farming, poultry enterprises and the Crogham Charollais Sheep flock, and my other business interests.”

Carroll will continue as Company and Breed Society Secretary, ably supported by Elaine, Wendy and Liz.

Jonathan's Official retirement will be recognised from the 2021 AGM.

“Thank you all for a challenging and great experience with some wonderful characters over all the years.”

“Wishing you all a Very Happy Christmas, and a Healthy, Joyful New Year for 2021.”

The Council met by Zoom meeting on the 22nd November to review the year and attempt to start plans for 2021.

FINANCES

Council received a report from the Finance & General Purposes Committee and were pleased to learn that despite reductions in income, the Society had managed its expenditure diligently and was in a sound financial position. Disruptions to our sales calendar had taken its toll on income in this area.

Recent measures had been put in place to encourage flocks to register their stock with the Society and keep their records up to date.

Budgeting and planning for 2021 was discussed and alternative budgets will be prepared to allow for the different scenarios of the limitations (or not) on the number of shows, events, sales etc taking place.

NSA EVENTS & SHOWS

Council very much hope that the planned NSA days will go ahead. These are a major vehicle for our breed promotion and would be very much missed, for a second year. Council were adamant that regions must get more involved with these events. They can help the Society with the work involved setting up etc but also members are missing out on an ideal opportunity to promote their own stock.

A lightweight, more easily transported and erected promotional stand will be designed and purchased for these events.

SALES 2020 & BEYOND

Council reviewed the full list of sale results for 2020. They were delighted that we managed to run our Premier Sale at such short

notice and although the uncertainty and change in date had impacted on the number of entries, the overall result was an excellent sale. (Full report in this publication). Also the cancellation of large sales and the introduction of replacement sales, was difficult and returns both for vendors and the Society were affected.

The meeting also reviewed the Ram Survey. A full report on the results and Council's thoughts and ideas for the future are on Pages 9 - 11.

YEAR BOOK

Council agreed that this excellent publication is a key document for NSA events, shows and the membership. We encourage you to advertise your flock. Full details in this publication.

WELSH PROJECT

There is a round-up report on the project on pages 18-19. Council agreed that it was very important that we maintain our relationship with the project forms. Especially relevant is their participation with us at Welsh Sheep.

BREXIT AND CHANGES IN EXPORT REGULATIONS

Meeting considered the likely changes that will come into force from 1st January 2021, with the implementation of Brexit. As things stand at present, all sheep going into Northern Ireland will need to adhere to full EU export regulations. This will make the process more complicated and expensive for flocks in GB. Various bodies are lobbying to have a derogation for movement into NI, but it is not certain this will come about. Council agreed to keep a close eye on the outcome of negotiations and inform members well in advance of our Premier Sale, what changes are required for this event.

The meeting also heard that the export of sheep from GB to Europe from 1st January 2021 is also going to be difficult, certainly for a period of time as currently

there are no Border Control Points in Northern European ports. As GB becomes a 3rd Country, all livestock moving into Europe will have to be inspected at the point of entry, through a Border Control Point.

SALES DATES 2021

Council agreed some dates for 2021 sales. Further discussion will take place at the next meeting on alternative venues. Meeting also looked at when and where members have the opportunity to sell empty females and again this will be discussed further and clarified at the next meeting.

Council did agree that where possible we will carry out pre-sale inspection of all stock at official Society Sales.

REGISTRATIONS

Meeting reviewed the numbers of birth notifications and upgrades for the year to date. Numbers were back on 2019 and the meeting urged all flocks to get their records up to date and maintain the enhanced value of their flocks.

It was confirmed that until registrations have been fully paid for they remain 'pending' on Grassroots. Also lambs sired by rams that do not have a Scrapie Genotype result are dealt with in the same manner. Members were reminded to respond to requests for information on registration queries and also get their rams tested well before they wish to birth notify their progeny.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETINGS

The Chairman thanked all those who took part in the 2020 AGM, which was by Zoom meeting. For 2021 we are holding off making firm plans, but hopefully we will be in the Central Region for a one-day + one night event. This will take place at the end of April/ beginning of May and if a face-to-face meeting is not possible we will hold another Zoom meeting, but at this same time.

NATIONAL CHAIRMAN

Meeting heard that in May 2021, Arwyn Thomas will have completed two, 2-year terms of office as National Chairman and therefore will be required to step down. Council will elect a new Chairman in the New Year.

REGIONAL CHAIRMEN

There will be 3 elections due in 2021; William McAllister (Northern Ireland) and Dewi Evans (Wales) will have both served 2 terms of office and therefore not eligible for re-election. In East of England Stuart Dunkley is eligible for re-election. Nomination papers and voting papers will be sent out from the office, to the timetable as stipulated by our articles of association.

YOUNG BREEDERS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

Council agreed to re-launch a Young Breeders Development Programme. Further details will be agreed at the next meeting and an invitation sent out to all. With the advent of video meetings, it was agreed that it will be much easier for our young members to meet on line. More details to follow.

SOCIAL MEDIA AND PROMOTION

Emma Mellen's contract will come to an end on the 31st December. During her time with the Society, she has stimulated breeders to take advantage of publicity through social media. The Society will continue to keep contact with those involved in the Welsh Hill Ewe Project. 2020 has been a difficult year and many of the planned activities linked to this project have not been able to go ahead. There is a report on the project from Emma on Pages 18-19.

Our presence on Facebook and Instagram will continue at the same level and we will be discussing at our next meeting more details on promotion for 2021. From 1st January 2021

please pass all information to the office to include on Facebook and Instagram. You can tag carrollbarber or send via WhatsApp, or email to Carroll.

PERSONAL FAREWELL FROM EMMA MELLEN

"As my time in this role comes to an end, I can reflect on many memories made since Spring 2018 - I started during Beast from the East and my time comes to an end during a pandemic - in-between both of these crises I can say I have thoroughly enjoyed the time with the society as a breed development and promotional officer.

As I open doors to chapters new, I hope to see you all continue to unite and remember the commercial traits of the breed that paved the path of the breeds success since its introduction to the country all those years ago - times have changed, but the original breed traits of easy lambing and naturally well fleshed lambs are what makes them unique in comparison to other breeds.

Thank you members for all your support and engagement with me - I wish you all the best in future and hope to see many of you embracing social media as much as possible. I hope my time in the role makes you smile.

Thank you to the National and Regional Chairmen, for their support."



CHANGES IN EXPORT RULES TO NORTHERN IRELAND

Changes to export requirements for sheep moving from Great Britain to Northern Ireland from 31st December 2020 will require animals to have full EU export health certificates (EHC)

To obtain the appropriate EHC, the exporter will need to apply on EHC Online (EHCO). EHCO is a new digital online application service for EHCs that has been developed by DEFRA and APHA and will have replaced the current manual PDF process for applying for EHCs by the end of the transition period.

The EHC will need to be completed and signed by an appropriately qualified Official Veterinarian (OV).

Members will need to register for the use of the EHC Online system as well as making sure their certifier is registered on the system. More information on this can be found here.

EHC Online: apply for export health certificates - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

To obtain an EHC these animals would also be from scrapie monitored flocks with a minimum of three year's membership of the scrapie monitoring scheme and be moving from a scrapie monitored scheme member farm or be ARR/ARR genotype, with this genotype ascertained from a blood sample taken by a vet and tested at an approved laboratory.

At the point of entry, all animals will be subject to documentary, ID checks and physical checks. Businesses must follow welfare in transport rules when moving live animals. In particular, all journeys over eight hours will also need to be accompanied by a journey log.

This change will have implications for the status of our sales in 2021.

REGISTRATIONS - CHARGES AND DEADLINES

BIRTH NOTIFICATION OF CHAROLLAIS LAMBS

0 - 2 months	Over 2 months but before 30/09 in year of birth	After 1st October	0 - 2 months	Over 2 months but before 30/09 in year of birth	After 1st October
Grassroots £2.00 (£2.40 incl VAT)	Grassroots £4.00 (£4.80 incl VAT)	Grassroots £10.00 (£12.00 incl VAT)	Paper £2.50 (£3.00 incl VAT)	Paper £5.00 (£6.00 incl VAT)	Paper £12.00 (£14.40 incl VAT)

FEMALE REGISTRATIONS (previously birth notified)

	Paper submission plus card certificate	On line submission plus card certificate	On line submission plus emailed certificate
EWE LAMBS Upgraded > 12 months	£8.00 (£9.60 inc VAT)	£7.00 (£8.40 inc VAT)	£6.00 (£7.20 inc VAT)
SHEARLING EWES Upgraded > 24 months	£12.00 (£14.40 inc VAT)	£11.00 (£13.20 inc VAT)	£10.00 (12.00 inc VAT)

MALE REGISTRATIONS (previously birth notified)

RAMS

Upgraded at any time

£20.00

(£24.00 inc VAT)

Male registration is only permitted once a Scrapie Genotype result has been submitted to the Society. All genotypes are acceptable for registration, but will be logged on the record of each animal.

