

CHAROLLAIS

THE FARMER'S FUTURE



CHAROLLAIS
SHEEP
SOCIETY

SOCIETY SALE DATES

CARLISLE SUPREME SALE
Saturday 27th June

WORCESTER PREMIER SALE
Saturday 4th July

DUNGANNON EXPORT SALE
Monday 27th July

BRECON EARLY NSA SALE
Monday 3rd August

EXETER NSA
Wednesday 19th August

CARLISLE (AND FEMALES)
Friday 28th August

MELTON MOWBRAY RAM SALE
Saturday 5th September

KELSO RAM SALES
Friday 11th September

BUILTH WELLS NSA MAIN SALE
Monday 21st September

WELSHPOOL
Thursday 24th September

BALLYMENA
Monday 28th September

SOCIETY FEMALE SALES

SKIPTON
Saturday 10th October

DUNGANNON EXPORT SALE
Monday 26th October

EXETER
Friday 30th October

WELSHPOOL
Monday 2nd November

MELTON MOWBRAY
Saturday 21st November

A BREED FOR ALL SYSTEMS

Welcome to the 2026 edition of Charollais - The Farmers Future, the Society's signature commercial magazine which is distributed across the UK at various shows, sales and events promoting the commercial attributes of the breed.

From the producers featured in this edition, there is no doubting the positive effect Charollais genetics can have on your sheep enterprise. Whether running Charollais rams on Dorset ewes in Somerset, Herdwick ewes in the Lake District or backing your own convictions of blood from your own pedigree herd to go on Suffolk Mules in the Scottish Borders, the Charollais is key to quality lamb production.

Sheep prices have continued to be strong in 2025 and have continued strongly this year with new season lamb trade. However as rising costs, particularly fuel and fertiliser, continue to worry many producers, the economics of farming systems must always be scrutinised.

Charollais rams have all the qualities to keep your bottom line in profit, while adding value to the end product. We have the genetics that can get a quality carcass lamb to market quickly and at a weight that is profitable.

Charollais rams breed prime lambs with length and shape, excellent muscling and tender, flavoursome meat. Added to which, days to slaughter is one of the most influential factors in the reduction of carbon footprint.

The Society is driving ahead with genomic selection providing producers with the tools for further improvement on carbon reduction in their stock, all the while putting emphasis on rams that are 'fit for purpose'. Charollais rams do live and work hard and have the added bonus of easy lambing and vigorous progeny.

If you're reading this and still undecided as to whether a Charollais is for you, have a thorough read through the testimonials and then make a note of the sale dates published on the inside front cover.

Best wishes,

Carroll Barber
and the Charollais Sheep Society



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CHAROLLAIS SIRES FIT THE BILL FOR SUCCESSFUL SUFFOLK MULE HOGG AND LAMB SALES

Commerciality is key to the success when choosing Charollais rams for third generation sheep farmer William Halford of The Halford Partnership.



Farming in partnership with his mother, Andrea and wife, Rebecca, the family farm is located south of Worcester on the edge of Kempsey Common and extends to 120 acres on the home farm along with grazing rights on the common and an additional 1500 acres of summer grazing and 1200 acres of winter grazing.

For much of the year the sheep enterprise is run by William, ably assisted by his six faithful sheep dogs and a Pratley handling system with any extra staff only brought in around the busy periods.

The business is based solely on sheep, with the flock comprising of 2500 North County Mules and 1500 homebred Suffolk Mule hogs. These are wintered on stubble turnips and dairy grassland where the sheep continually move to fresh grazing with the aid of electric fencing before running on permanent pasture over summer with some over seeding and fertiliser being applied by contractors to maximise grass growth.

A mix of set stocking and rotational grazing is implemented, all relative to the suitability of each rented farm. The home farm and the neighbouring 300-acre farm is cleared of stock by mid-October to allow it to rest with a fertiliser application aimed for mid-February. The transport of stock is all aided by a custom made trailer with extra height to suit the mules and extra modifications to make loading easier.

