

MULE NEWS

Edition 34 | 2022

www.nemsa.co.uk



BRANCH REPORTS

INTERVIEWS

NEWS AND VIEWS

SHOWS AND SALES

FEATURES



Shearwell
Data

Livestock Systems

PRESIDENT - GEOFF TAYLOR

WORKING TOGETHER TO PROMOTE THE BREED

NEMSA Secretary Linda Allan has been 'chewing the cud' with our president Geoff Taylor.

Geoff farms with his wife Linda and two sons at Swathburn, Great Asby - on the edge of the Yorkshire Dales National Park, seven miles from Appleby and seven miles from Kirkby Stephen. Younger Son Richard concentrates on the 100-strong dairy herd and Craig focuses on the sheep side of the business. Geoff says "It works well, with the main pressure being the end of April when the cow man wants the meadows clear and the sheep man still wants the best grass for his twins." Dates differ year on year, but they always seem to get the two crops and free the fog for the gimmer lambs.

Ninety per cent of their Swaledale flock is crossed with the Blue Faced Leicester and the remainder kept pure. Pure BF Leicesters and a North of England Mule flock make up the numbers of this March lambing flock. I asked him about his biggest success to date and he said he thought that would simply be that the same buyers come back to buy his lambs year on year.

Geoff was in it from the beginning, totally buying into the idea of a Society which could unite in the promotion of the breed. His family's Mule trailblazing didn't coincide with the start of the Society, but began maybe ten years earlier.

It was in the early seventies his parents Ronnie and Margaret went on holiday to Devon and visited some auction marts as part of their visit. It was at Totnes Auction where they had a chance meeting with local farmer Ron Tucker. A friendship was ignited and the Tuckers repaid the visit to the Taylors at Swathburn in Cumbria later that weekend.

They spent a couple of days looking at the local sheep, taking in the sights and auctions and concluded that they should take 70 Mule wether lambs back to Devon with them to try. A local haulier said that 70 wasn't worth the long journey and 170 would be better.

Ronnie enlisted the help of Lazonby Auctioneer Norman Little and a plan was hatched. They sourced 173 lambs from the Alston Moor wether sale from three farmers which were sent down to the Southern Counties. In turn Ron Tucker distributed the wether lambs amongst fellow farmers down there. The New Year came and a telephone call from Mr Tucker asked for a representative to go down and watch the first of the lambs being sold.

Geoff, in his early twenties at this stage, was nominated by his father and was told he could stop a couple of days - 173 lambs bought, 173 lambs sold with profit and things were set for change. Geoff said he was treated like a king and stopped longer than the allotted two days! He remembers how impressed the Devon farmers were with this new breed and it wasn't long before many gimmer lambs were making their way in that direction.





Geoff Taylor

Geoff had started to lead the way locally as well, at a similar time - late 60s, early 70s his dad, a proficient Masham breeder, was selling a lot of lambs through Appleby Livestock Market (now closed). He remembers bucking the trend by keeping back 14 mule lambs for the Appleby fat show and sale, traditionally a Masham stronghold.

He was taking a risk and when he discovered that Masham stalwarts Malcolm Ewebank and Roy Watson were judging he thought he may have dreamed too big. He had a made a good job finishing the lambs - Swathburn Farm was self-sufficient in turnip, oats and corn at the time and this diet had set them in good stead.

Bucking the trend, the pen of ten lambs won the show and he recollects how many local farmers were quick to shake his hand and congratulate him on a well-deserved win. This was perhaps the catalyst for change, it was a fabulous advertisement locally and within 2/3 years the Mule numbers were increasing.

It was at PF&K's Appleby Auction Mart again that Geoff was making strides in the Mule world. In 1970, he remembers selling his Mules as breeding females. It was at a time when Mashams were making £10 and Geoff's Mule topped the market and made £22. They were sold to a farm down near Lancaster and when sold as 2 shears they also topped the trade! People were starting to notice the Mule.

Geoff concludes: " It's alright talking about the past, but talking about the past doesn't make you any money!"

I asked him: "What does make you money? "

I should have guessed his reply:

"A Good Mule - she's stood the test of time gay well."

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NEMSA

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FRONT COVER PHOTOGRAPH

Features Young Joseph Ackerley from Cumbria with a mule hogg at The Highland Show 2019.

The Photograph won first prize in a Nemsia facebook competition in January. The title of the competition was "People are Key" and was sent in by his dad, John Ackerley.

Cover Design : Sarah Harvey





CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

CHRIS HARRISON

Almost a year has passed since I wrote my last report, yet it just seems like yesterday...life passes too quickly!!!

This time last year Covid was at the forefront of everyone's mind and the desperation to roll out a vaccine was on the horizon, Now, 12 months later, the majority of us are double jabbed (now we know how those lambs feel!) and life is almost getting back to normal. The topic of conversation is now the climate, first Brexit, then Covid and now climate...whatever next?

The climate surely plays an important part of our farming lives. It gives us all something to talk about and probably controls our lives and how we go about our daily tasks. The weather at lambing time this year was once again kind to us, with plenty of lambs on the ground, although May turned out to be a cold month and there was a shortage of grass for those of us that have a few suckler cows. Ours weren't turned out until 1st June, which is a week later than normal and we had to buy in some silage, but there was plenty around from the bumper crops of 2020. In June, the show season started and the exhibitors were desperate to get out there and show their sheep once again. Some shows decided not to go ahead, but those that did received large entries of sheep, especially Mules - eg The Great Yorkshire.



"A big thank you to those who did make the effort to show their sheep. The Mule section usually has the biggest classes at any country show and the friendly rivalry is a joy to watch!"

Decent silage crops were gathered in June and July and I also noticed a lot more little square balers were dusted down, greased and put to work. The smell of fresh hay in the air was wonderful, those little bales are so useful in the winter months, although I don't miss stacking thousands of the blummin things!

The beginning of August saw a new chapter in the history of NEMSA. Marion, our secretary, decided to retire from the post after 14 years of excellent service and dedication in which time the membership had increased massively. The finances are in really good shape and all this is down to Marion's hard work and commitment. The Association owe her a huge thank you and also her family and wish her well in the future.



Marion Hope and Chris Harrison

We began the task of looking for a new secretary back in March, advertising the post in the farming press. There were many applicants from all over the country and after the interviewing process one of them stood out and we now have a new secretary, Linda Allan, who farms at Beck House Farm, near Kirkby Lonsdale, with her husband Neil and her four children.

Linda has had an interest in Mules for many years - some of us have a "Bonny Sheep" DVD in the drawer from a few years back?! Within the first few days of her new job Linda was off to Thame and Exeter to report on the Mule shearing sales, usually a barometer of what lies ahead for lamb sales and the omens were good! Demand for Mule shearlings was high. Sale averages were well up on the year.



Thame Sheep Fair

As we moved into September the annual gimmer lamb sales at centres throughout the North of England commenced, buyers from all parts of the UK again converging to the marts. I do believe the sun shone at every major sale day at every mart.

The trade was excellent, every centre reporting lambs up approx £20/head and average prices ranging from £125 to £130 per head. Linda managed to record every major sale and show and put the event online for all the diehard breeders to watch. Store lambs also had a similar price hike of approx £20/head and as I type this store lamb trade is getting stronger by the week. However, even though the trade was good will

we feel any better off at the end of the year? What with prices of fuel and feed rising daily, the expected huge price rise of fertilizer next year and the reduction of the Single Farm Payment I don't think we will be any better off. Or am I just a pessimist??

October is also the month for the Border Agri Expo at Borderway mart, where there was a record entry of Mules this year. I firmly believe the Mule judging is the highlight of the whole show, although some cattle breeders might well disagree?

NEMSA continues to be part of The Mule Group, bringing together all the Mule societies in England, Scotland and Wales to promote Mules and Blue Faced Leicesters. If any member would be interested in doing an article for the farming press please get in touch. Being part of this group comes at no cost to NEMSA, any expense being covered by Bluefaced Leicester Society. And, of course, we might well be able to adapt stories for our own use on the PR front, so continuing to give a very positive spin to both Breed and Association.

Another major event took place in October - the takeover of Newcastle United!!! So watch out all you Liverpool, Man Utd and Man City fans. We're coming after you!

I'd like to conclude by thanking our current long-standing sponsor Shearwell Data, who have kindly agreed to collect the levy which was placed on the tag this year free of charge. This is greatly appreciated. Also our new sponsor Eden Farm Supplies - we look forward to their continued support.



I'd also like to thank all the Branch Chairmen and Secretaries and members of the Association for their support and dedication, which plays a major part in keeping the North of England Mule as the UK's premier breeding ewe. Long may it continue!



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SECRETARY'S REPORT

LINDA ALLAN



With only a few months in the job when writing this I feel that I still have a lot to learn, but words of advice still ring in my ears - "If you can make your hobby your job that life doesn't get a lot better" - and in taking this position I hope that I have done just that. Mules have always been a massive part of my life and a staple injection in our farm's income, so to combine the promotion of the breed to our day to day running seems a good diversification strategy in the present farming climate.

I officially took over at a council meeting at the start of August. The very next day I set off on a road trip to take in a few sheep sales 'down south'. Firstly at Exeter and then on to the two day sale at Thame. We are normally used to seeing scorched brown grass, but this was replaced with swaths of green grass blowing in the wind - the farmers in Devon 'have never seen as much grass at this time of year.' All boding well for gimmer lamb grazing in September/October. With the fat lamb trade on an all time high, all the early sales of breeding sales reporting a marked increase on the year, things were looking and feeling hopeful and I was starting to think that this was going to be a good year to take over the role as secretary!

After the Covid break in the agricultural shows, it was great to see a lot of local shows back up and running this year and a credit to the volunteers who make these shows happen. The People who are behind the scenes on the show committees are a credit to their local community and have given many the opportunity to get out and about once more, catching up with friends and seeing some quality stock. The Highland Show returns and celebrates 200 years in 2022 and should be a great show to get involved with early in the showing season, whether you are showing or just socialising.