CHANGE OF OWNERSHIP

We do not charge for Change of Ownership. Full pedigree registered animals purchased through an Official Society Sale, will be transferred automatically. Members should inform the Society of any private purchases. You cannot transfer animals **into** your flock on Grassroots.

REGISTRATIONS - CHARGES AND DEADLINES

GOOD VALUE FEES

Our registration fees are less expensive than other terminal sire Societies. We urge you to keep your flock fully up to date - the price of Charollais females has been outstanding this autumn. Keep up the value of your flock.

Save more by doing all your registrations on line. Use the Grassroots system for submitting all your data to the Society and get the cheapest rates. We also count data submitted on spreadsheets as an on-line submission.

We were extremely lenient with members this year, due to the uncertainty over Covid. For 2021 we will be sticking to the deadlines and fee structure, as set out on the opposite page. So don't miss these - get your lambs birth notified, on line before they are 2 months of age.

We do still accept paper submissions - many other Societies are moving to on line only. So please do get to grips with Grassroots - it is not complicated and allows you to search useful information at any time. If you need help, then call the office.

IDENTIFICATION

Numbers for your lambs born from the 1st December 2020 onwards, should follow this example :

Year Number	Flock Reference	5 digit ID number
21	ABC	00201

it is important that whenever you record a sheep ID with us or on Grassroots that you include the whole number, including the year.

You must use tags that are suitable for breeding animals - not slaughter tags.

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP 2021

No increase in your membership fee.

Annual Subscription for 2021 is £55 (including £5 VAT)

Invoices will be sent out to all members early in the New Year.

REGISTRATION LETTER FOR 2021

(animals born on or after 1st December 2020)

2021 the letter for ram names is :

‘W’

William, Walter, Winston, Wacky and lots more!

CHANGE IN TAGGING REQUIREMENTS FOR EXPORT SHEEP

The UK has changed its policy regarding ear tags for livestock exports and movements from Great Britain to the EU and Northern Ireland from 1 January. The government is encouraging livestock exporters to prepare for new changes that will apply to ear tagging when the transition period ends.

Livestock in the UK are currently identified with "UK" ear tags in accordance with the EU's single market rules. From 1 January 2021, the rules for exports of cattle, sheep, goats and pigs to the EU will change. Exporters from Great Britain will need to ensure their animals are identified with the ISO country code, which is "GB" for the UK. Under the Northern Ireland Protocol, movements from Great Britain to Northern Ireland will also need to meet these requirements.

- For animals which are already individually identified, apply a third (management) tag with the prefix GB followed by the animal's individual number.
- For new-born animals and lambs for export that are not yet individually identified, UK tags with a GB suffix could be applied. (You cannot put the GB suffix on all your tags, only those for export).

Exporters should also contact their ear tag suppliers to ensure that they are able to identify their animals with the correct tags from 1 January 2021.

Animals for export will also need to be accompanied with a new EU Export Health Certificate showing the correct ISO country code and signed by the Official Veterinarian for export.

For information on Northern Ireland exports to the EU, contact Daera directly for further information. The updated guidance setting out the actions GB livestock exporters will need to take to get ready for 1st January can be viewed at

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/exporting-animals-and-animal-products-to-the-eu-from-1-january-2021>

SHOWS & EVENTS 2021

None of us know what the situation will be next year with events, shows and other gatherings. Council at their recent meeting, discussed what presence we will have at NSA Events (if they can go ahead). So all being well with the Covid regulations, Charollais will have stands at the following important days for breed promotion.

NSA WELSH SHEEP 2021 TUESDAY 18TH MAY 2021

Location: Red House, Aberhafesp, Newtown, Powys

NSA Welsh Sheep it will be held on Tuesday 18th May 2021 at Red House, Aberhafesp, Newtown, Powys by kind permission of the Owen family. At Red House the Owen family own a total of 550 acres running 1200 Texel cross ewes together with a few Welsh Mules and a flock of pedigree Beltex sheep. 120 Limousin suckler cows all registered.

NSA SCOTSHEEP 2020 (POSTPONED TO 2021) THURSDAY 27TH MAY 2021

Location : Over Finlargo, Tealing, Dundee.
Organised by the Scottish region of the National Sheep Association, NSA Scotsheep 2020 will now be held on Thursday, May 27, 2021, at Over Finlargo, Tealing, where Robert and Hazel McNee, have built up a profitable business since moving to the farm in 2011.

NSA NORTH SHEEP 2021 WEDNESDAY 2ND JUNE 2021

Location: Bradford House Farm, Ponteland, Northumberland, NE20 0HA
NSA North Sheep returns in 2021, kindly hosted by JE Woodman & Son at its Bradford House Farm near Ponteland in Northumberland.

NSA SHEEP SOUTH WEST EVENT TUESDAY 22ND JUNE 2021

Location: Rampisham Manor and Cobham Farms, Ramisham, Dorchester, Dorset, DT2 0PT
The NSA South West Region is delighted to announce that the NSA Sheep South West event in 2021 is being held on Tuesday June 22nd 2021 at Rampisham Manor and Cobham Farms, Rampisham, Dorchester by kind permission of Mr Robert Boileau.

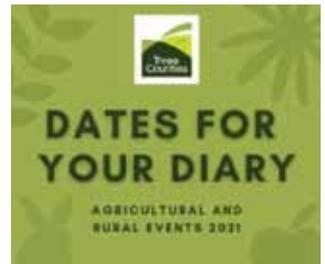
SHOWS

The information on shows that might or might be going ahead next year, is mixed. Some shows have reluctantly decided already to cancel until 2022, others are hoping to go ahead with a full schedule whilst others are exploring the possibility of holding livestock only days. These will be different from the normal, but will give breeders the opportunity to get out with their animals, see some friends and compete.

One such show is the Royal Three Counties which has announced the following :

News from the Showground!

"We are delighted to announce our agricultural and rural events for 2021.



*Countrytastic - 8 April
The Good Life Show - a new smallholdings and home produce event - 22 & 23 May
Three Counties Livestock Show - 17 & 18 June
Three Counties Equine Show - 19 & 20 June*

Three NEW events will focus on three primary elements which traditionally make up the Royal Three Counties Show, livestock showing, equine competition and smallholders/home produce, and will enable exhibitors and visitors to attend the show suited to them while allowing Three Counties to fulfil its charitable objectives.

The livestock show takes place on 17 & 18 June and the equine show will take place on 19 & 20 June, including the usual range of livestock and equine classes traditionally hosted at the Royal Three Counties Show.

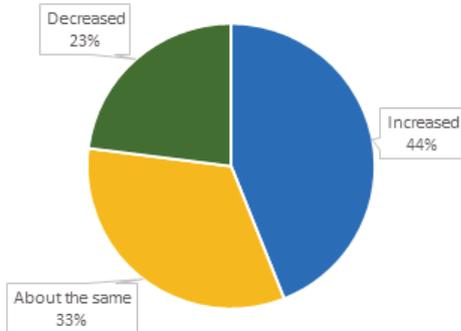
We are really excited to be planning events for 2021 and the Three Counties team are determined to make them a success for all involved."

We will keep you all updated with news from the Show Societies and hope there will be classes for you to participate in.

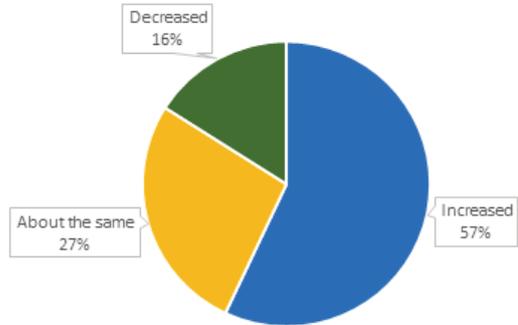
RAM SURVEY RESULTS

A huge thank you to all of you who took the time to complete the Ram Survey. We received over 100 replies, which gave Council some really helpful data to think about and work on new strategies for our sales going forward. Below are tables of the average results for each question.