Replacement North Country Mule yearlings are purchased from sales in the north of England, preferably as yearlings that have already reared a lamb and rams are purchased from the NSA Wales and Border Ram Sale annually.

When buying tups I like to buy those that have been produced with a commercial mindset.

“You have a wide choice of rams at Bulth, with the confidence that they are of the highest quality and veterinary inspected. I select the best strong long Suffolk rams to go on the Mules and the best Charollais rams to go onto the homebred Suffolk Mule hogs. For more than 25 years, we quite often have been buying Charollais rams from the Probert family of the Mortimer prefix,” says William.

“When buying tups I like to buy tups that have been produced with a commercial mindset, focussing on breeding length, hard fleshing, tight skins, volume of meat, locomotion and

spirit, with the added asset of being functional and easy lambing,” William highlights.

In the autumn, 1500 of the homebred Suffolk Mule hogs are selected for Charollais rams in two cycles on a basis of one ram for 60 hogs. The hogs are wintered on roots before coming indoors to lamb once the first lamb is born where they are then fed high quality ewe rolls with an ME in excess of 13.6, as well as ad-lib haylage and straw and extra energy mineral buckets.

The Charollais sired lambs want to live and survive and they help sell the hogs with ease.

Hogs are lambed between 25 March and 18 April and this is when the choice of ram comes into its own. Within 12 hours of being lambed the hogs and lambs are turned out straight to fresh grass, with no supplementary feeding. “I choose the Charollais rams because you get



a smaller headed lamb which makes lambing easier for the hogs. Lambs are keen to get up to mother the hogg and that bond makes turnout quicker and easier,” adds William.

The lambs are strong, retain a bond with the hogs and grow fast, withstanding the weather, believes William. “The Charollais sired lambs want to live and survive and they help sell the hogs with ease,” concludes William.

Hogs are sold with a month to six-week-old single Charollais lamb at foot at the spring hogg and lamb sales at local markets, often winning prizes in the show sections at Worcester, Hereford and Ludlow, as well as offered direct to farms. Any remaining yearlings left in the autumn are either sold or farmed over the winter and lambled and sold as ewes with Charollais lamb the following Spring.

The majority of hogs with twins will have one removed at birth and the spare lamb would be fostered on to the main Mule singles. Those hogs that are not sold in the spring will rear the Charollais lambs through to the summer where the lambs will be grown on and quite often sold as finished lambs or strong stores weighing 45kg plus through Worcester Livestock Market in February having spent the winter on roots.



CHAROLLAIS - AN IDEAL CROSSING SIRE FOR EASE OF MANAGEMENT AND PROFITABLE LAMB CROP

When it comes to producing desirable prime lambs that are well sought after in the auction ring, as well as replacement females that boast excellent milk and maternal abilities, the Charollais ram ticks all the boxes for the Hodgson family in the Lake District.



Herdwicks can still be found at Stybeck, as well as North Country Cheviots, both of which graze common fell ground, but these are crossed to a Charollais ram. In doing so, Chris believes he has found the ideal cross that provides ease of management at lambing while also producing a profitable lamb crop.

“When it was only father, myself and Louise on the farm, we were pressed for time at lambing and needed something that would be quick to get up and get going,” said Chris, who bought his first Charollais rams some 20 years ago and regularly attends Kelso Ram sales.

It’s a busy operation at Stybeck Farm which sits in the Thirlmere valley near Keswick, as the sheep and cattle enterprises are run alongside diversifications including silage contracting and tourist accommodation. And with lambing falling during the Easter holidays, one of the busiest tourist seasons of the year, lambing needs to be a slick operation for husband and wife team, Chris and Louise, who run Stybeck alongside their two children, Tom and Lily.

Admittedly, the farming practise at Stybeck has changed over the years since Chris’ parents, Joey and Jean, took on the United utilities tenancy back in 1971, when Swaledales and Herdwicks were the mainstay of the common fell ground which rises to nearly 2000 feet above sea level.