I have tried to visit as many different auction centres through the sales season and gathered lots of information and photographs which will lead me strongly into the year ahead. With thanks to Marion I have inherited two fabulous sponsors in Shearwell and Eden Farm Supplies and I only hope that these partnerships continue into the future. This will be the first year that Shearwell have collected the levy from the members when ordering the tags and many thanks to the staff at Shearwell for their extra work in doing this. Apart from our sponsorship, Nemsas is funded by membership and levy and your continued support in buying the Nemsas tags is very much appreciated and means that we can continue to promote The North of England Mule across the country by newspapers, stands and seemingly more important these days - Social Media. Marion had already collected a large following of over 10,000 followers on Facebook and I continue to increase the number with regular posts - I have also started a new account on Instagram (Nemsas_Mule) which will hopefully catch up with a new audience.

Can I just take this opportunity to thank everybody for the warm welcome that I have received while taking over the role from Marion. She has been extremely helpful during this transition period and I fear that I will be taking advice for some time yet - thanks in advance Marion!

Farming is going through a very uncertain phase and I fear that there are so many factors that are out of our control, such as the weather or trade deals with foreign counterparts, but our decision of what we choose to farm to make profit is still in our hands and I am confident that The North of England Mule will continue to play a vital role in our national flock.

SHEARLING SALES

NORTH OF ENGLAND MARTS

The formidable John Barker, who has been buying Mule Gimmer Lambs for most of his life, once described the Mule Gimmer as a fabulous 'commodity'. A Mule as a 'commodity' is a brilliant description, the official meaning is "a raw material or primary agricultural product that can be bought and sold." And doesn't our North Of England Mule fit that description. She is so versatile throughout her life from :

- Being a ewe lamb where we have have the choice to tup or to run her
- Selling her as a hogg with lambs at foot
- Trading as a Gimmer Shearling straight into action to lamb and rear two lambs
- Selling with lambs at foot or trading as One Crop Ewe
- She will always work hard throughout her adult life
- Fabulous value in the cull market

Her fabulous temperament and mothering ability has meant The Mule Gimmer Shearling has always been a firm favourite when buying flock replacements. In the following pages we look at how the Gimmer Shearling trade fared in the Northern Marts.



HAWES

One of the first Shearling sales 'Up North' The mid-August fixture produced an average of £179.50 for Mule shearlings.

KENDAL

North West Auctions annual show and sale of 5,000 Mule and Continental ewes and gimmer shearlings in August saw a buoyant trade throughout. It was great to see returning buying customers, as well as many new travelled buyers. Mule ewes met huge demand, with regular



NWA J36 Auction Mart

consigners well supported and enjoying fantastic trade J36 Rural Auction Centre's second sale of Mule and Continental ewes and gimmer shearlings mid-September had a catalogue entry of 1,200 and saw first quality sheep in big demand, with best quality Mule gimmer shearlings saw keenly bid for.

BENTHAM



Bentham Auction Mart

Bentham's late July breeding sale once again delivered on both numbers and quality, with sheep suitable for early tugging good to sell. Mule shearlings averaged £157 and Mule ewes £143. The main August sale saw a record entry of over 4,000 North of England Mule shearlings, when the overall sale average of £172.30 was up £22.30 on the year for an extra 1,055 sold. Auctioneer Stephen Dennis said:

“The popularity of the Mule breeding ewe was once again evident at the Bentham breeding sales, with greater numbers forward and a strong attendance of buyers from all parts of the country. The main August sale saw a large entry and provided lots suitable for all budgets.”

Late September, 3,516 gimmer shearlings (all breeds) saw Mules average £165 and ewes £137. Shearling trade was every bit as strong as could have been anticipated, mainly driven by East and South country buyers, with Devon particularly well represented. With plenty of interest from Devon and the Midlands, all classes of ewes, particularly Mules, met a strong demand.

CCM SKIPTON



Skipton Auction Mart 1st Sale

Skipton's opening prize show and sale of gimmer shearlings, the traditional launch fixture for its annual breeding sheep season, saw 4,770 head sell to an overall all-breeds average of £177.43, well up on the previous year's £152.05 and very much in line with both vendors' and purchasers' expectations. The overall average for North of England Mules was £176, some £26 up on the year. The second sale, as usual complemented by breeding ewes, produced an overall all-breeds average of £176.68 for 1,717 head.



Skipton Auction Mart 2nd Sale

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BARNARD CASTLE

Mule shearlings averaged £171 at the annual prize show & sale of Mule & Continental shearlings.



Barnard Castle Auction Mart

WIGTON

A sensational entry of sheep for the annual September sale met with a strong shed full of buyers from across the UK keen to source quality continental breeding sheep. Shearlings averaged £226 for 741 more sold across all breeds.

LONGTOWN

C&D Auctions Marts annual special sale of lowland breeding sheep at the beginning of September produced very keen demand, with customers galore from Devon to Orkney looking for quality sheep with stretch and power. The main annual mid-September sale had a catalogue entry of 8,447, with buyers represented from all over the UK and trade very good throughout.



Longtown Auction Mart

CARLISLE/LAZONBY

Harrison & Hetherington's late August Carlisle sale produced a flying trade for yearly consigners, while the September Lazonby and Carlisle combined sale attracted an increased entry of 3,200 Mule gimmer shearlings and included several new vendors. A very pleasing sale average of £172.88 was achieved, a rise of £13.51 on the year. This sale is fast becoming one of the premier sales of North of England shearlings in the North and each and every vendor should be congratulated on the show of sheep they presented

COCKERMOUTH

Mitchells Auction Mart's annual two-day breeding sheep fixture at the beginning of September saw the North of England Mule shearling section attract a large ringside of buyers from as far south as Cornwall and northerly as Aberdeenshire. A buoyant trade was seen to be taken by all sellers,



Cockermouth Auction Mart

PENRITH

September's Great Annual Show & Sale of 5,501 Mule gimmer shearlings opened with one of the finest shows of 2&3 shear Mule ewes in the country, with an average of £189 per head achieved for the 2 Shear section, up £24 per head on the year. Mule shearlings averaged £168, up £16 on the year. Quality sold exceptionally well maintaining the high rates witnessed this back end. There was total clearance, with a mart average of £162.06.

KIRKBY STEPHEN

Harrison & Hetherington's annual early breeding prize show & sale of Continental, Mule ewes,

shearlings and gimmer lambs had a catalogued entry of 1,277. Trade was fantastic throughout, with good quality, Continental and strong sheep being in particular demand. All breeds of shearlings sold to average £190.40

LEYBURN

The early September annual show & sale for Mule and Continental gimmer shearlings saw 1,300 Mules on offer and they comprised the usual quality. However, a greater number of leaner sheep in the mix, combined with last year's tremendous trade, explains the overall average being up just £4 at £165.

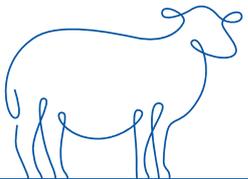
HEXHAM

Hexham & Northern Marts late September prize show and sale of hill ewes and gimmers offered a catalogue of 6,268 head. A tremendous show of quality was a great credit to the flock masters and shepherds of the region and a huge crowd gathered on Tyne Green to vie for annual consignments of hill females from the Tyne, Rede, Coquet, Ingram, College, Irthing & Wear Valleys and further a-field. A tremendous entry of ewes sold well throughout. Older Mule ewes were in great demand.



Hexham Auction Mart

NOTE : Gimmer Shearling Sales Reports are given where Marts have provided the relevant information.




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SHEEP EVENT

UK Sheep Farming: A positive future

Wednesday 27th July 2022

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FURTHER INFORMATION FROM THE WEBSITE OR ORGANISER:
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Further information from the Website or Organiser
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NEMSA OPEN DAY

BRECK HOUSE, BRANSDALE

HAWES BRANCH

The Hawes branch of NEMSA staged its 5th annual Open Day at Breck House, Bransdale, near Helmsley, courtesy of Tim Dunn and family. August 2021

Stock judging classes, trade stands, AHDB back fat scanning demonstration, a charity auction, raffle, plus all-round family entertainment, all proved the perfect ingredient for an extremely successful and well-attended event. The charity auction itself realised over £5,000 in aid of Sepsis UK in memory of Cumbrian young farmer Hannah Brown, of Dufton, who died so tragically young earlier this year.

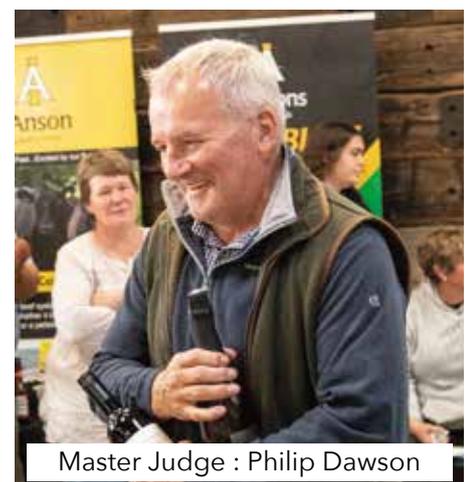
Tim Dunn runs Breck House Enterprises with his wife Sarah and son, James, farming at both the National Trust-owned 230-acre Breck House Farm and on their own 130 acres in neighbouring Bilsdale Valley. They run two separate sheep flocks comprising some 1,400 Swaledale ewes, 500 going to the Bluefaced Leicester for their North of England Mules, the remainder bred as pure Swaledales.

For 34 years, the family has also been running its own pregnancy sheep scanning business, with James Dunn now playing a big part. NEMSA members figure prominently among their client base and the all-purpose North of England Mule remains a long-time favourite because of her undoubted ability to maintain constant high production levels.