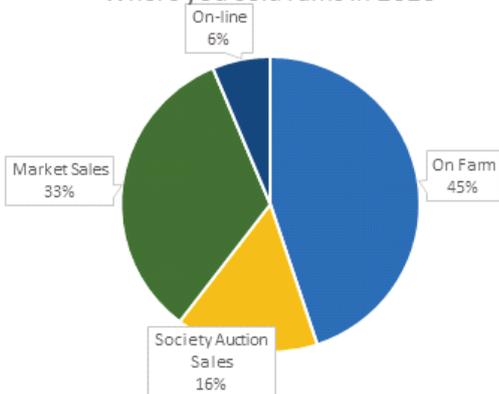
Demand for Rams in 2020



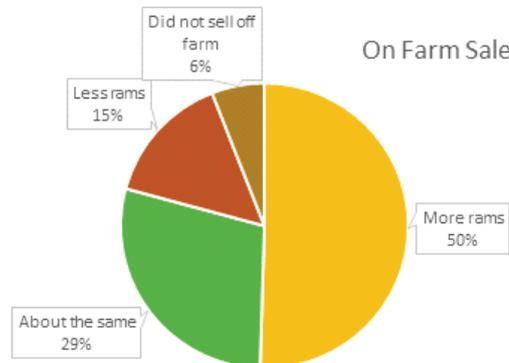
Prices for Rams in 2020



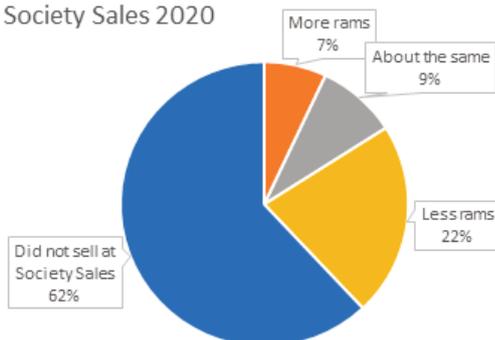
Where you sold rams in 2020



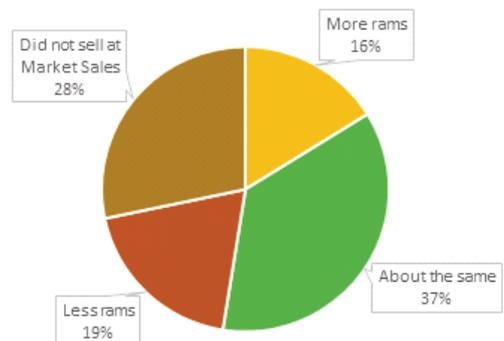
On Farm Sales 2020



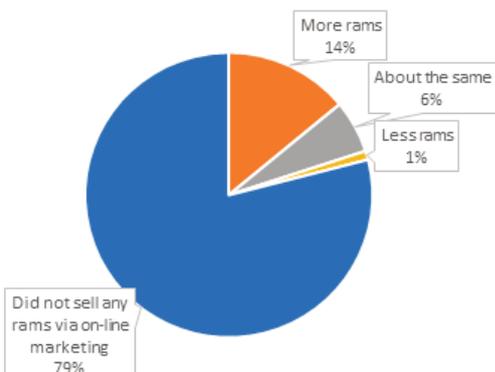
Society Sales 2020



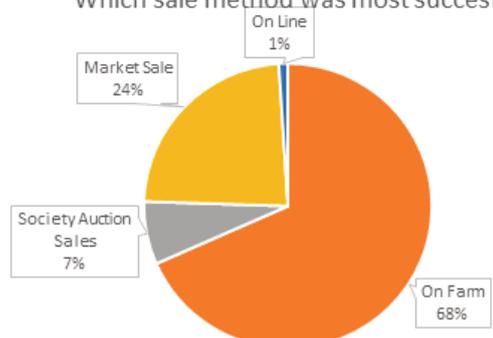
Market Sales 2020



On Line Sales 2020

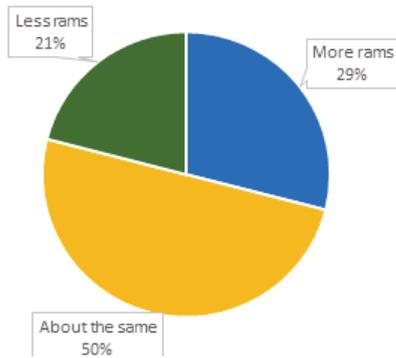


Which sale method was most successful?

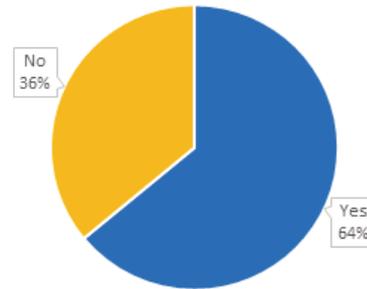


RAM SURVEY RESULTS

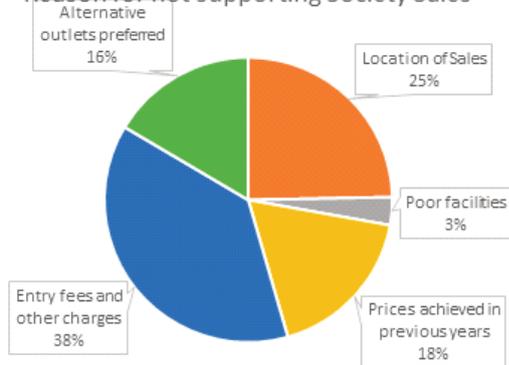
How many rams will you have in 2021?



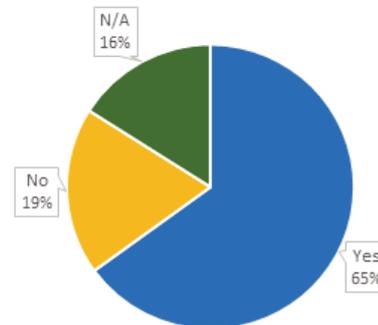
Will you enter Society Sales in 2021



Reason for not supporting Society Sales



Do you want Buith and Kelso to return?



The good news is that despite all the problems with the covid pandemic, our breed sold well; 77% of breeders had increased or equal sales to 2019. 57% reported increased prices. Eastern and Northern Ireland did particularly well.

Not surprisingly On Farm sales have increased significantly; 93% of breeders sold off farm and over 50% sold more rams by this method. Also 67% reported that this was the most successful method of selling in terms of price and volume. This category was a bigger winner than Market Sales. Interestingly the only region where 22% of flock did not sell off farm, was Wales.

Society Sales dropped off; this was due to the limited number of sales we were able to offer and the change in venues/dates necessary due to Covid restrictions. However, there is a desire from breeders to support Society sale; 64% say they will enter in 2021.

On-line is growing albeit slowly. Flocks found it a useful additional outlet, although not a high % of rams were sold by this method.

Many general comments were made on what would attract you to sell at Society Sales:

- More sale venues
- Later sales
- Non-MV sections
- More commercial sales; ie no trimming and overfeeding
- Sales on non-market sites
- Allow neck tags at commercial sales to Lot Number rams
- More emphasis on commerciality of sales
- More input from the markets, especially on sales of Charollais x lambs
- Saturday and evening sales

SALES 2021 AND BEYOND

From the survey 79% of flocks will have more or the same number of rams for sale in 2021. Also 64% said they would sell through Society Sales. 100% in Northern Ireland (because they have more sales than any other region) and a higher % in Wales.

What is stopping breeders selling with the Society? Entry fees and charges was top of the list, then location of sales. A large majority of those who used Builth and Kelso want to see them return.

The increase in markets offering good quality on-line bidding systems was huge this year (for obvious reasons), but this will continue and our members overwhelming felt this was important (86%).

There is some interest in different forms of on-line selling, ie the on-farm simulcast suggestion.

FUTURE PLANS

So what plans should we make for 2021 onward? Council was clear that we want to offer members a network of auction sales to suit their flock, locality and time schedule. They agreed that we should be more flexible with the format of sales 'held under the auspices' and that we should work more closely with a wider range of auctioneering companies to set in place alternative sales.

We would suggest that we should do the following :

- Support the resumption of Builth Wells and Kelso
- Look hard at new (revised) venues for Society Sales, especially in those regions with no current sales
- Include later sales in the programme
- Work more closely with auction markets to agree terms and engage their support
- Consider a different category of sale; more commercially focused. No trimming, lower entry fee, simplified catalogue
- Work with auction marts with good on-line bidding facilities; this is imperative for our Premier Sale.
- Promote a wider range of sales, including sales such as Kelso through our social media and publications.

We hope that you are interested and encouraged by these plans to use Society Sales. It is vital for the future health of your breed and the organisation that we have your support. Please if you have any ideas, comments then please do get in touch with the office or speak with your regional chairman. The one joy of Zoom meetings is that we will be holding Council meetings more regularly over the coming months, as there is plenty to discuss and plan.