The family also ran a dairy herd up until 2012 when receiving 11p per litre made it completely unviable, so the switch was made to beef cows and now a 30-strong herd of Aberdeen-Angus cross cows and followers.

“We need something that will be quick to get up and get going.”

“We like a tup with a good bit of bone, that has lift and plenty of back-end, it doesn’t need to be a showring sparkler, just something that’ll get on and do its job. It’s got to have a good skin too in order to cope with the rainfall we get here. We still buy a couple of other breeds, but find they need a Charollais or Herdwick to add some hybrid vigour,” Chris highlights.

When it comes to the fell sheep, all Herdwicks are bred pure apart from a selection of draft ewes which are crossed out. The Cheviots all go to the Charollais ram after they’re bred pure as a shearling in order to retain a pure-bred nucleus flock. Thereafter, all ewes are covered by

Charollais rams to produce not only replacement females for the cross-bred flock, but also a lamb that is easy finished and easy sold.

With only 165 acres of in-bye ground, all ewes and lambs head to a 250-acre block of leased ground near Workington as soon as lambs are fit enough to travel at around one week of age and they spend the summer grazing there, leaving the low-lying land at Stybeck free for cattle and silage production.

Charollais rams are easy lambing too which makes for a smoother lambing time.

Lambs are weaned in September and last year's batch from Cheviot ewes were sold store straight off their mothers through Cockermonth where they were up to £128 per head. "The Charollais tup gives us a really uniform lamb crop which finishers can buy in confidence as they know the lambs have the conformation and genetics to finish quickly, producing well-fleshed carcasses to meet the market demand," points out Chris.



The rest of the lambs are offered a 16% nut from weaning and many are sold through Cockermonth's prime ring from October onwards, with the remainder brought inside before the typically wet Lake District weather starts to impact the ground conditions. "By keeping our home-bred Charollais cross ewe lambs as replacements, we know that the females will be great mothers, while also passing on improved carcass qualities to their offspring," Chris explains.

In order to maximise the lamb crop, breeding ewes are offered the best grass and pre-tupping buckets before rams are introduced at a one to 50 ratio from 8th November onwards. "We know the Charollais tup will get on with the job, they're certainly lively enough, which means we have a more compact lambing

period which results in a more even lamb crop when it comes to selling," says Chris, adding that rams have typically been bought from the Wales family's Thackwood flock, as well as David Norman's Kirkhouse flock.

"Both of these flocks lie within 40 minutes or so of us and while they come from better ground, I do think the acclimatisation has something to do with how well they do for us so we tend to stick to what we know," he adds.

It's all hands on deck at lambing time though as the cross-bred ewes scan at a healthy 185%, with the Cheviots at 170% and Herdwicks at 160%. The cross ewes are all brought inside for lambing and fed on a high-quality silage, as well as an 18% protein ewe roll with free access to mineral buckets.

At birth, lambs have their navels dipped in iodine and are all administered a probiotic oral supplement to boost gut health. "An added bonus of the Charollais lambs is that they're quick at getting up on their feet and suckle. And we find them to be easy lambing too which makes for a smoother lambing time," summarises Chris.

The system has worked well for the last 20 years and despite ever-changing pressures from an ever-changing political climate, the Charollais ram really does do it all for the Hodgson family.

"I do think the acclimatisation has something to do with how well they do for us so we tend to stick to what we know."





PURE AND CROSSBRED CHAROLLAIS SIRES PROVE THE PERFECT CHOICE FOR WELSH MULE EWES AND HOGGS

The easy lambing and fast growth rates of Charollais sires is key to success over Welsh Mule hogs for the Cornock family in Fishguard, Pembrokeshire.

“They’re slighter in the heads and alert when born which is great for the hogg and lamb interaction.”