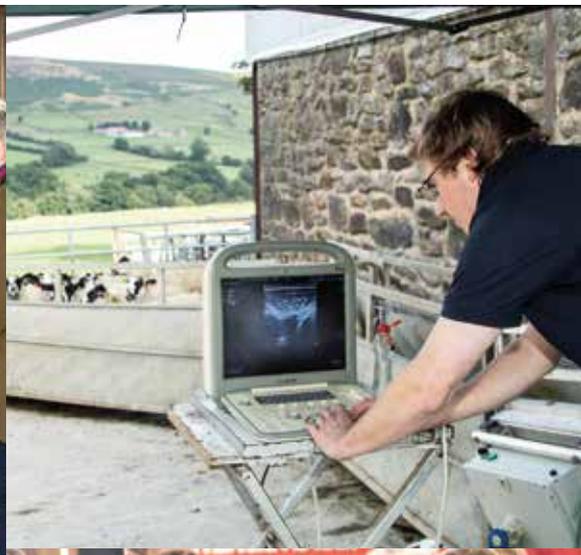
Open Day visitors learned how Breck House have been successfully performance recording their Bluefaced Leicesters and Swaledales for more than four years, with the intention of removing the poor performing tups in a bid to always improve the bottom end! As a direct result of using tups with decent index figures killing out weights have increased.

"The Open Day provided a welcome opportunity for people to renew old acquaintances and to chat about things we share in common, which has not been possible over the last 18 months," said Mr Dunn.

His thoughts were echoed by Hawes branch chairman Tom Willoughby, who thanked fellow organisers and all concerned for making the event such a runaway success, in particular the many generous supporters of the charity fundraiser.



Master Judge : Philip Dawson





Martin Cragg with Monday's Sale Champion Lambs

*Wayne Hutchinson
2021*

HAWES AUCTION MART

HAWES BRANCH REPORT

As 2021 nears its end, I sit and reflect and write my chairman's report. It's a sign of getting older when you start saying... where has this year gone!! But it's been nice of late getting back to some kind of normality. During March we were all deeply saddened and touched with the news of the passing of Hannah Brown. Hannah loved everything Mule - buying, showing, selling, promoting NEMSA. Hannah's memory will live on with us all for many years to come.

The annual two-day sale at Hawes saw 21,379 head average £130.04, another solid increase on the previous year's £109.01.

Report continued overleaf...

Hawes Auction Mart Chairman Andrew Pratt commented: "Strong demand was seen for Mules following resurgent prime stock prices, proving that interest in the breed is not waning, but actually increasing because the Mule is recognised as the ultimate productive and easy care ewe."

Hawes Show Results Monday
Judges: Alan Ross, (Aberdeen) & Mike Allan (Staithes)

- 1st JW & M E Taylor + Sons
- 2nd NC Marston
- 3rd JA & R Caton
- 4th E Fairburn & Sons
- 5th G P Taylor & Sons
- 6th NC Marston

JW+ME Taylor winning Mr Chugg Memorial Cup

Tuesday
Judges: Allan Collett (Oxon) & Tom Tustian (Banbury)

- 1st G & HR Shields
- 2nd S Allan
- 3rd Messrs Lord
- 4th W C Porter & Sons
- 5th CT & JE Willoughby + Sons
- 6th NJ & L Allan

W C Porter & Sons winning Mr Chugg Memorial Cup



George Shields with Tuesday's Sale Champion Lambs

Wayne Hutchinson
2021

HAWES

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Tuesday 16th August

Evening Show & Sale of 1000 Mule Gimmer Shearlings

Monday 12th & Tuesday 13th September

**Annual Two Day Show & Sale of 30,000 Mule Gimmer Lambs
on behalf of NEMSA**

Monday 26th September

**12,000 Mule, Cheviot Mule & Continental x
Gimmer Lambs & Shearlings.**

Monday 10th October

**5000 Mule, Cheviot Mule & Continental x
Gimmer Lambs & Shearlings.**

For further information contact Auctioneers:
Raymond Lund 015396 20895 or 07974 126397
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Email office@hawesmart.co.uk



Gary Lodge selling his 2nd Sale Champion Lambs

Hawes 2nd Sale
Show Results
Judges:

- 1st A Lodge, Malham Moor
- 2nd LV & N Croft, Ellingstring
- 3rd A Lodge, Malham Moor

7,266 Forward Av £111.32 (+£20.98)

EDEN FARM SUPPLIES

CEMENTS NEMSA SPONSORSHIP



Eden Farm Supplies have had a great first year sponsoring NEMSA. We have thoroughly enjoyed being present at the main sales this back end and it has been great to see sale averages up on the year. Being a NEMSA sponsor has really worked well for us this year and we look forward to continuing this relationship.

Over the forth coming farming year we are looking forward to supporting and developing relationships with customers old and new and always welcome enquiries from far and wide.

Eden Farm continues to cover Cumbria, Lancashire, Durham, Northumberland and North Yorkshire, as far north as the Scottish Borders, as far south as Cheshire. We also have standalone auction shops are also located at marts in Penrith, Leyburn, Bentham and Darlington.



Eden Farm Supplies (Brough) Ltd remains one of the North of England's best-known agricultural supply firms. The company was established 39 years ago by Geoff and Carol Tunstall, later taking over a shop and store in Brough village, with further expansion - growth and diversification over the years have been impressive - necessitating a move to the current head office premises, main shop and yard in Winton on the A685 between Kirkby Stephen and Brough.

BENTHAM AUCTION MART

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EVERY WEDNESDAY- MULE PRIME LAMBS		FORTNIGHTLY TUESDAYS- MULE STORE LAMBS	



BENTHAM AUCTION MART

1st Sale Show Results

Judges: Chris Hewitt, Bentham and Emily Pearse, Crediton

11,047 Forward Av £131.67 (+ £18.78)

- 1st WM Hutchinson
- 2nd HW & G White
- 3rd R & PE Hargreaves
- 4th AC & K Pye
- 5th S & T Fawcett

2nd Sale Show Results

Judges: James Winter, Appleby and Jack Rose, Wray

4,934 Forward Av £107.99

- 1st J Garth
- 2nd Messrs Buckle
- 3rd H Huddleston

"The leading sale average for NEMSA lambs reflected the standard of the lambs on offer and the sales' growing reputation for top quality pens, with 37 lots selling at £200 or more and nine pens exceeding £300/head. All classes of lambs were good to sell to a large and enthusiastic audience of buyers."
Stephen Dennis, Head Auctioneer



HAWES BRANCH REPORT cont.

Bentham's annual opening two-day fixture provided an entry of 14,066 head, with complete clearance in all sections. Sale day saw 11,047 head go under the hammer, all averaging £129.13, with NEMSA lambs averaging £131.67, +£18.78 on the year. Quality pens sold at premium rates throughout.

2nd Sale Champions from J Garth & Sons

The 2nd sale provided an entry of 4,934 lambs with quality noticeably up on the year, returning a sale average of £107.99 up £17.69 on the year."

HAWES BRANCH REPORT cont.

Memories of Spring and lambing time were cold, hungry, with cold frosty mornings lasting most of May. After Covid-19 restrictions caused the cancellation of last year's planned Open Day, we as a Branch thought if given the chance to go ahead this year we'd crack on - and that we did. Many thanks to the hosts, Tim and Sarah Dunn and family at Breck House, and all involved. It was such a fabulous day, when a great show of sheep were met by a crowd covering 100s of miles radius.

On the day at first we held a charity auction for Sepsis UK in memory of Hannah. Many thanks to Raymond Lund for his expertise on the day, when an incredible £5,280 was raised. It's such a proud day to be Hawes Branch chairman. Thanks to all my fellow committee members and to all who donated and supported our event.

Onto sales, starting off with my trip down to Rugby shearling sale. Congratulations to Henry Tustain and family when once again winning champion pen and Hawes Branch Cup. Also, thanks to Henry and Rugby Auction Mart for their kind gesture of selling and reselling the first prize shearling, with money again donated to Sepsis UK. It's a sale that's growing and growing.

Congratulations and credit must go out to all Vendors. As ever the level of quality throughout the sales was remarkable. A big mention to all Auctions and Auctioneers for once again doing a tremendous job.

Trade this Autumn was buoyant and my only hope is come next early Autumn buyers see good returns and once again head back for the Mule.

Tom Willoughby
Hawes Branch Chairman





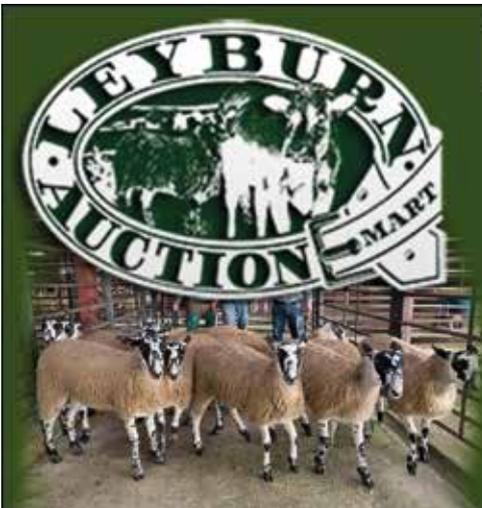
LEYBURN AUCTION MART

Leyburn Show Results
 Judges: Alan Redpath, Leicestershire & Jim Finlayson, Dumfries
 1300 Forward Av £125.70 (+£16.40)

1st WC Porter & Son
 2nd H & EM Tiplady
 3rd RW Wallis & Sons
 4th J Allison & Sons

Congratulations to H & EM Tiplady & Family for winning the Best Run.