MAJOR SALE DATES 2021

WORCESTER PREMIER
SATURDAY
26th June 2021



DUNGANNON EXPORT
MONDAY 26TH JULY
(To be confirmed)



BUILTH WELLS MAIN
MONDAY 20th
SEPTEMBER



SALE RESULTS 2020

	No. Sold	Average £	Top Price Gns
WORCESTER PREMIER			
Shearling Rams	11	£1,911.95	4,600
Ram Lambs	71	£1,278.48	16,000

	No. Sold	Average £	Top Price Gns
DUNGANNON			
Shearling Rams	9	£627.66	850
Ram lambs	54	£781.47	3,400
Females	19	£606.24	980

	No. Sold	Average £	Top Price Gns
SHREWSBURY			
Shearling Rams	3	£476.00	500
Ram Lambs	6	£468.00	572

	No. Sold	Average £	Top Price Gns
HEREFORD EARLY SALE			
Shearling Rams	62	£506.37	1,000
Ram Lambs	11	£454.36	550

	No. Sold	Average £	Top Price Gns
EXETER NSA SALE			
Older Rams	1	£441.00	420
Shearling Rams	38	£489.30	720
Ram Lambs	16	£347.81	450
Shearling Ewes	10	£420.00	500
Ewes Lambs	1	£504.00	480

	No. Sold	Average £	Top Price Gns
CARLISLE			
Shearling Rams	27	£550.08	1,000
Ram lambs	9	£495.83	800
Ewe Lambs	4	£630.00	800
Female Pens	37	£342.24	400

	No. Sold	Average £	Top Price Gns
DUNGANNON SEPTEMBER			
Shearling Rams	7	£462.00	600
Ram Lambs	14	£338.25	420

	No. Sold	Average £	Top Price Gns
HEREFORD LATE SALE			
Senior Rams	2	£404.25	450
Shearling Rams	70	£523.05	1,700
Ram Lambs	32	£458.40	1,000

	No. Sold	Average £	Top Price Gns
BALLYMENA			
Shearling Rams	13	£539.54	900
Ram Lambs	32	£387.84	580

	No. Sold	Average £	Top Price Gns
WELSHPOOL			
Senior Rams	1	£367.50	350
Shearling Rams	34	£453.97	700
Ram Lambs	19	£414.75	650

	No. Sold	Average £	Top Price Gns
EXETER FEMALES			
Ewes	4	£425.25	500
Shearling Ewes	7	£378.00	420
Ewe Lambs	10	£294.00	300

	No. Sold	Average £	Top Price Gns
Trebarn Dispersal			
Ewes	18	£430.50	850
Shearling Ewes	10	£579.60	2,000
Ewe Lambs	7	£330.00	650

	No. Sold	Average £	Top Price Gns
SKIPTON FEMALES			
Ewes	2	£472.50	450
Shearling Ewes	22	£579.60	1,000
Ewe Lambs	11	£430.50	620

	No. Sold	Average £	Top Price Gns
DUNGANNON FEMALES			
Shearling Ewes	50	£904.80	2,920
Ewe Lambs	42	£617.88	1,450



Foxhill Va Va Voom

Foxhill Charollais Flock hits the heights at 16,000gns

Charollais breeders were delighted to be in Worcester Market for probably the first pedigree ram sale of the year to be held live. Strict Covid measures were in place that allowed this sale to go ahead.

Taking the sale by storm was Mike and Melanie Alford's Foxhill Flock of Charollais from Devon. Their ram lamb Va Va Voom was knocked down for 16,000 gns after a flurry of bids from all round the sale ring. Beating the opposition were the Ingram family from the renowned Logie Durno and Loanhead Flocks in Aberdeenshire.

The dam of this lamb was described by the Alford's as the 'best in the flock'; a daughter of Crogham Hannibal II, the ewe was Breed and Interbreed Champion at the Devon County Show. Va Va Voom's sire was Loanhead Triathlon, sired by the Royal Highland Show Charollais Champion of the Decade, Rhaeadr Orlando. The Foxhill flock also achieved 2,500 gns for the next best in their pen, also sired by Triathlon, Foxhill Victor went to Jeremy Price, Hereford and Esmor Evans from Mold.

Leading the shearling trade was a strong, well-fleshed ram from Jonathan Wales's Thackwood flock in Cumbria. This January born tup by Netherton Sea the Stars was knocked down for 4,600 gns to Mike Alford.

The Ingrams had taken the decision to offer their ram lambs for sale privately prior to the sale, due to the uncertainty of trading conditions, but

presented two pens of cracking shearling tups. Leading their trade at 3,600 gns was Loanhead Unstoppable. This very heavily fleshed tup was sired by Cannahars Super Star and goes back to Cumbria to join Jonathan Wales's Thackwood Flock. Also going to Cumbria was Logie Durno Ultra, a son of Hollylodge Supreme, which sold for 2,500 gns to David and Johnathan Norman for their Kirkhouse Flock. Another son of Supreme, a huge tup Logie Durno Upperclass sold for 2,300 gns to Simon Turkington from Melrose.

Next best in the lamb category were two lambs at 3,200 gns. First was Wernfawr Vinnie from David Curran's flock in Brecon. His sire was Bronwydd Tomahawk out of a consistent Glyn Coch Night to Remember sired ewe. Determined to secure this smart lamb was Colin Bowen from Pembrokeshire, Gwyndy Flock.

Artnagullion Vagabon made the same money for William McAllister over from Northern Ireland for the sale. This good looking lamb was sired by the flock's purchase from last year's premier sale, Loanhead Upper Class out of a Knockin Shop ewe with show pedigree. Tim Prichard from the Castellau Flock in Glamorgan secured him at 3,200 gns.

A very high performance index tup lamb from Robert Whittaker, Jedburgh attracted a trio of Signet flocks. Hundalee Volcano had very high figures for all traits putting him in the Top 1% for the breed. His sire was Edstaston U R The Man, purchased at last year's sale. Sharing the 2,500 gns price tag were the Redhill Flock, Rutland, Rainbow Flock, Cheshire and the Lowerye Flock from Powys.

Emyr Hughes from Pembrokeshire had a super pen of lambs forward all sired by Ffrwd U Belter, topping the trade at 2,000 gns was Bronwydd Vinnie Jones sold to Geoff Biddulph from the Gawsworth Flock in Cheshire. Close behind at 1,900 gns was Bronwydd Va Va Voom which sold to Chris Timm, Wensleydale Flock in Yorkshire. His third lamb went to regular German buyer, Volker Derbisz for 1,600 gns.

Another smart pen of lambs was presented by Justin Evans from Glamorganshire. His leader was Sant Andras Vanquish, a Bronwydd Tomahawk sired lamb with style and power which sold for 2,000 gns to Grug Flock of Geraint Evans from Newcastle Emllyn. New Charollais flock owner, Richard White from Yorkshire bought Sant Andras Vantage for 1,600 gns.

Society Chairman Arwyn Thomas from Carmarthenshire sold his son of Arbryn Tonto for 1,900 gns to Gail Hodgson and George Wearmouth for their Shield Ash flock in County Durham. At the same price was Ffrwd Vunipola from Dewi Evans on Anglesey. The buyer for this son of Edstaston Sotogrande was D A Thomas, Dafolog Flock Carmarthenshire.

Although numbers forward were down on previous years the average prices achieved matched other sales; shearling rams were up by £567 and ram lambs back by only £73.

Averages

71 Ram lambs at £1,278.48

11 Shearling Rams at £1,911.95

**Auctioneer : Clive Roads,
McCartneys**

Super trade for Charollais at Dungannon Premier Sale

despite Covid restrictions. Topping the trade was a great muscled ram from the Greenvale pen of William Sherrard achieving the top price of 3,400gns (Lot 28), Sired by Logie Durno "Senator" he heads across the water to Huw Roberts, Ruthin Wales.

The Hollylodge Flock of McConnell Brothers had very good trade selling to a top of 3,200gns, Lot 97, this smart Loanhead "Ur the Boy" son selling to the Ballyhibbon Flock of Southern Breeder Michael Powers.

Another Hollylodge ram, this one sired by Edstaston San Miguel, Lot 96, also went to a Southern Breeder, Liam Woods for 1,100gns. The Hollylodge pen averaging 1,075gns for 6 sold.

The Springhill Flock of Graham Foster sold his top to Donegal Breeder John McCafferty for 2,100gns, Lot 21, this ram sired by Logie Durno Untouchable and out of a Rhaeadr Dam. Another two lots from this pen selling for 1,000gns. Lot 17, Springhill Vibrant, another Untouchable son selling to a County Fermanagh Breeder and Lot 20 a Rhaeadr Undercover son selling to Ben Radley, Scotland.

The Springhill Pen averaging 1,016gns for six sold Norman McMordie sold his top at 1,300gns, Lot 57, an Edstaston Ultravox son selling to James Andrews, Ayr, Scotland. Selling at 1,200gns, Lot 60, to County Clare breeder was a Rockdale Tornado sired ram. Two other rams from this pen selling for 1,000gns, Lot 61 another Tornado son selling to County Fermanagh and Lot 57 an

Edstaston Ultravox son selling to County Donegal. The Riverdale pen averaging 1,030gns for 5. Top priced Shearling, Lot 16, was presented by the Aghavilly pen of Glenn Baird, this stylish Shearling sired by Artnagullion Tornado and out of a Loanhead Dam selling for 850gns.