The family run operation of Janet alongside her son James and his wife Nia and their two sons Daf and Steff manage 1000 acres. The business predominantly stems from the 350 strong dairy cow enterprise with 200 heifers following and a further 450 beef animals which are a product of the dairy cow. Having had severe problems with TB where some 200 head have been removed over the past two years, the Cornock family have to have a large number of heifers following through to help replace cows and all beef calves are finished on farm between 28 and 30 months of age.

The business has grown significantly since the home farm was purchased as a 180-acre unit in 1980, having been tenants since 1928 to its current 750-acre unit with the additional land rented in. James explains that at times they have aspirations to go all dairy and significantly increase the number of milking cows but, says there are too many unpredictable factors that is beyond their control that can put a spanner in the works and the mixed system is proving very successful.

The farm also runs an arable operation with some 230 acres planted as cereals to provide feed and straw to the cattle with the 380 strong, predominantly, Welsh Mule flock a grazing management tool within the system. “The sheep fit in well with us where they’ll graze on rented silage ground over the summer rotating around fields to clear fields between cuts and also grazing some fields that are less suited for silage production,” highlights fourth generation farmer James.

The flock returns to the home farm in December in preparation for lambing where the first half, being the older ewes, are lambed from the end of January with the second half being lambed from the end of February.

Ewes and hogs are fed concentrates for a month in the run up to lambing and have access to mineral buckets pre and post lambing with no concentrates fed once the ewes go out to pasture. A selection of Texel and Charollais cross Texels are used over the ewes with the Charollais rams used over the hogs. “The Charollais are great over the hogs, the lambs are slighter in the heads and are alert when born which is great to begin that hogg and lamb interaction,” explains James.

Hogs and lambs are sent outdoors from three days to a week old depending on the weather. “The Charollais lambs grow like mushrooms and compete well against the other sires used,” Daf adds.

Lambs are weaned in June and July and return to the home farm for finishing, where some will be sold directly at weaning. Once weaned quite often the majority of lambs are put on to forage rape which is sown on the winter barley fields making use of the fields between crops and also providing a good feed source for the lambs to finish.

James aims to get lambs away at 43-44kg liveweight where they’ll be transported to a nearby collection centre to be sold deadweight with a large percentage of lambs killing out at 21-22kg with U grades and a finish of 3’s and some 4’s at 16-20 weeks of age. “The Charollais lambs finish easily and kill out well and make use of what would be barren land without the sheep enterprise,” James states.

“Yes, maybe we could have tack sheep in or run store lambs but, with the ability to do the vast majority of work on farm ourselves



then we have the ability to use the sheep as a management tool for us and at a convenience to us,” James outlines.

The Cornock family are adamant that the Charollais will remain an integral part of the commercial sheep enterprise going forward. “The breed has come on a long way from the early days where they were red and fine when I first came across them, now that they’re hardier they better suit our system,” Janet concludes.





SCOTTISH BORDERS BREEDER BACKS HIS FLOCK'S GENETICS FOR USE ON COMMERCIAL EWES

The Charollais ticks all the boxes for producing crossbred lambs of a quality standard for Stuart Ramsey at Kelso, Roxburghshire, when being used over Suffolk Mules.

“The Charollais tick all the boxes for me, they have good vigour, easily lambed, grow like mushrooms and finish easily.”

The farm is predominantly focused on the suckler cow herd with 350 Aberdeen-Angus cross and Simmental cross cows farmed over 675 acres, all spring calved in April and May. Replacement heifers are calved down at two years old and all calves are kept and finished on farm with the male calves finished as bull beef.

Alongside the cattle run 400 Suffolk Mule ewes which are purchased as lambs with a proportion being MV tested to go as recipient females for the pedigree Charollais flock that was established in 2018 under the Skyfall prefix.

Stuart first used the Charollais rams over the crossbred ewe flock through the use of the Logie Durno crossbred tups and liked what they were doing and then took the leap to establish his own pedigree flock with his daughter to not only produce rams for himself, but, has also built a strong client base for rams too.