Leyburn 2nd Sale: 600 Forward Av £103 (+£18)



LEYBURN AUCTION MART 01969 623167

www.leyburnauctions.com Email: info@leyburnauctions.com

2022 Sale Dates

Mule Gimmer Shearlings: Friday 2nd September – 1500 head
 Friday 23rd September – 500 head

Mule Gimmer (Ewe) Lambs: Friday 16th September – 2000 head
 Friday 30th September – 1500 head



KILNSEY SHOW

HELD ON TUESDAY 31ST AUGUST

Judges : Alistair Lawn, Skipton
& James Raine, Penrith

Billed as Yorkshire Dales 'Premier Agricultural Show' Kilnsey Show once again didn't dissappoint with a fantastic standard of Mules across the board. The Walkers from Dunsop Bridge took the accolade for best Single Gimmer which would be bound for Kilnsey's local mart, Skipton.

OPEN CLASS RESULTS

Pen of Six Mule Gimmer Lamb

- 1st CT & JE Willoughby & Sons
- 2nd JC Walker & Sons
- 3rd CD & RF Kitching
- 4th WC Porter & Son
- 5th W & CW Dent

Pair of Mule Gimmer Lambs

- 1st W & D Lawson and Son
- 2nd CT & JE Willoughby & Sons
- 3rd JC Walker & Sons
- 4th CD & RF Kitching
- 5th CD & RF Kitching

Single Mule Gimmer Lamb

- 1st JC Walker & Sons
- 2nd W & D Lawson and Sons
- 3rd CT & JE Willoughby & Sons
- 4th CD & RF Kitching
- 5th G White

Next Show :
Tuesday 30th August 2022





WAYNE HUTCHINSON PHOTOGRAPHY

NWA J36 RURAL AUCTION CENTRE

KENDAL BRANCH REPORT

As I write my third and final report, I would just like to say how much I have enjoyed my time as chairman of the branch and made many lifelong friends up and down the country.

Kendal Branch held its annual gimmer lamb sale starting on the Friday night with the pre-sale judging, incorporating the not to be missed "Stars In Your Eyes" - with the strongest class to date. This was kindly judged by James Robinson and Maurice Lawson. With 17 lambs put before them and after much deliberation they awarded the prizes as follows:

- 1st T L B & J Knowles, High Borrow Bridge
- 2nd Messrs Hodgson, High Borrans
- 3rd R I Dixon, Low Newton
- 4th AC & K Pye, Dunkenshaw Farm
- 5th T Ayrton & Son, Yates Farm
- 6th D Bateman & Son, Moors Farm

Congratulations to T L B & J Knowles for winning the champion rosette two years running, selling their 2021 Champion lamb to a new centre record of £500.

This was followed on the Friday evening by the show of pens of Tens and Twenties. A big thank you goes to our judges Peter Fox, Clitheroe and Richard Friend, Devon for their time and ex-

perience. This year's show had a record number of show pens forward with 27 pens of ten and eighteen pens of twenty, with a huge credit going to all that took part for the quality on offer which improves each year. I would like to congratulate the Pye Family of Dunkenshaw Farm for "Doing the Double" and winning both the pens of tens and twenties.

Show Results	
Pens of 10	
Judges: Peter Fox, Clitheroe and Richard Friend, Devon	
1st	AC & K Pye, Dunkenshaw Farm
2nd	T A & J A Dixon, Yoad Pot
3rd	S Allan & Son, Greenhow
4th	J H Pedley, Oak Tree Farm
5th	R H & C Ayrton Ltd, Ouzlethorn
6th	Messrs Hodgson, High Borrans
Pens of 20	
1st	A C & K Pye, Dunkenshaw Farm
2nd	A & H Watson, Middleton Hall
3rd	J & J A Burrow, Thursgill
4th	The Inman Family, Strickland Hill
5th	Messrs Hodgson, High Borrans
6th	T A & J A Dixon, Yoad Pot

"It was great to see our loyal customers ringside, as well as many returning and new customers, highlighting the popularity of the Mule, as many look to purchase this greatly renowned sheep. A special mention must go to our vendors, who continue to improve the quality of gimmer lambs on offer with over 40 pens of gimmer lambs out to show a credit to all involved."
Ian Atkinson, NWA Auctioneer

The main sale came on Saturday morning with 7500 lambs sold to a market average of £124.88. With the quality of lambs forward a credit to all vendors. It was wonderful to see the market full of returning and new purchasers whom had travelled from far and wide and great to be back to some sort of normality following on from the previous year. Topping lambs showed the biggest uplift on the year with buyers from all over the country attending. The judging of the much-desired Bruce Willison Memorial Shield for the best

run of lambs was put in the capable hands of Chris Harrison who awarded it to TA & JA Dixon, Yoad Pot.

Report continued overleaf.



Maurice Lawson and James Robinson judging 'Stars in your Eyes'

NWA Lancaster Auction Mart

Wyresdale Road, Lancaster, Lancashire

LA1 3JQ

Telephone: 01524 63308



NWA J36 Rural Auction Centre

Crooklands, Milnthorpe, Cumbria

LA7 7FP

Telephone: 015395 66200

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 between J36 Rural Auction Centre & Lancaster Auction Mart



January; 'Diamond Delights' Show & sale of in-lamb Blue Faced Leicester, Swaledale Ewes & Empty Gimmer Hogs
 March -June; Sales for sheep with lambs at foot, to include 'The Great Annual Show & Sale of Hogs with Lambs at Foot'
 July - September; Shows & sales for all classes of breeding sheep.

SAVE THE DATES:-

Saturday 10th September at J36 Rural Auction Centre - 8000 North of England Mule Gimmer Lambs

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Talk to an Auctioneer today regarding your requirements;

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LANCASTER AUCTION MART

KENDAL BRANCH REPORT cont.

Then just down the road for the Lancaster sale, with 1500 lambs forward, averaging £128. The sale attracted a good ring of local and travelled buyers. Again, there was a strong line up of pens forward for the pre-sale judging, which was in the capable hands of Denise Elliot, Penrith and Daniel Branson, Towcester.

This just leaves me to thank all the branch committee, judges, sponsors, auction mart staff and Yvonne for all the hard work they have put in over the past 12 months. Finally, a thank you to all local, new and returning customers. I hope you have a good farming year and I look forward to seeing you in 2022.

Stephen Dixon, Kendal Branch Chairman

SHOW RESULTS

Pen of Ten

Judges : Daniel Branson, Towcester and Denise Elliot, Penrith

- 1st W&A Cornall, Barnacre
- 2nd W I & A Atkinson & Son, Bleasdale
- 3rd T Ayrton & Son, Over Wyresdale
- 4th A C & K Pye, Abbeystead

Pen of Twenty

- 1st W&A Cornall, Barnacre
- 2nd B&SE Carter, Ellel
- 3rd A C & K Pye, Abbeystead
- 4th W & A Cornall, Barnacre

"North West Auctions' Great Annual Lancaster Hill Fair Show and Sale of 1,500 head again attracted a good ringside of local, as well as well-travelled buyers. The Lancaster sale continues to offer a great consignment of Mule gimmer lambs with credit going to our vendors. A packed ringside of buyers ensured all specifications of gimmer lambs eagerly bid for and all vendors leaving well satisfied."

Ian Atkinson, NWA Auctioneer



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EMILY PEARSE

THE CREAM OF DEVON'S UP AND COMING FARMERS

Beef and sheep farmer Mary Heard meets a talented young lady, a natural farmer with many strings to her bow - and a passion for the North Country Mule.

It was so refreshing to visit Emily Pearse at her home at Sheppart Farm, near Colebrooke in Devon, and discover about her journey through the learning curve that is farming.

Emily, 24, has a very mature and level headed approach to her career which far surpasses her years and I believe the secret of her success to date is her thirst for learning from older generations and listening to advice. Every day is a school day and we can all take something away from this!

Her rise to fame in the North of England Mule world came when she was asked to judge the Mule ewe lambs at Bentham this year. She shared the job with Chris Hewitt, from Bentham, in whittling down 22 pens of 10 to arrive at the champion. "It was a privilege to be there," said Emily. "Everyone was so kind and welcoming".

But, life hasn't always been hands-on farming. Starting life in Hertfordshire, Emily's family rented out their farm there until about 15 years ago, when they moved to Devon. Her chosen path at

university level was in fashion design, studying for 3 years in Plymouth.

She soon concluded that it wasn't "for her" and that her passion lay with farming. However, there were no avenues within university to study without farming experience at this time. Instead, Emily pursued an apprenticeship on a primarily beef finishing unit whilst studying at Bicton.

The plan afterwards was to relocate to Yorkshire or Scotland and begin stepping out in the world of sheep. But then along came boyfriend Tom...! She was soon persuaded to stay in glorious Mid Devon and hone her ambitions, still to include Mules, and realise her dream down here.

To help her on her way, Emily has avidly watched for grants open to help keen young farmers. She was lucky enough to secure funding for her quad bike and also a handling system and fencing kit from the Henry Plum Foundation.

These items have been crucial to aiding Emily and have saved her expense in the form of extra labour. They are also items she values and treats with great care, knowing that if she looks after them they'll look after her for a long time.

Emily and Tom are putting their all into establishing their business – starting small, but with big ambitions. As second generation farmers, they are gradually taking on more and more responsibility for the day to day running of Tom's parents' farm and carefully introducing new ideas.

At present, the family farm primarily beef on 600 acres, but now with the addition of Emily's Mules. There are 3 units on connected ground and although this has predominantly been single suckled cattle, this system is being phased out with calf rearing taking precedence.

"Calving wasn't great and cemented to us that we wanted to get out of sucklers," said Emily. So now, Emily and Tom are rearing 160 calves a year in batches of 80 at a time, as the last of the suckler herd dwindles. They fatten everything, bulls and heifers, and use 100 acres of the farm to grow mainly barley to feed them. This acreage being rotated every year and grass put back in as a crop break. Blues are their preferred breed of calf to rear - "we find they grade out more consistently".