The top priced female heads across the water to Tom Newth, Somerset Lot 122 an Aldby Tyson ewe lamb presented by Alistair Moore selling for 980gns David Anderson sold his top ewe lamb to the Springhill Flock of Graham Foster, Lot 107 a Robleston Superman daughter selling for 950gns.

Averages:

9 Shearlings	£627.66
54 Ram lambs	£781.47
19 Females	£606.24



Top Price Ram sold for 3,400gns from the Greenvale flock

2,000gns top at Trebarn Dispersal Sale

John Osborne held a highly successful dispersal sale of his Trebarn flock, as part of the annual female sale held at Exeter Market (9th October 2020). As well as local support, buyers came from as far afield as Aberdeenshire and Yorkshire. Topping the day's trading was a shearling ewe by an Artnagullion sire out of a Arbryn Nugget ewe.

She was knocked down at 2,000gns to Patrick Tully for his Bincombe Flock in Bridgwater, Somerset. The ewe was in lamb to Bronwydd Undeniable purchased for 2,400 ns.

Mr Tully also took the next highest priced sheep at 850gns; this was a 2-shear ewe by the Nugget sire.

New breeder Mrs L Gregory from Launceston in Cornwall took several lots including a shearling ewe from the dispersal group for 700gns. This ewe was very similarly bred to the top-price animal.

The last lot through the ring, a Foulrice Utah sired ewe lamb from the Trebarn flock sold for 650 gns to Tom Newth, Castle Cary. The Prestleigh Flock had the top price amongst the other sale vendors; their 2-shear ewe sold for 500gns to Joanne Singer, Inverurie, Abedeen.

Amy Pedrick, Chairman of the South West Region was pleased with the outcome "we achieved a 100% clearance of stock forward and some good high prices. Also several new members will be joining the Society as a result of their purchases."

Sale Averages :

<i>Trebarn Dispersal</i>	
Ewes (18)	£430.50
Shearlings (10)	£579.60
Ewe Lambs (7)	£330.00

<i>Open Sale</i>	
Ewes (4)	£425.25
Shearlings (7)	£378.00
Ewe Lambs (10)	£294.00

Saucy Sale Averages up at Worcester

Prices were up across the board and spread across the flocks at the collective sale of Charollais in-lamb shearling ewes and ewe lambs held at Worcester Market on Saturday 3rd October. Some outstanding quality animals attracted four-figure prices including the sale leader, an ewe lamb from the Ingram Family's Logie Durno flock in Aberdeenshire. Their daughter of Logie Durno Umpire sold for 3,000 gns to Jeremy Price, Oakchurch Flock in Herefordshire. The same buyer took a further ewe lamb from the Ingrams at 1,450 gns; this time sired by Logie Durno Untouchable.

Next best in the prices was from Robert Gregory's Edstaston Flock in Shropshire at 2,000 gns. The ewe lamb was sired by the record-breaking Knockin Shockin out of the flock's most successful female line. The lamb had Signet Performance figures in the top 1%. Buyer for her was Declan Miley from County Roscommon in Ireland.

Helen Sloan and her daughter Hannah from Dumfries had a smart consignment of 5 shearling ewes forward for the first time. They were rewarded with a top bid of 1,400gns for the Dumfries Show Champion in 2019. Her buyer was Robert Gregory, Edstaston Flock. Irish breeder, Declan Miley took a Leelaw sired shearling in lamb to Springhill Viking at 1,200 gns. Regular vendor Adrian Davies from Carmarthen had a top price of 1,350gns for an in-lamb shearling sired by Arbryn SamJay. Going to this money was David Roberts from Kenley, Shropshire for his Boyo Flock. Close behind at 1,300gns was a Wernfawr Stormer shearling, the pick of Ben Radley from Dumfries.

Dewi Evans from Anglesey achieved 1,400gns for an Edstaston Sotogrande shearling ewe, carrying twins to his new stock ram, Dalby Veainu. Justin Evans from the Vale of Glamorgan was the buyer.

The Dalby Flock of Charles Sercombe was also in four figures for a high performance index shearling by Dalby Ranieri carrying twins. This one also went across the water to M. Brolly, Co Donegal. Another Irish buyer, D Fennell, Co Carlow went to a 1,000gns for an Oakchurch Ruben shearling from Abbie Moseley, Oswestry.

Saucy Sale Averages 2020 :
32 Shearlings **£748.02**
13 Ewe lambs **£1030.61**

**Auctioneer : Clive Roads,
McCartneys**

Strong averages and excellent clearance rates at Skipton

Good clearance rates and strong across the board averages, both showing a marked increase on the previous year, were seen at the British Charollais Sheep Society's annual autumn sale of registered breeding females at Skipton Auction Mart on Saturday 10th October.

Six recognised breeders were in action in the sale ring, the 25 shearling ewes successfully sold averaging £579, up on 2019's £516, with ewe lambs, which achieved total clearance, averaging £431, against the previous year's £312, and a brace of older ewes averaging £472, compared to £395 last year.

Leading and long-standing pedigree breeders, the Marwood family - Charles and Valerie, and

son Stephen - who run the high performance Foulrice flock at Whenby, achieved a top price coup for the second year running with their 1,000gns in-lamb shearling ewe. Their much fancied 2020 price leader is by the Dalby Mount Aloe son, Foulrice Osprey, two renowned sires. Out of a Wernfawr Jim sired ewe and scanned carrying twins to Galtres Upper Class, the shearling found a new home north of the border when claimed by 25 year old Ben Radley, who runs the Loaningfoot pedigree flock in Georgetown, Dumfries. He had travelled down purposely to Skipton for the first time after taking note of the ewe on social media and seeking to add different bloodlines to the flock.

Another Foulrice shearling ewe, this one a daughter of Dalby Sherman, again in-lamb to Upper Class, sold at 650gns and made its way across the Irish Sea with Gordon Houston, of Randalstown in Co. Antrim, who judged last year's show classes.

Another well-known breeder, Kenton Foster, who runs the Fosters flock in Garriston, Leyburn, caught the eye with a brace of 900gns shearling ewe sales, both scanned in-lamb to home-bred tups.

First up was a triplet by the well utilised Gwyndy, out of a Castellau-sired dam. She stood third as a ewe lamb at last year's Great Yorkshire Show, also picking up red rosettes at local shows. With twins in her, she joined David Roberts, of Shrewsbury, the same buyer also taking home the second 900gns shearling ewe, another triplet by Crogham Five Star, out of a Gwyndy-sired dam, and herself scanned carrying triplets.

Mr Foster also made 750gns with a third in-lamb shearling ewe, a single by Galtres Rameses out of another Gwyndy-sired dam. Also part of last year's show team and scanned carrying a single lamb, she too found a new home in

FEMALE SALE REPORTS 2020

Scotland with the Royan family in Duns, Berwickshire. The Fosters flock sold nine shearlings ewes in total at a leading average for the section of 600gns.

Ewe lambs topped at a solid 620gns for the pen leader from Chris Crowther's Dudston flock, travelling for the first time to Skipton from Chirbury in the Vale of Montgomery. By the Oakchurch Ruben son, Knockin Umptious, a brother of the high priced Knockin Shockin, out of a Lowerye Rioja-sired dam, the leading price ewe lamb found of new home locally with Skipton regular Robert Towers, who farms with his wife, Jackie, at Greenlands Farm, Ingleton.

David Norman, North of England Chairman update "Everyone was very happy with how the sale was run during this pandemic. It was a very successful sale all things considered. Good to see support from members not only from the North of England but also Scotland, Central, Eastern Region and strong interest from over the water, Northern Ireland. Thank you all. Thank you Ted Ogden and Skipton Auction Mart staff"

By Robin Moule
robin@moulemedia.com

Averages :

Ewes	£472.50
Shearlings	£579.60
Ewe lambs	£430.50

Charollais Ewes Flying High at Hereford

The aptly named 'High Flyers' collective sale of in-lamb Charollais ewes and ewe lambs saw a top price of 3,100gns with a 100% clearance and averages up across the board at Hereford Market on 17th October.

Leading the sale was the pen of

shearling ewes from Society Chairman, Arwyn Thomas from Whitland, Carmarthenshire. He offered his top show lamb from 2019 at the sale and she was knocked down for the top price of 3,100 gns to David Roberts from Kenley in Shropshire. The shearling was sired by Wernfawr Thunder out of a Glyncoch JPR and was carrying twins to Arbryn's exciting new stock tup, Skyefall Virgill Van Dijk. Mr Thomas sold a further two shearling ewes for 1,600gns apiece. The first a Bronwydd Terminator sired ewe went to Justin Evans from Glamorgan. She was carrying triplets to the 1st prize winning shearling ram at the Royal Welsh Show 2019, Arbryn Tonto. Helen Sloan from the Rigghead Flock in Dumfries took the next one; a full sister to the top-priced animal and again carrying to Van Dijk. The Arbryn Flock sold a total of 15 shearling ewes to average £1,067.50.