“The Charollais just ticks all the boxes for me, they have good vigour at birth, easily lambed, grow like mushrooms and just finish so easily,” Stuart explains. All the ewes are lambed to



Charollais lambing outdoors in April with all lambs fattened on farm predominantly in August and September.

Ewes are run on a grass-based system with no concentrates fed to either the ewe or the lamb and are grazed alongside the cattle helping to clear fields to allow fresh regrowth. Some 25-30 acres of grassland is reseeded each year planting high clover mixes with a slight change being implemented with the Scottish greening payments now demanding three flowering plants to be included in new leys.

“I can't understand why more people don't use Charollais sires, the thought of them being soft is a myth.”

An additional 100 acres of crops are also planted each year to help act as a break from the grassland to clean up weeds and also providing a good food source and straw for the cattle enterprise.

Lambs are sold off grass at 48 to 52kg liveweight or targeting a 25kg deadweight lamb with the lambs receiving a flat rate price when going to wholesalers. Lamb prices ranged between £150 and £180 last year for all lambs sold. “The lambs fatten so easily and are deceptively heavy with the length in the lambs helping to get the bigger weights,” adds Stuart.

“I can't understand why more people don't use the Charollais sires, the thought of them being soft is a myth. For me they really are the perfect



* Some of this year's ram lambs that will be used across the commercial flock next year.



commercial sheep as they really thrive here with us,” continues Stuart.

Stuart also feels that when focussing on the breeding of the pedigree flock, the commercial focus of what the breed can deliver takes priority. “The customer wants good tops, ends and a deep loin to go along with the easy lambing traits and good survivability, I just then look for that extra bit of flash and breed character in his sheep to look appealing for the pedigree sales.”

While Stuart appreciates the flock is small compared to many leading breeders with only seven pedigree ewes, the best two females are flushed each year to increase the size of the lamb crop. The standout ewe for Stuart is Loaningfoot Broxi from local breeder Ben Radley with a standout son of hers being Skyfall Duke who is by Springhill Adonis.

Standout lambs from the pedigree flock are sold at Society sales having achieved a top of 3900gns and commercial tups are sold from home for an average of £1200. Only rams bred by Stuart are used within the commercial flock with new stock sires requiring to be purchased for new blood within the pedigree flock. “I think if you can show to your customers that you’re using your own genetics with confidence, there is no greater shop window,” Stuart concludes.



SPRING AND AUTUMN LAMBING SOMERSET-BASED FLOCK SEES BENEFITS OF CHAROLLAIS AS TERMINAL SIRE OF CHOICE

A split flock, lambing Poll Dorsets in the autumn and Suffolk x Mules in spring is allowing Somerset farmers Tom and Chloe Heal to maximise their production, using Charollais rams as their terminal sire of choice.

The Charollais growth rate means lambs generally grade as 3Ls, with the odd 3H creeping in and more than 80% grading at E’s and U’s.

As Tom explains the move to Dorsets was one made as a result of high store lamb prices in 2023. “We’d always bought in store lambs to finish, but that autumn they were expensive and didn’t look good value, so we made the decision to buy 200 Dorsets instead. We lambed them and have never looked back.

“This time round we’ve lambed 500 Dorsets and will be aiming to lamb nearer 650 this autumn. They are hard to beat as a maternal breed and lambing them in autumn allows us to make the most of the grazing opportunities we have available,” he says.

Meanwhile, the couple’s spring lambing flock consists of 400 Suffolk x Mule ewes, again all tuppied with Charollais rams. “While the Dorsets lamb outside in the autumn, the spring flock lambs indoors in January, with any of the Dorsets not in lamb during their four-week tupping period run around to join the January lambers.

“Lambs from both flocks are creep fed to get them away as quickly as we can, with the Charollais lambs responding well to feeding. For the autumn flock, lambs are weaned at

the end of January, with all the lambs housed and finished on ad-lib feed, with growth rates averaging 0.3kg/day and the best lambs doing 0.5kg/day,” highlights Tom.