Aside from the main farm, Emily does contract shepherding, which averages around 3 days a week. The majority of this is from January to March when she is involved with lambing two large bunches of sheep indoors at Sandford and Tiverton, one mainly Suffolk Mules for a Waitrose contract and the other, Dorsets. The rest of the year is spent dotted around at various smaller flocks, working as required.

For her own sheep, Emily rents 120 acres nearby, plus winter keep on local dairy farms for her 80 North Country Mule ewes and hogs she buys each year. Initially, she started with 60 from Hawes 4 years ago whilst on holiday. She managed to persuade Tom to drop in on the market there, ever so slightly coincidentally on one of the biggest days in the Mule selling calendar and it proved to be an expensive day out!

Making the annual exodus up country Tom has not been back since, but Emily has the bug for sheep sales in the North and returns every year with her sister and dad. She now buys in 200 ewe lambs a year, primarily from Hawes, but this year set her bar high as she spent £580 for the Kirkby Redgate pen she awarded champion to at Bentham. This was followed up by £315 for the 5th place pen from S&T Fawcett,

Barden, too.

"These are special and will be joining the flock," smiled Emily. The usual procedure is to sell the majority of her Mule shearlings dry at Exeter later the following year. The aim for the future is to expand her flock of ewes, but for now Emily says she "enjoys working for others too and learning all the time".

Every year, the cost of buying the ewe lambs has increased, with the average this year (not including the high price pens) being £142, £20 up on last year. Her first Mules cost £90, but with care and top-notch husbandry they are still going and have looked after Emily well. "I'm hoping some of my Mules will get to somewhere around 8 years. They are not pushed, but are well looked after. I keep them in small bunches of 50 for easier management and I can top them up with a little extra feed if needed."

One thing Emily has been quick to notice is that every year, you learn from the last year and she is always looking for ways to adapt to make life easier and more cost-effective.

"I study inputs and outputs – it's scary, but you've got to see what brings the best return and what is costing too much".

As with all farming, the weather is the biggest variable. No two years are the same, and you have to work with what is thrown at you and be quick to adjust. Emily recalls lambing during The Beast from the East, with perhaps some of the worst weather we've experienced in the South for a long time, with the severity not fully expected until it was upon us.

Clearly there were unavoidable casualties, but by thinking on her feet and adapting to the circumstances she was able to mitigate the losses. We've all been guilty of thinking that sheep die for no reason, but Emily's view on this is more that sheep are much hardier than they are given credit for, and don't show signs of illness until they are really bad. She is learning quickly the telltale signs to look for and is able to keep any losses to a bare minimum.

So, what about the time of year when life goes on hold and all thoughts turn to lambing? Well,

Emily lambs her Mules outside in April to follow on from her contract work. Her older ewes have previously met with a Texel ram, whilst any hogs she lambs will have gone to a Beltex sire. She



has bred Suffolk Mules before, but now finds it increasingly hard to source the type of Suffolk rams she prefers.

For her Texels and Beltexes, she likes to buy from the same breeder each year, as she has found these to always click with her ewes and she maintains that once you find what works, it's as well to stick to it. Her ewes scanned this year at 192%, with the hogs at 115%.

At this point, she separates the females carrying singles - they have no feed, but just good grazing and pre-lambing licks. The doubles and triplets are kept on good pasture too, but also given a liquid feed, with haylage and nuts offered depending on how harsh the year is.

Like everyone, Emily strives to keep everything alive and finds that by picking up the 3rd lamb from a triplet (and even the 2nd from a hogg double), the ewe goes away and rears her lambs more successfully. The lambs she picks up go into the tame lamb pen, although occasionally she is able to foster - this not being such an easy option when lambing outside! Once accustomed to the automatic feeder, these tame lambs are reared on and fattened with the rest.

She has attempted checking the ewes during the night, but has found from bitter experience that they are best left alone and seen at first light instead. The regular routine checks continue during the day, ending at evening time. Liquid feed is offered to the ewes from 6-8 weeks before lambing. This contains molasses and 22% protein and is fed in lick feeders.

"The ewes can't gorge themselves and can feed as and when they like," says Emily. It's also beneficial after lambing as mis-mothering is minimised, unlike when ewes make a mad dash at the cake bag when they hear it coming. Emily tries to deal with any lambing issues outside and avoids bringing any outfits into the sheds unless it can't be helped. This is particularly applicable to the hogs, as they are best left alone as much as possible when they become new mums and they don't settle so well indoors. "I like the frame of the Mule," says Emily, "they are good mothers (if not they go!), they are well balanced sheep and seem to fit any system".

"North Country Mules have always been Emily's sheep of choice."

She has tried a few pure Texels for YFC purposes, but it didn't end too well! She has also tried keeping a few of her Texel Mule ewe lambs and selling them on as shearlings, but even these will probably be fattened now.

Reliability key to success Emily finds her Mules are reliable - the land she uses isn't the driest, but it's good for growing grass and the Mules utilise it well. "They are not fat, but they do well and they do their lambs well too. They are incredibly milky sheep and excellent mothers."

The lambs from the Mules are usually weaned at an average of 60 days, with any hogs' lambs being weaned the soonest. They are then all fattened on grass as far as is possible by grazing permanent clover/perennial lays. This year's weaning percentage was 152%. Anything which is left when November arrives is sold as stores before the weather and ground gets too wet.

Emily has tried selling a few shearlings with lambs at foot, but the sums didn't add up and she has reverted to finishing her lambs. The Beltex lambs out of the hogs didn't fatten quite so well, so were sold as stores. She finds that the Texel lambs finish much quicker, but for the hogs it has to be the Beltex ram for an easier lambing.

The Mule shearlings are run on until the sales in Exeter, where Emily sells the majority, although a few sell privately. They averaged around £200/head this year (£192 for NC Mules and £202 for

The Ewe lambs are sheared on arrival

MARY HEARD PHOTOGRAPHY



Texel Mules), which Emily was delighted with. She is developing a client base with buyers returning each year now, with her sheep in their sights - "In fact my second pen made more than my first this year as two of my regular buyers were both keen to take them home."

Emily has studied the fine art of preparing sheep for sale. She trims and dyes her shearlings for market each year and takes a great deal of pride in turning out sheep which are looking their best. She has taught herself how to do all this by watching and listening to those who have done it for years and, of course, practising, with trials and errors along the way.

And when Emily finds herself in the rare position of having time on her hands, she has many other interests to turn to.

"She thrives on the mantra set by her nan that you have got to do things that you enjoy - you only live once. "

She is an active member of the Newton Abbot YFC and has a strong passion for the stock judging she does there. She loves showing and helps her mum show cattle where possible at Devon County, Chagford and Okehampton Shows. She also takes her own Mules and Texel Mules to the local show rings.

It was clear to see she has a natural affinity with her dogs too - a clever 5-year-old collie bitch, Pip, with a young, sharp collie, Flynn, she bought

from Elinor Nilsson of Blairgowrie. This 6-month-old has a very keen eye and Emily is working at training him at the moment, with the intention at some point of taking up trialling too.

She also does picking up for a local shoot with her labrador and if she's still looking for something to do, she likes nothing more than riding her horse, which is sometimes combined with checking the sheep!

There are many strings to this lady's bow, though, and on the flip side she is a talented artist and has set up her own business selling cards and providing illustrations. It's good to have something to do on the dark winter evenings!

Emily and Tom work extremely hard though "you should never feel guilty for having a day off or time doing something outside of farming." From bitter experience with friends, Emily knows that in the farming industry looking after your mental health is vital and, by having diversions, goes part way to helping. "It also needs to be talked about, having been a taboo subject for a long time."

Having met Emily, it's hard not to be impressed by her keenness to learn and try new ideas at every opportunity, as well as her fearlessness when it comes to buying and selling. She's a natural farmer and works with her dogs as one. When asked if she prefers her calf rearing to her Mules, she replied: "The Mules! I'm happy going off for the day to work on my own with my handling system, my sheep and my dog. The dog doesn't answer back and I can't fall out with myself!"



Meet our author Mary Heard: My job is my life - farming! I do as much as I can outside on our busy beef and sheep farm near Okehampton in Devon, running sheep and cows at home, as well as sheep on the hills of Dartmoor. Plus the normal day to day 'hecticness' of a farmer's wife and mum! My passion is photography and I try to have my camera with me as much as possible on my 'rounds' checking the stock.

What a year it has been, not just for the agricultural industry but the country as a whole. At least we have returned to some semblance of normality, with the lifting of Covid restrictions. However, the Shearwell Data business is continuing to maintain many of the Covid legacies, in an attempt to protect both staff and customers, as we recognise this virus is still prevalent.

Here on our farm on Exmoor, the seasons have provided some excellent grass growth on which the sheep (predominantly NEMSA ewes) have performed well and alongside a remarkable scan rate of 198% earlier in the year, we have seen a tremendous trade for our lambs and still have 650 on farm at the time of writing. The only possible fly in the ointment that may affect things going forward is the variety of trade deals that continue to be promoted in the press and the ongoing berating of livestock farming as the reason for many of the environmental woes.

The Shearwell Data business continues to focus on developing and supplying livestock businesses with quality visual and EID ear tags and a range of other innovative products including our new ShearWeigh weigh head and load bars and the new X6 next generation Stock Recorder. The Show team has also managed to attend a number of events around the country this autumn. So if you want to have a chat about Shearwell products, please don't hesitate to talk to one of our team - they will be pleased to help you.

Shearwell Data is also pleased to report that it has recently acquired the innovative and popular Pyon Products business. We have stocked a number of products including the Pyon Heatwave and Store & Thaw for several years and know how popular the products are with

farmers. We will continue to work alongside Gill and Alan Dickson, the originators of the Pyon Products business. This acquisition will enable us to expand our range of products to support the livestock sector.