Just short of the top price was a shearling ewe from Jennifer Curtis's Elmwick Flock in Evesham. This show winner as a lamb in 2019 also goes home to the Boyo Flock of David Roberts, who paid 3,000gns for her. She was by the home-bred tup Elmwick Solsbury Hill out of a Elmwick Mr McGregor ewe. The same buyer took the next one in the run for 1,100gns.

The Wernfawr Flock of David and Paul Curran, Brecon had a tremendous run of ewe lambs forward and achieved a top price of 1,600gns twice. A December born, embryo transfer lamb by Bronwydd Tomahawk out a top producing Glyn Coch Night to Remember ewe was the choice of James Neil for his Runningburn Flock in Stichill, Kelso. Robert and Sam Tindall from Yorkshire paid 1,600gns and 1,400gns for two Wernfawr Ultimate Warrior embryo sisters.

Plenty of buyers from Ireland were putting in telephone bids for the top quality stock on offer; 3 Arbryn shearlings are going

across the water to a top of 1,350gns to David Dolan, Roscommon as well as ewe lambs at 1,000gns from Wernfawr and Emyr Hughes' Bronwydd Flock to the same buyer.

Buying 7 lots at the sale were relatively new breeders, B J & D E Baker from Olives Farm, Battle, East Sussex. They added the 2 top priced ewes from Tim Prichard's Castellau Flock, as well as further Castellau shearlings and one at 800gns from Arjane Flock.

Averages :

Ewes	£444.50
Shearlings	£855.85
Ewe lambs	£1,128.75

Auctioneer : Greg Christopher
Brightwells

Flying trade for Charollais at Dungannon Market

With Covid restrictions and lockdowns Charollais sellers were naturally a little apprehensive before their Female Sale on Monday, but they needn't have worried. Averages were well up with 53 Shearlings averaging 813gns, and 42 Ewe Lambs 588gns. Topping the trade at 2920 was a powerful In-Lamb Ewe from the Artnagullion Pen of William McAllister, a Knockin Shop sired daughter and out of a homebred ewe sired by Castellau Figurehead. Purchaser was Richard Powell of the Iskeymeadow Flock in Armagh who also purchased another Knockin Shop daughter out of the same pen for 1,850gns. Another Knockin Shop daughter caught the eye of Harold and Rebecca McBratney, this one selling for 1,200gns. The Artnagullion Pen averaging 1,990gns for three.

The Ringclare Flock of the Malcomson Family also had a

super day selling. First into the ring out of their Ballyhibben dam Lulu selling at 1,700gns after a flurry of online bidding to Duncan's of Crumlin. Their next top at 1,600gns was a Lulu Grand daughter purchased by Michael Power, who also purchased her full sister from the same pen at 1,100gns. Jim Devenney from Donegal purchased two from the Ringclare pen going to 1,300gns for a Lulu Granddaughter sired by Knockin Shockin and 1,050gns for another Lulu Granddaughter. The Devenney also went to 1,300gns for a Logie Durno daughter sired by Hollylodge Supreme. The Ringclare Pen averaging 933gns for twenty sold.

The Banville Pen of Berry Brothers sold their top at 1,550gns to Donegal Breeder, Michael Brolly, a great muscled ewe sired by Super Mario from the H13 French Flock. Another from the same pen selling to Eamonn Shanahan, County Cork

The top from the Rockvilla Flock of David and Liz Mawhinney went to County Cork, an Artnagullion Trojan daughter selling to Eamonn Shanahan for 1,650gns. Another Trojan daughter from the same pen selling for 1,200gns to Jim Devenney, Donegal.

Topping the ewe lamb trade at 1,450gns was the Springhill Pen of Graham Foster, out of a Rhaeadr Dam and sired by Logie Durno Untouchable, last years Worcester Champion, this lot selling to New Breeder Harry Stevenson, Portadown.

County Carlow breeder, Sinead Brophy purchased two from the Springhill Pen at 1,400gns and 1,250gns, sired by Rhaeadr Undercover and a Logie Durno Untouchable sired lamb. County Tyrone buyer Allister Crawford went to 1,020gns for another daughter from a Rhaeadr dam. This lot sired by Cannahars Super Star. Nine ewe Lambs selling to average 913gns.

Ian Craig's pen of ewe lambs

generated a lot of interest with Graham Foster purchasing his first lot in at 1,350gns for a Knockin Shop sired daughter. Next lot in went to Brian Macallister for 1,000gns. County Cork Breeder Jim Jeffery had to go to 1,250gns for Lot 79, a full ET sister to first lamb in Lot 77.

The Hillside Flock of Alistair Moore sold to a 1,000gns twice to James Walsh, County Cork, Lot 98 sired by Aldby Tyson and Lot 101 sired by Foulrice Supreme

Thanks to everyone at Dungannon Market for providing a safe environment for Buyers and Sellers and for the efficient way they ran the sale.

Averages :

51 Shearling Ewes	£904.8
48 Ewe Lambs	£617.88

Record breakers at Tullyear Production Sale

The auction sale record for a Charollais ewe was broken twice at the production sale from the Tullyear Flock of Drew and Stephen Cowan, held at Beattie Livestock Yard, Omagh, Northern Ireland on Saturday 14th November.

A 100% clearance was achieved, with 70% of the stock being exported to the UK mainland and Southern Ireland.

Leading the way at 7,500 gns was a two-shear ewe with great power and style. After some rapid bidding including many on-line bids, the ewe sired by Tullyear Egbert and out of a Bawnard Keystone daughter was knocked down to the Ingram Family of the Logie Durno and Loanhead Flocks, Aberdeenshire. The ewe was carrying a single to a ram of their breeding; Logie Durno Van the Man. The previous record for a female Charollais was 7,000 gns set in 2011.

Causing quite a stir and attracting a lot of attention was the in-lamb shearling, Tullyear Uptown Lady, sired by Loanhead Topgun and out of a home bred Tullyear sired dam. A cracker of a ewe she attracted a flurry of bids before finally being knocked down to Graham Foster for his Springhill Flock in Northern Ireland, at another record breaking female price of 7,500gns.

Tullyear Uptown Girl was a hot contender for the top of the line-up presented at the sale. Her sire was Edstaston Toulouse and out of a Bawnard Keystone Dam; this stunning girl was much sought after with Robert and Jeanette Gregory of the Edstaston Flock, from Shropshire picking up the final bid at 5,500gns.

A two-shear Logie Durno Finnegan daughter out of one of the flock's best ever French dams generated a lot of interest. This ewe once again went to the Ingram Family for 3,000gns. The Ingrams finished of their shopping spree with an in-lamb shearling sired by Tullyear Silver Dollar and out of a Castellau Millionaire sired dam, this well-muscled ewe selling for 2,900gns. Both these ewes are in-lamb to their breeding, Logie Durno Van the Man.

The well-known Ballyhibben Flock of Michael Power and son Alymer from County Limerick purchased a powerful, deep-bodied Loanhead Topgun daughter out of an Oakchurch Royal Ryan dam selling for 2,600gns.

The Cowan family sold one lot for the charity, the Children's Heartbeat Trust and were delighted that the ewe made a 1000gns sold to Jim Devenney and daughter Gillian from Donegal.

OVERALL THE TULLYEAR SALES AVERAGED £1,100 FOR 108 SOLD

Images : Alfie Shaw, Agriimages on Front Cover

WELSH HILL EWE PROJECT - Emma Mellen

My final piece before my departure is a roundup on the Charollais X Welsh Hill Farm Project.

For those new to the breed, a slight recap: the Charollais X Welsh Hill Farm Project began in Summer 2018, identifying hill farms in Wales that were interested in trying Charollais rams, to help strengthen the perception of the breed in relation to hardiness, increase killing out % of prime lambs produced on a hill farm and increase the amount of Charollais rams sold in Wales.

Many thanks to the hill farmers who took part in this project: Gareth Wyn Jones, Andrew Edwards, Bethan Williams, Howard Vicary, David Howells, Lorraine Howells and Lee Pritchard. We ended 2019 on a very strong year for Charollais ram sales in Wales, at both early and main Builth, Welshpool and regional market sales - meeting the objective to increase the amount of Charollais rams sold in Wales, with the many new buyers at Builth II recorded.

Unfortunately, the impact of Coronavirus on the industry saw both Builth sales cancelled, so we cannot collect comparable sales data this year. However, feedback from Welsh members is that private sales were very much in demand this year, with farmers sourcing rams on farm early summer.