Lambs receive a vitamin drench at weaning to help reduce the impact of any weaning check and the stress caused by housing, with both ewes and lambs all on the Heptavac P+ system too.

“Dorset ewes and their lambs graze dairy ground over the winter, before moving onto volunteer wheat and barley in January to help the ewes start to dry up. That’s when we introduce the creep feeders, helping ensure lambs are taking creep well before we wean them.”

And, while Tom admits the Dorset can tend to throw lambs that run to fat easily, he says the Charollais growth rate helps to taper that, with lambs generally grading as 3Ls, with the odd 3H creeping in and more than 80% grading at E’s and U’s.



Once they've dried off the ewes move onto cover crops or any other forage the couple can find for them to help them build condition back up ahead of tugging in May. "We aim to keep the grass at home for the January lambing ewes, so the autumn lambing ewes are kept away through the spring.

"They move onto better grass in early April to flush them ahead of tugging with the aim of increasing lambing percentage. The autumn Dorset flock is currently averaging about 140% weaned and it would be good to increase this if we can.

"We hadn't originally intended to increase the Dorset numbers so rapidly, but we were hit by a severe Maedi Visna (MV) outbreak in our spring lambing flock in the winter of 2023-24 and ended up culling nearly 400 ewes as a result.

"We were able to source 200 more Dorset hoggs with lambs at foot which helped get numbers back up quickly. We've been impressed with the Dorsets in every way and they knit with the Charollais rams superbly, so we've been increasing their numbers ever since then," adds Tom.

Both Tom and Chloe are now passionate about maintaining a high health status across both flocks, choosing to MV test 10% of their ewes every year. "More commercial farmers need to be aware of the impact MV can have on their flocks. It had a devastating impact on our flock and its prevalence is rising, there's no doubt about that," says Chloe.

"The Charollais ram is perfectly suited to both the Dorset and Suffolk Mule. There really isn't a terminal sire to match the potential of the Charollais."

For the January lambing flock, the system starts with indoor lambing, with ewes and lambs turned out to grass at 24-48 hours old, depending on weather conditions. "We like to get them out as soon as we can to reduce pressure on housing and get the ewes milking off new grass leys which are kept clear for them.

"Lambs again go onto ad-lib creep feeding at three to four weeks old and in a hard spring ewes will receive concentrate feed too, but the aim is to minimise the amount of concentrate fed and maximise production off grass.

"These lambs are then weaned at 12-16 weeks of age depending on lamb growth, grass availability and ewe condition. When grass is short these lambs will also be housed to finish, with ad-lib creep feeding maintained. When we have sufficient grass and ground conditions allow, they'll stay out and be fed ad-lib on smaller grass paddocks.

"The ultimate aim is for every lamb to be sold before the tups go back in with the ewes, with target weights and grades similar to the lambs from the Dorset ewes. The difference with the Charollais cross lambs from the Suffolk x Mule ewes is that they'll hit slaughter weight a few weeks sooner than those from the Dorset ewes. However, they grade just as well and are, perhaps, a shade leaner," he says.

The spring lambing flock is put away to winter keep before the autumn flock starts lambing, with the aim being to have the home farm clear of sheep for 10-12 weeks through the autumn to give grass a good rest and allow new leys to get established before grazing in spring.

When it comes to selecting replacement tups, the couple seek out Charollais rams with length and natural fleshing, aiming for pinker headed types to go on the Dorset ewes and whiter headed rams for the Suffolk x Mules. "We feel those whiter headed types leave lambs with more cover on them which gives them a bit more hardiness for being turned out in January.