Congratulations to the following Nemsa Members who won the £250 Shearwell Vouchers 2021.

- West Cumbria : M/s Hewitson, Shatton Lodge farm
- Northumberland: RD Archer, Carry House
- Hawes: J Burton, Long Faw Farm
- Kendal: S Butterfield, Low Mansrigg
- Kirkby Stephen : M/s Alderson, Howgill Grange
- Lazonby: M/s Natrass, Low Houses
- Teesdale: N Bainbridge, Laneside
- Skipton: P Metcalfe, Otterburn Hall farm
- Weardale: D Short, Ouston Farm



Chris Harrison, Nemsa Chairman (Left); Julie Edwards, Marketing and Communications Shearwell; Richard Webber.

On behalf of Shearwell Data and the staff I would like to personally convey my thanks to NEMSA members for your continued support of the Shearwell Data business.

My best wishes to you all.

Richard Webber

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KIRKBY STEPHEN AUCTION MART

KIRKBY STEPHEN BRANCH REPORT

Hello everyone at the end of a very successful sales period at marts up and down the country. Every Year when lambing time gets underway, we wonder if all the hard work will pay off come back end. This time the answer to that question has been a resounding YES across the Board! Here at Kirkby Stephen we have had some 10000 lambs on offer and hopes were high of a good day of business. There was a buzz that was greatly missed the previous year due to the pandemic. Trade was brisk with Strong Topping lambs making up wards of £150. The final mart average was a healthy £125.30, a jump of £21.55 on 2020.

The evening before the sale saw the return of the show which was judged by Nr R Haynes of Towcester and Mrs J McNay of Aspatria with Mr C Hewitt, Tatham acting as Referee. Credit to all who brought their stock forward to show.

Lets not forget the wether lambs too, making £2.30 per kilo by the end of October and stores hitting £85 or over.

Earlier in the year the return of some local agricultural shows saw the farming community take tentative steps back into the outside world. Well done to the show which went ahead and hopefully the rest will follow in 2022.

Nemsa, this year, has been at the forefront of raising money for different charities and I commend you all for a great contribution to many needy causes. Farming circles are indeed wonderful and we all stood to be counted in these tough times.

As I write this report the tups are out with their ladies and the Merry Go Round starts again. Let's hope for a kind winter and a great lambing time for everyone.

Ian Cousin, Kirkby Stephen Branch Chairman

SHOW RESULTS

Judges: Mr Haynes, Towcester and Mrs J McNay, Aspatria

Class 1 - Restricted to Members of Kirkby Stephen NEMSA Branch presenting no more than 200 lambs.

- 1st P Brown, Oak House
- 2nd D & JH Richardson, Croft House
- 3rd D Stephenson, The Gables
- 4th JR&H Wharton, Galloper Garth
- 5th D Curr & Son, Bowderdale

Class 2 - 10 Lambs open to all vendors

- 1st KA Brown & Sons, Asby Hall
- 2nd WM Hutchinson & Sons, Redgate
- 3rd HR Hayton & Son, Asby Grange
- 4th M/s Jenkinson Ltd, Whingill
- 5th W&CW Dent, Greenriggs

Champion pen : KA Brown & Sons - Asby Hall
Reerve : WM Hutchinson & Sons - Redgate



"The weather outside was hot, but the trade in the ring was boiling!"

Mark Richardson, Auctioneer





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MULE GROUP NEWS



ANOTHER TREMENDOUS YEAR FOR THE BREED

It's been another brilliant year for all types of Mules, and in particular NEMSA Mules, which have enjoyed a tremendous trade this year and are now estimated to be the most common breed or cross in the UK sheep industry, with around 14% of the national flock, testimony to the quality and the reputation of the product and the breeders who continue to put in the hard work producing them.

The Royal Veterinary College, London, got in touch because they had been having issues sourcing high health status NEMSA Mules for their farm, but wanted to continue with Mules as they saw them as their main commercial ewe.

Building on discussions over the summer, they have agreed to fully compare the performance of their Mules against the continental crossbred flock that runs alongside the Mules. Early indications from rough data in 2021 would indicate a significant performance differential in favour of the Mule, not surprisingly.

The whole project is going to be supported by Farmers Weekly and should give Mules some excellent publicity in 2022, as I have no doubt that they will outperform the rest. There is ongoing work comparing different ram breeds, but nothing has been done to compare the female side. Hopefully, this might be a catalyst to initiate work going forward which will highlight the qualities of Mules.

STRATIFICATION

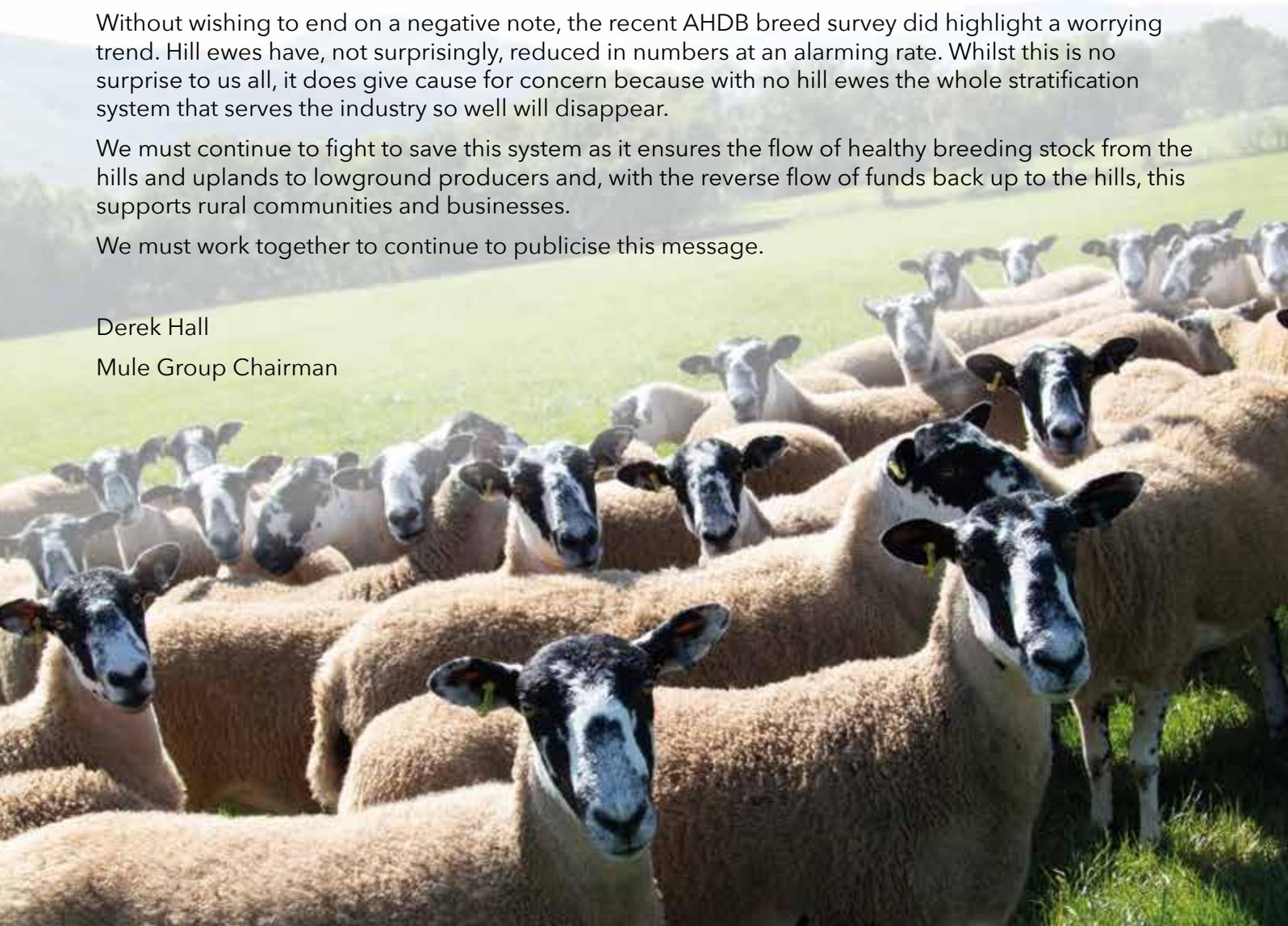
Without wishing to end on a negative note, the recent AHDB breed survey did highlight a worrying trend. Hill ewes have, not surprisingly, reduced in numbers at an alarming rate. Whilst this is no surprise to us all, it does give cause for concern because with no hill ewes the whole stratification system that serves the industry so well will disappear.

We must continue to fight to save this system as it ensures the flow of healthy breeding stock from the hills and uplands to lowground producers and, with the reverse flow of funds back up to the hills, this supports rural communities and businesses.

We must work together to continue to publicise this message.

Derek Hall

Mule Group Chairman





ADRIAN LEGGE PHOTOGRAPHY

SKIPTON AUCTION MART

SKIPTON BRANCH REPORT

It was great to see a return to normality at this year's two big gimmer lamb sales at CCM Skipton, with a real buzz in both the show and sale rings - and another solid increase in averages on the year, both vendors and buyers seemingly well satisfied with the outcome.

SHOW RESULTS

Pens of 10

Judges: Ian Manning, Wrexham,
Simon Bennett, Silsden Moor

- 1st GJ&ME Walker, Dunsop Bridge
- 2nd JC Walker & Son, Dunsop Bridge
- 3rd JK Wilson, Blubberhouses
- 4th CD&RF Kitching, Threshfield
- 5th KA&HL Fawcett, Barden
- 6th WP&B Walker, Appletreewick

Pens of 20

Judges: Ian Lancaster, Wiswell,
Edward Albutt, Winchcombe

- 1st WA&A Booth, Feizor
- 2nd FA Caton, Weston
- 3rd A&R Caton, Otterburn
- 4th JK Wilson, Blubberhouses
- 5th CD&RF Kitching, Threshfield
- 6th FA Caton, Weston



M/s Booth from Feizor taking 1st place Pen of 20

1st GIMMER LAMB SALE

The high profile September opener, as usual one of the earliest official NEMSA sales and a good pointer to potential future trade, proved a resounding success, 5,567 head selling at an overall average of £130.35 + £25.54.