For example, regular Builth I buyer John Jenkins decided not to attend Hereford (Builth replacement sale) and bought several rams privately from Colin Bowen, Gwyndy flock.

As the final tupping season of the project comes to a close, it has been great to witness the positive experience of the farms involved. The saying "the proof is in the pudding" is quite appropriate, with all involved very happy with the Charollais X Welsh lambs. Lorraine Howells and Lee Pritchard bought a Charollais ram from Esmor Evans, Maerdy at Builth II 2019 and Gareth Wyn Jones, buying two Charollais rams privately from Huw Roberts, Bachymbyd this August.

I recently visited Oakchurch flock with Howard Vicary to source a new Charollais ram lamb for him -



Howard Vicary selecting a ram lamb from Jeremy Price's Oakchurch Flock

Howard has been a great supporter of the project and he hopes to continue exhibiting Charollais x South Wales Mountain Sheep lambs at future NSA events on the SWMS stand.

Howard Vicary of Ty Oakley Farm and Gareth Wyn Jones of Tyn Llwyfan, both have very similar "New Zealand" style approaches when it comes to lambing outdoors - hands off and don't interfere if possible - for both, Charollais sired lambs were easy to lamb, ticking a box in this department.

Visiting Gareth during lambing season has been one of the best experiences for me within this role - to go out on the hills with him during lambing and see the ewes lambing peacefully and see the lambs take their first moments outside on the hills of Llanfairfechan - a contrast to lambing indoors at home for myself with partner James. From this experience, seeing how the ewe will choose her place to lamb and stay in that area for the first day or two and speaking to Howard about his practice of moving the ewes who haven't lambed to different paddocks, but leaving those that have lambed where they are as "they chose that spot, leave them be" before and after lambing, has stuck with me as something to reconsider in future.

Hill farming is predominantly about rearing sheep but also managing the landscape - as Andrew Edwards of Whitehall Farm explains, whilst the Charollais sired lambs worked well for him grazing certain parts of the hill, the higher land and terrain is grazed by the pure Welsh. The Charollais worked well for him as a continental tup of choice and he has retained some ewe lambs to breed from in the future. He does caution not to compare the weight of pure Welsh or price attained at market, as the pure Welsh serve a righteous purpose for hill farmers that won't be replaced by any other breed, but welcomes using Charollais rams alongside Welsh rams to produce lambs to graze different parts of his farm.

Jeremy Price, Emma Mellen and Howard Vicary at Oakchurch Farm



Gareth Wynn Jones selecting Charollais x Welsh Mountain lambs for slaughter

Andrew's feedback from taking part in the project compared to his previous experience with the breed ten years ago is that they were more robust at birth and could cope with drop in temperature. He praises Charollais for being easier lambing than other terminal sires with less problems of bigger lambs and less difficulties with lamb size; he found they lambed on their own more than with Suffolk and Texel sired.

Andrew has found benefits to sell the Charollais X Welsh lambs deadweight as they weigh well and you get paid for what you sell (not just on looks). Selling them dead between 15 & 20kgs, his kill sheets showed the Charollais sired lambs killed out like "peas in a pod" consistent in bunches.

All the farmers involved who sold deadweight were very happy with the prices attained - with Gareth Wyn Jones commenting how the majority of lambs in his first pick were Charollais sired.

The feedback selling liveweight is that whilst the weights were there, the Charollais don't visually mark the lambs as strong as the Suffolk or Texel sired Welsh lambs - which sometimes meant the sellers were disappointed with the price in comparison to other crossbred Welsh lambs sold on the same day.

However, Lorraine Howells and Lee Pritchard commented how quickly they could get their Charollais X Welsh lambs away selling live, which paid well in early summer, meaning less stock grazing the hills over summers, fitting in well with land management.

Howard Vicary also sold Charollais sired lambs early summer direct - showing the new market opportunity earlier in the season than pure Welsh lambs, creating income earlier in the season.

Lorraine and Lee, partners of Cwm Carno, also retained some Charollais X South Wales Mountain

ewe lambs to breed from in future - similar to Andrew, they plan to put a Texel on them, with David Howells, The Gelli, putting a Charollais ram on Texel X ewes for lambing season spring 2020.

Howard and Andrew strongly believe this project has benefited both societies by exhibiting the crossbred lambs at NSA Wales, NSA South West and Royal Welsh Show in 2019 - unfortunately, the Coronavirus pandemic meant the cancellation of planned promotional events for this year.

Welsh Chairman Dewi Evans says: "This has been an exciting project for the Charollais Society to be involved in - it has been important that we could prove to commercial farmers that the breed has a very important part to play and we are thankful to have worked closely with some very switched on and open-minded farmers. The project has promoted the breed successfully and shown the benefits of using Charollais rams - hopefully the breed will continue to advance in popularity at future ram sales.

"On behalf of the Welsh Region I'd like to thank Emma for the hard work and effort she has put in for the Welsh members, we are very grateful to her for the promotion of our stock and making everyone feel part of the society and giving everyone in the region the same opportunities regardless of who they are, encouraging everyone to interact. We wish her all the best in the future".



CHAROLLAIS SIRED LAMBS IN CUMBRIA

WHY CHAROLLAIS X HERDWICK ARE THE PERFECT CROSS FOR ALAN EDMONDSON.

Based in Cockermouth, Cumbria, lambing outdoors begins on 25th March for Alan Edmondson. Farming has been a lifelong affair for Alan, who previously farmed a hill farm and bred Charollais himself.

More recently, Alan has introduced Charollais to his farm once again, this time running them with Herdwick ewes to produce prime lambs that are sold at livestock markets, normally Cockermouth. The Charollais rams came from local farmer and North of England Chairman, David Norman and son Johnathan's Kirkhouse flock.

PREFERS CHAROLLAIS

Running approximately 400 Herdwick ewes, some are kept pure to breed Herdwick rams, which Alan sells at breed sales. Other Herdwick ewes are put with Charollais; having previously used Texel rams but found the lambs went too fat. In addition, Alan prefers Charollais sired lambs for easy lambing and sharp lambs, eager to suck. Born outdoors early Spring, the lambs have plenty of cover.

The Charollais X Herdwick lambs are sold between 40-44kgs, mostly grass fed with a little feed to help. Lambs are normally weaned in the middle of August and sold from the first week of November; 550 of Alan's last season's lambs averaged £88 a head.

Some Charollais X Herdwick ewe lambs are kept back as replacements, who then run with a Beltex ram. Some Swaledale ewes are also put to Charollais rams, producing "good lambs" that grow well.

20 YEARS FOR CHAROLLAIS ON HERDWICK

North of England Chairman David Norman, Setmurthy, Cumbria, also uses Charollais rams on Herdwick ewes, lambing them outdoors throughout April - he has been putting Charollais on Herdwicks for over twenty two years - he likes the fact they are easy lambing and get up and go by themselves.

David sells them at Carlisle at stores September time. The demand for purebred Herdwick is on the increase, however for those looking to produce prime lambs, Charollais play an important role for many farmers in the North using them on Herdwick ewes.



Herdwick Ewe with Charollais X lamb on Alan Edmondson's farm in Cumbria



New born Charollais X Herdwick lamb born outside on David Norman's Kirkhouse farm

Hello from the Scottish Region

As your new regional Chairman I better introduce myself, especially for the new members to the region.

I am Russell Gray from Langside Farm at Lanark. I come from a family run farm which sits 680ft above sea level and rises to 820ft. The 380 acres is mainly grass based with about 30 acres every year growing spring barley for whole crop. On the livestock side we have 140 Ayrshire and Red & White Holstein dairy cows, 80 Texel ewes, 50 Suffolk ewes and 40 Charollais ewes.

The Charollais flock make up the show team, which gives us our days away and holidays in the show season. Our show circuit consists of Ayr, Lesmahagow, the Highland, the Yorkshire and sometimes Cumberland and Dumfries. Travelling around the shows which have Charollais

classes helps to promote your flock and the breed.

It's been strange this year with no shows, a revised sales calendar and for the first time selling tups at home, but hopefully next year, some sort of normality will return, which will allow us to have meetings in person, restart the flock competition and see the return of NSA Scotsheep and Kelso Ram Sales.

I look forward to catching up with you all at some point and meeting the new members in our region.

I would like to wish everyone the best of luck with their new purchases and a successful lambing.

Stay safe and see you next year.

Russell

NORTH OF ENGLAND

Sales

Carlisle: Despite being moved to Saturday from its usual Friday slot the sale exceeded most vendors expectations with some good prices being achieved.

Females, as in previous years, also sold well. Thanks must go to H&H for enabling online bidding which was responsible for a number of purchases.

Skipton Female Sale: Well done to North of England Region members for putting on a great show of in lamb ewes and gimmer lambs. They were rewarded with a great day's trade. Something which can be built on for next year.