"We prefer to buy shearlings, with the majority being sourced off farm from the Prestleigh flock, but we have bought the odd few at sales as well. Buying shearlings off similar ground to us, means we're confident they can go straight to work and not struggle to work on a good number of ewes. Rams are often expected to keep going until they drop, but we tend to expect three seasons of them and then cull them. With cull prices being so strong it makes



sense to maximise their value rather than work them until they aren't worth anything as a cull. We're getting in the region of £250 for good strong tups in the culls," explains Tom.

"Charollais rams are the perfect choice for our system, they produce great carcass lambs with exceptional growth rates and it always surprises us when we put them over the scales. They produce dense carcasses that earn premium prices. For us there isn't a terminal sire to match the potential of the Charollais," summarises Tom.



* Charollais sired lambs at the foot of Suffolk Mules.



* The Charollais cross Dorset lambs ahead of marketing this year.



CHAROLLAIS AT THE HEART OF BENCHMARK FARM FOR SUSTAINABLE LAMB PRODUCTION

In the heart of County Down, near the hamlet of Katesbridge, lies Shanaghan Hill Farm, a medium sized enterprise, run by the Skelly family. The farm has become a benchmark for sustainable, ethical, and high-quality lamb production.

While the farm is rooted in generations of tradition, its current success is driven by a modern, precision-based approach to breeding. Central to this strategy is the consistent use of Charollais terminal sires to produce lambs that meet the exacting standards of today's discerning consumer. The farm uses Charollais sires on Clun Forest and Clun Mule ewes, demonstrating ease of growth and finishing on a grass-fed system.

Shanaghan Hill Farm operates on a farm-to-table ethos, prioritising regenerative practices and animal welfare with a clear mission statement: to be good stewards of the land

and the animals in their care while producing wholesome, natural food.

In August last year several hundreds of people flocked to Shanaghan Hill Farm, the first ever local food fayre to be held in Katesbridge, Co. Down.

“We were honoured and humbled by the number of people who attended the event and for the select group of local producers who were in attendance,” Highlights Esther Skelly-Smith. The event was a showcase for local farms who produce quality food and sell directly to public.

To achieve their goals of being both an ethical and sustainable food producer, the Skelly family maintain a diverse flock of pedigree and cross-bred ewes, including native breeds like the Clun Forest and Blue Faced Leicester, while using Charollais and Beltex-cross-Charollais terminal sires.

For the team at Shanaghan, the Charollais is the clear choice for several key reasons including its efficient growth from forage, carcass quality, easy lambing and good vigour. Esther adds how the Charollais-sired lambs consistently hit market weight and specification with ease, killing out well and delivering succulent, tender cuts that their customers have come to expect.

“We are delighted about how the Charollais have performed producing vigorous lambs with good birth weights and low mortality.”

Ewes graze outside year-round, only coming indoors for a short period during lambing. The ease of lambing associated with the Charollais breed, combined with the vigour of the newborn lambs, ensures a smooth start to life and reduces labour requirements during the busy spring season.

“As we are in the midst of lambing and 80% of our lambs are sired by the pure bred Charollais this season, we are delighted about how they have performed with good birth weights on a



largely forage based winter diet and vigorous lambs. Thankfully we have had very low mortality,” Esther’s mother, Louise highlights.

While the superior quality of the Charollais ram means lambs can be finished off grass without concentrate, the family do supplement twin and triplet bearing ewes for three to four weeks either side of lambing to ensure the colostrum and milk is of the right quality and quantity.

The Skelly family strongly believe that the Charollais breed will remain at the cutting edge of commercial sheep farming, by producing fast-growing, high-yielding lambs that thrive in a regenerative, low-input system.

“As the industry moves towards a more environmentally conscious production, systems like ours highlight the vital role of the Charollais in delivering a profitable, sustainable and premium-quality product.

The success of the lamb and local day proves that when you combine top-quality Charollais genetics with passionate farming, the public will flock to support it. “So much so that plans are now underway to rerun the event on 22nd of August 2026.



A TUP FOR ALL EWES



NO COMPROMISE, JUST MAXIMISE!

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