Lambs were again a real credit to breeders, with quality key to this year's improved trade, a point noted by both regular and new buyers.

Many congratulations to the Walker family, Dunsop Bridge, who consigned the champion pen of 10s for the third year running, plus the reserve champion pen, a remarkable achievement in what was a two-way split between their farms at the head of the Hodder Valley. The Feizor Booths were right up there again, winning the 20s show class.

OPINION FROM THE SKIPTON ROSTRUM

CCM's opening sale, again a keynote early season fixture, did not disappoint, with 5,567 head selling at an overall average of £130.35, + £25.54 on the year. The best bonny headed lambs were typically £5 to £10 more than their darker headed counterparts, while lighter headed lambs suitable to tup also found favour with several customers ringside.

Sales manager Ted Ogden commented: "Lambs appeared in good fettle, providing an excellent selection for both regular and new buyers. While it was widely anticipated that trade would be stronger on the year, given trade for prime and cast sheep, and recent sales of Mule gimmer shearlings, although the overall average was higher than most predicted it was probably also in part a reflection of the quality of lambs now on offer in this district."

Another improved overall selling average of £118.12, up £15.86, was achieved at the second sale for 6,567 head.



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MULE GIMMER LAMBS



Tuesday 6th September – 8,000 lambs (NEMSA Members)

Tuesday 20th September – 10,000 lambs (NEMSA Members)

Tuesday 4th Oct – Tuesday 18th Oct – Wednesday 2nd Nov (Open Sales)

BREEDING SHEEP

Autumn Sales of Shearlings & Ewes plus Spring Sales of Hoggs with Lambs

Tuesday 23rd August – 5,000 Gimmer Shearlings

Tuesday 27th September – 300 Blue Faced Leicester Rams

Saturday 1st October – 5,000 Swaledale Draft Ewes & Shearlings

STORE LAMBS - Fortnightly Autumn Sales of 5,000-12,000 Store Lambs

**STORE CATTLE - Fortnightly Sales of 500-1,200 Young Feeding Bulls,
Beef Feeding Cows, Bullocks & Heifers & Breeding Cattle.**



ADRIAN LEGGE PHOTOGRAPHY

SKIPTON AUCTION MART

The second sale followed suit, an increased turnout of 6,567 head averaging of £118.12 + £15.86. As as the first sale, both top-end pens and runners were again in high demand. Our immediate past national chairman, Kevin Wilson, Blubberhouses, made his mark yet again with the champion 10s, edging out the ever-present Dunsop Bridge Walkers, while a big well done must also go to Francis and James Caton, Weston, who successfully defended their 2020 pen of 20 championship.

2ND GIMMER LAMB SALE



Francis and James Caton taking 1st place Pen of 20

Many thanks to all our Judges from the Mule Gimmer Lamb sales this backend and also a huge thankyou to our sponsors at both shows, NFU Mutual. Carr's Billington and WBW Surveyors, all based at the mart, whose continuing support is very much appreciated.

Finally, warmest thanks to all committee members for their sterling work, in particular our excellent branch secretary Claire Mason, to CCM for continuing to look after us so well and to all breeders and buyers, who remain our lifeblood and represent the very future of both Breed and Association.

Frank Kitching, Skipton Branch Chairman

SHOW RESULTS	
Pens of 10	
Judges: Robert Butterfield, Bentham and Aimee Beresford, Cracoe	
1st	JK Wilson
2nd	JC Walker & Son
3rd	FA Caton
4th	FA Caton
5th	KA&HL Fawcett
6th	J Lancaster, Bordley
Pens of 20	
Judges: Brian and Robert Corsey, Devon	
1st	FA Caton
2nd	WP&B Walker
3rd	FA Caton
4th	CD&RF Kitching
5th	CD&RF Kitching
6th	J Lancaster, Bordley



PHOTOGRAPHY BY JOHN BENTLEY

Sam Fawcett with the 1st Prize Pen from Fold House Farm

PATELEY BRIDGE AUCTION MART

Barnard Castle & Teesdale Farmers Auction Market Co staged their annual prize show and sale of Mule, Dales Mule & Masham gimmer lambs when an increased entry of 1,509 lambs sold to average £120.45.

SHOW RESULTS

Judges : Simon Plumb, Darlington and
Giles Broadwith, Ripon

1st: SA & TL Fawcett, Fold House Farm
2nd: S & T Tawcett, Fold House Farm
3rd: JC & N Throup, Berwick Intake Farm
4th: BS Simpson, Spring House

SKIPTON FARMERS' FUNDRAISER



Addingham & District Sheep Breeders' Association stalwart Joe Throup again co-organised its 15th annual charity show and sale at Skipton Auction Mart in aid of Sue Ryder Manorlands Hospice, Oxenhope, then claimed the bragging rights by winning it with a home-bred North of England Mule wether lamb.

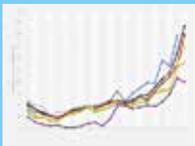
Held in December at Skipton CCM Auction this annual charity fundraiser invites breeders to show their finest Mule Wether Lamb and then all the lambs are sold afterwards with the proceeds going to Charity. The sale totalled over £5000.



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"ISN'T THIS A MARVELLOUS MART"?

BY ADAM DAY



Words that most auctioneers have probably said about their own place of work whilst relaxing in the afterglow of another wonderful mule ewe lamb sale. These words were spoken to me by Norman Little, my boss at Lazonby Auction mart, considerably more than thirty years ago. As a young trainee I would have readily and enthusiastically agreed, were it not for the fact that it was 1am on a Thursday morning and we were still at work counting gimmers before they were loaded in the wee small hours, bound for destinations the length and breadth of the country.

Now I'm not going to hark back to the good old days because every sale of mule gimmer lambs is a good day for an auctioneer. Of course, the day is about business, a year's work on the farm brought to fruition in the brief rattle auctioneer's patter and the final crash of the hammer. But it is more than that. There are buyers from all parts who make a pilgrimage to northern counties year upon year. It is an annual visit that spans generations. Some of the lambs will immediately form the backbone of countless lowland flocks, others will be sold on again in less than a year. But around the ring and across the pens, friendships are made, and trust is built. You can place a value on the sheep, but you cannot place a value on the people nor the many service providers who support the farm business, the auctioneer and the haulier being just two examples.

As a young auctioneer we were guided by our mentors learning the tricks of the trade. In the rostrum one of the old boys would provide a little guidance quietly in your ear: - "Get on a bit" if you were off too low. "Steady yourself" if you were over-ambitious. "Watch so and so," they will buy this pen". A little knowledge is a dangerous thing in an auctioneer's hands! Of- course I jest.

"The auction is built around trust and a lot of hard- work in the background preparing for any gimmer lamb sale. In fact, it is a lot of effort in what for many auctions is one sale in the year. That really doesn't matter because these are prestige days, and rather like Christmas, can be looked forward to, months in advance. "

When the sale day is done, the sheep have been penned, sold, and penned again like clockwork by drovers. Vendors are in their favourite chair recalling the day with satisfaction (hopefully). Purchasers are making their weary way home, bought up for another year, having enjoyed the craic and the welcome afforded to them.

If all of this has happened, then the old auctioneer and his young assistant working across the field pens by twinkly lights blowing in the cool Autumn breeze, can deservedly beg the question, "isn't this a marvellous mart? I think that they all are. See you next year!



"Buyers were present from a wide area and were taking home large numbers of sheep, ensuring Lazonby remains one of the leading centres to buy and sell Mule lambs in the North of England."
James Little, Auctioneer

LAZONBY AUCTION MART

Lambs from GR Wharton & Son

LAZONBY BRANCH REPORT

The Alston Moor sale at Lazonby on 29/09/21 saw a fantastic entry of 16,505 gimmer lambs and the return of shows was a welcome return to normality. We were indebted to our judges; Mr David Buck, Barnard Castle, and Mr Kevin Harrison, Worcester, with Mr Graham Humphries, Northamptonshire, acting as referee for giving their time and expertise to judge 14 quality pens of lambs. Geoff Wharton, Keisley, came up trumps and saw his passion and commitment pay off with a first and second for two pens of very strong lambs, taking away with him the William Armstrong Memorial Cup.

The sale went onto average £126.65, which was £19.63 up on the year, reflecting the enduring demand for Mule breeding sheep. The second sale at Lazonby on the 13th October saw an entry of 6,338 lambs and went on to average £103.57. The show was kindly judged by Mr Steven Hodgson, White House, who awarded the NEMSA rosette and the Mounsey Kidd Trophy to PM&P Smith, Parson Shield.