Worcester Premier Sale: Well done to the Wales family for achieving the top price shearling ram selling for 4,600gns.

Other News:

Well done to 18 year old James Trafford doing the region proud being named on the bench for Manchester City first team in their Premier League clash against Sheffield United and also in their Champion's League game against Porto.

David Norman



Shearling Ewes from the Fosters flock, sold for 900gns each

WALES

It is difficult to know where to begin writing this report, for the last Charollais Time of the year. An unbelievable year, obviously for the wrong reason.

Unfortunately, the region's two main NSA tup sales at Builth Wells, did not go ahead, which left us all scratching our heads as to which market was going to be most suitable to sell our rams, but Hereford market came up trumps and we had two successful sales there.



Top price shearling ram from the Bachmybyd flock - sold for 1,700gns

The cancellation of the Royal Welsh Show was a huge loss and disappointment to us all, as it is an excellent place to catch up and socialise with fellow breeders.

However, I do believe that the year has ended on a positive note, especially for those selling in lamb ewes at the Saucy and Hereford High Flyers sales. Ewes from many Welsh breeders were in high demand and sold very well.

It was pleasing to hear that ewes destined for the Welshpool sale, which cancelled at the last minute, were snapped up within days.

We are pleased to welcome several new members to the region. It is always nice to have new breeders join us. Please don't hesitate to pick the phone up, as there is no shortage of experienced breeders in the Welsh region who are always willing to give advice and share their experiences.

Soon most of us will be lambing and looking forward to a healthy and successful New Year.

We would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and look forward to catching up with everyone at next year's sales and shows.

Dewi Evans



FAX LINE

The fax line in the office, has now been discontinued. We have found over the past year only a handful of members used this way of communication, so we have cancelled the line (and saved on the monthly connection charge).

Those who occasionally did send sale entries via this method, please either use email or Grassroots to do your entries. You can always take a picture on a smart phone and send this either by email or WhatsApp.



We are pleased to welcome the following new members to the Society and 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 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 it's 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 it's rise in popularity amongst lamb producers.

Scotland

AJ Stott & BL Stagg **Tophill** **VGG**
Longrow Cottage, Canonbie, Dumfriesshire,
DG14 0RU

Mrs Singer **Meiklebogs** **VHM**
Meiklebogs, Gordonstown, Inverurie
AB51 8XL

Mr Royan **Bennachie** **VHX**
The Granary, Putton Mill Duns Berwickshire
Scottish Borders TD11 3HT

Miss Laura Moore **Ballhall** **VHY**
Mains of Balhall, Menmuir, Brechin, Angus
DD9 7RW

North of England

Mr White **Brook Farm** **VHN**
Brook Cottage, Nunburnholme, York
YO42 1Q

Mr Baxter **Monk** **VHR**
Monk Farm, Whitfield, Hexham,
Northumberland, NE47 8HQ

Messrs Webber & Parry-Jones **Firtree** **VHZ**
2 Firtree Cottages, Haigh, Wigan WN2 1NB

East of England

Mr Lucas **LUCA**
The Dower Cottage, 45 Main Street, Church
Stowe, Northants NN4 6SG

Ms Abigail Shave **Waterford** **VHS**
3 Grigsons Wood, East Harling, Norwich
Norfolk NR16 2LW

Messrs Swindell **VHT**
Shepley Farm, Chelmorton, Buxton,
Derbyshire SK17 9SL

Central

Mr A Bailey **Baileys** **VIA**
Ardene Home Farmhouse, Walker's Lane,
Tarpoley, Cheshire CW6 0DQ

Wales

Teulu Jones **Mochno** **VHG**
Awel Y Gors, Talybont, Aberystwyth,
Ceredigion SY24 5EJ

Mrs G Thomas **CNWC** **VHL**
CNWC, Ty Mawr, Llanybydder,
Carmarthenshire SA40 9RB

Mr Killick **Long Field** **VHU**
Tyn-y-Illan, Cefn Coch, Welshpool, Powys
SY21 0AG

Mr Jones **LEJ Charollais** **VHW**
Cwmrath Farm, Stepside, Narbeth
Pembrokeshire, SA67 8LU

South West England

Mr & Mrs Phipps **Hole Brook** **VHH**
Yeo Farm, Yeo Lane, North Tawton, Devon
EX20 2DD

Northern Ireland

Mr Vance **VANCA**
9a Ballygelab Road, Aldkeen, Newtownards
Co. Down, N. Ireland BT22 1JQ

Mr Kennedy **Round Tower** **VHJ**
6b Corkley Road, Tassagh, Co. Armagh
BT60 2QJ

Mr McCoy **The Real McCoy** **VHV**
25 Ballyhill Lane, Nutts Corner, Crumlin
BT29 4YP

Mr R Moore **Devonish** **VIB**
175 Loughshore Rd, Enniskillen, Co.
Fermanagh BT93 7DZ

SOUTH WEST ENGLAND

I honestly don't really know where to start writing this reflection of the summer months in the South West Region! I was hoping (following on from the April edition), that the year may have improved, however this was not to be the case. Thankfully, the weather during Lockdown 1 was

exceptional meaning that we could all embrace the challenges that the year was throwing at us (or in my case, build up a nice tan!!).

As a region we have all managed to stay buoyant, positive and most definitely in touch with one another through the medium of Zoom and our biweekly / monthly Quizzes. These have been welcomed by all who have taken part, so much so, that the Northern Region even became involved (who we incidentally beat!!) I honestly do not think that any of us involved could have predicted how hilarious these would be. From originally holding pieces of paper up to the camera, Gill & Arthur's Christmas tree still being up in April to now the whole region's sole ambition of beating Kate & Ed!

I would personally like to thank Gill & Arthur on behalf of all of us who play along, for providing us with non-stop laughs. From the Christmas tree, to speaking the answers, not being able to log on after 8 months of playing but mostly, the 'how do I turn the volume up'! You have honestly been the best pair to play along with and I cannot thank you enough for the enjoyment you have given us.

Our next quiz (and last of 2020) is on 23rd December at 8pm (Christmas jumpers are compulsory!) I would honestly encourage anyone in the region to join in as it really is a fun no pressure way of keeping in touch.



In more Charollais related news, a huge congratulations to Mike & Melanie Alford on their top price ram lamb at Worcester Premier sale, Foxhill Va Va Voom selling for 16,000gns.

The NSA Sale at Exeter met a selective trade but top on the day was 720gns for EW Quick & Sons shearling ram. Ewes managed a best of 500gns for GC & CJ Watson.

The region also saw the dispersal of John Osborne's' Trebarn Flock inaugurated into the Exeter Female sale. The sale was a huge success with a huge array of Charollais buyers present which ultimately resulted in a 100%

clearance and a top of 2,000gns for 19YPD00701. Congratulations to John and you will be missed within the region.

The flock competition still went ahead this year following all the governments COVID guidelines. Our thanks to Gerald Burrough for judging this for us and

for taking his time to map read his way around the region to see all 13 flocks competing. Well done to Ben, Amelia and Finley Watts (Willow flock) for taking the overall title of champion flock and to John Barker (Oakdene Flock) for Reserve.

Thank you to all who participated as I know we were unsure if it would go ahead or not this year.

With the 2021 showing season in the region looking precarious at the moment, may I take this time to remind members to pick up the phone / email / message, Amy or myself if you need to talk.

Amy & Amelia

SOUTH WEST ENGLAND FLOCK COMPETITION

Judge: Gerald Burrough

		Large flock	Medium flock	Small flock
Flock Ewes	1st	T Newth	B & A Watts	J Barker
	2nd	R Endacott	T Nancekivell	A Brown & G Beckley
	3rd	S Jonas	Y Underwood	E Simmons & K Esler
Shearling Ewes	1st	R Endacott	B & A Watts	J Barker
	2nd	T Newth	T Nancekivell	A Brown & G Beckley
	3rd	D Laws	Y Underwood	E Simmons & K Esler
Ewe Lambs	1st	T Newth	B & A Watts	A Brown & G Beckley
	2nd	S Jonas	T Nancekivell	J Barker
	3rd	D Laws	Y Underwood	E Simmons & K Esler
Stock Rams	1st	T Newth	T Nancekivell	L Eyles
	2nd	R Endacott	B & A Watts	A Brown & G Beckley
	3rd	S Jonas		
Junior Stock Ram	1st	D Laws	T Nancekivell	A Brown & G Beckley
	2nd	T Newth	B & A Watts	J Barker
	3rd	S Jonas	Y Underwood	
Winners Reserve		T Newth R Endacott	B & A Watts T Nancekivell	J Barker A Brown & G Beckley
Champion Flock Novice Flock		B & A Watts L Eyles	Reserve Champion Flock	J Barker