1st Sale Show Results	
Judges: David Buck & Kevin Harrison	
1st	GR Wharton & Sons, Keisley
2nd	GR Wharton & Sons, Keisley
3rd	F&M Moore & Son, Highside
4th	WM Reed & Sons, Lands Farm
5th	ED&B Thompson, East Unthank
6th	JW Smith-Jackson, Hightown

2nd Sale Show Results	
Judge : Steven Hodgson	
1st	PM& PSmith, Parson Shield,
2nd	GR Wharton & Sons, Keisley Farm,
3rd	RJ Bell & Son, Scarrowmanwick,
4th	Kilnstown Farms Ltd, Kilnstown,

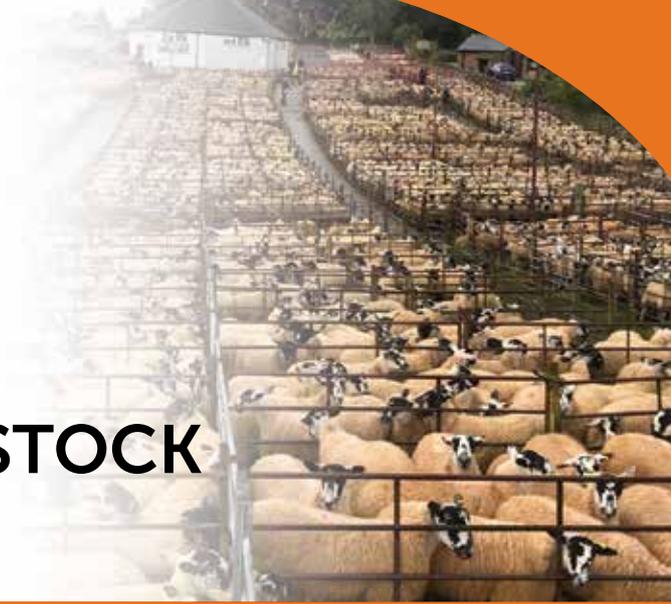
The third sale of gimmer lambs on the 27th October was undoubtedly a success, with a sale average of £93.93 reflecting demand for Mule sheep even late in the season.

Report continued overleaf.



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Show to be held Thursday 8th September.

Friday 23rd September

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Saturday 29th October

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Wednesday 14th September

Show & Sale of NEMSA gimmer lambs

LAZONBY

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Wednesday 28th September

'Alston Moor' Show & Sale of Mule gimmer lambs

Show for NEMSA members to be held Tuesday 27th September (evening)

Wednesday 12th October

Second Show & Sale of Mule gimmer lambs (Show for NEMSA members)

Wednesday 26th October

Third Sale of Mule gimmer lambs

CARLISLE

Tel: 01228 406200

Thursday 8th September

Show & Sale of Mule gimmer shearlings (Carlisle & Lazonby Sale combined)

Thursday 15th September

Latter Fair Show & Sale of Mule gimmer lambs



The winning pen from Martin Allan

PENRITH AUCTION MART

"A very successful sale once again here at PDFM with several new vendors taking advantage of our well-established event. Purchasers were strong, probably off the back of high prime lamb and cull ewes prices during the summer. Several local purchasers were back after a year or two of buying or keeping their own Texel X gimmer lambs, this being a reflection of the quality and hardiness of the North of England Mule gimmer lamb" *Andrew Maughan, Auctioneer*

1st Sale Show Results
Judges: Mr. L Yarnold & Mr R Little

- 1st Messrs S Allan & Sons, Greenhow
- 2nd Messrs Lord, West Dowgill
- 3rd Messrs MTP & SD Wills, Fawcett Park
- 4th Mr GP Taylor, Swathburn
- 5th Mr JH Little, Bank End Mill

LAZONBY BRANCH REPORT cont.

The annual sale at Penrith on 22nd September saw a solid trade levelling out at £126.50, which was up £21.50 on the year. A closely contested show was overseen by Mr L Yarnold, Worcester, and Mr R Little, Heskett Newmarket, with Mr J Baty, Hethersgill, acting as referee.

It was Messrs S Allan & Sons, Greenhow, who walked away with the Eden Farm Supplies Trophy for a pen of quality strong lambs which went on to make the top price of the day at £380, selling to well known Mule enthusiast Mr P Elliott

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LAZONBY BRANCH REPORT cont.

A huge thank you to all involved at both Harrison and Hetherington and Penrith & District Farmers' Mart LLP for all their effort in making these sales the centrepiece of sheep breeding sales in the North of England. Finally and most importantly thanks go to the Lazonby Branch committee and in particular our secretary Joe Bowman for giving their time and commitment to the organisation and these sales.

No two years are different and 2021 has not disappointed. A thoroughly challenging

Spring which was more like a long winter, followed by a dry summer and growy back end has kept us all second guessing where the weather is going these days, but persistently high demand for finished stock has brought some of the best trading conditions anyone can remember, and so weather woes seem to fade away. It's been a great year for selling both breeding and finished stock in centres at Lazonby and Penrith, with Mules being central to both auctions in the back end of the year.

Thomas Carrick, Lazonby Branch Chairman



Lazonby Auction Mart



Lazonby Auction Mart



MARTIN CRAGG - 'He's been a wild drover for many a year!' And now at long last a worthy champion.

Secretary Linda Allan talks to Martin Cragg, a dyed-in-the-wool North of England Mule man of many talents who this year fulfilled a personal ambition of winning the Monday show at the first sale at Hawes Auction.

Martin farms in Dent in the Yorkshire Dales in partnership with his mother, Margaret Taylor, and trades as JW & ME Taylor and Sons at High Laning Farm. This year, this auction drover made a dream come true when he won the presale show at his local auction, Hawes.

Martin lambs 600 Swaledale ewes and a small flock of pedigree Blue faced Leicesters. They have a core herd of suckler cattle, but their main cattle enterprise is built around buying heifers at either bulling age or as stirks, putting them to the Limousin bull and selling with calves at foot in the May Sales, mainly though Hawes and sometimes Kirkby Stephen Auction Mart.

His staffing is very sporadic, with his niece, shepherd & sheep dog trainer Joanne Bentham, popping in to help at busy times and friend James Capstick helping out through the week when needed. Martin's wife Lindsay helps Margaret on the family Caravan Park, Camping Site, Heritage Centre and newly opened 'Wool Shed'

High Laning farm is actually situated in the village of Dent itself. The farm buildings nearly connect to sprawling white houses that make up this beautiful Dales village. The farm has a Methodist Chapel on the edge of the lane heading up to the farm and is only a stone's throw from a choice of two pubs, so Martin's options have been varied all his life!

He was born at High Laning and didn't have to go far to travel to the school. He recalls that he spent his preschool years climbing over the school wall to be with his brothers and once he finally got there, aged 5, he spent the following years climbing over the school wall to get out to return to the farm!

The school was definitely too close for a keen farming lad. The primary school window looked out onto his lambing field and Martin remembers that his teacher, fed up with his lack of concentration, told him to go home and lamb the sheep that he had been keeping an eye on so that he could come back and regain his concentration!

The farm is a mixture of owned and rented land in and around Dent. Martin has a flying flock of 600 Swaledale ewes, for which he requires 200 replacements annually. These are sourced at Hawes, Kirkby Stephen, Kendal and Skipton. If he finds a stock of sheep which do well for him he will try and repeat purchase year on year. He exclusively buys younger sheep which are more suited to the majority of his ground. Like other years he has had to pay for their youth and this year has paid from £108 to £170, which was for some 1 crop stock sheep. He reckoned his average to buy in this year would be about that £130-£140 mark. These handpicked sheep are perhaps the secret to his success.

Martin started working at Hawes some 35 years ago at the tender age of 15 to supplement his farm income. He reflects that nowadays he has enough work to do at home, but still makes the weekly pilgrimage to Hawes to break up the week, for a bit of craic and a catch up.

His favourite sales to work have always been the Mule and Leicester tup days because of his personal interest. On Swaledale draft day he is given the ring to work, so he is in the best position to buy when the bargain drops. Barring an early grade of lambs straight off their mothers Martin sources most of his lambs through Hawes, Skipton and Kendal, starting to sell in August with only a handful left in November. This year his Mule wethers averaged £80.

Ten years ago, his farming policy was slightly different in that he always used to breed his own replacements, but expensive hogg wintering costs and shortage of good wintering meant that a flying flock would make financial sense. Also, ten years ago he was AI-ing over three hundred Swaledale ewes to the Leicester and is now totally reliant on natural conception. Martin explains: "I shared a lot of Leicester tups back then and AI'ing suited all parties."

He remembers being lucky enough to pick up a lesser rosette at the first sale - the first sale champion rosette was only a dream away. Martin, like many, strives to make his sheep better, hand picking his females and studying hard to find a stock Blue faced Leicester ram worthy of his ewes. *continued overleaf*



And the years of breeding finally paid off when his dream was realised this year. I asked him how things had changed over the last 35 years he worked at Hawes and he remarked:

“The standard of lambs must have worsened because I couldn’t win it back then! ”

It was back then that Martin remembers a Marriforth tup which the majority of Leicester ewes will go back to. Marriforth A2 was sired by Fairburn’s Thirwall Castle stock ram. “It was a big framey tup which left a good stamp on both Leicesters and Mules,” he recalls. Nowadays his stock ram is a Smearsett J16 sired by G23 and he also runs a Valley Field which he shared with Richard Scarr.

To say Martin had never won Hawes would a slight exaggeration in that over 20 years ago he did indeed win the second sale, with Mark Burton a close 2nd - symbolic at the time as they are not only friends and co-workers, but they also shared tups.

Crossing Swaledales with the Leicester began back in 1978 at High Laning when Martin’s mother, Margaret and Jim Taylor bought their first Leicester Tup from the Raine family out of Lazonby. Jim was Margaret’s husband for

over 42 years but sadly died in 2020. Over the Years Martin had taken charge of the Leicester breeding but always under Jim’s watchful eye. Jim would of been very proud to watch Martin realise his dream and is greatly missed.

Margaret Taylor, was diversifying before the word was even invented! In 1963 she had married David Burton, local farmer and butcher. After five years David tragically died at the age of 31 and Margaret was left to carry on running the butcher’s shop, 42 sheep, 6 milk cows and stirks and 2 children.

Margaret soon realised she couldn’t carry on the butchers and knew she had to diversify to survive. She remembers that at that time many small farms were going out of business and she didn’t want to become a statistic.

She had an initial fight with Yorkshire Dales National Park but was eventually granted a twelve month licence and the Caravan and Camping Park was born. Today the Caravan Park and Campsite is thriving, the single toilet and basin she started with is now a modern shower block and the Heritage Centre, co-founded 15 years ago with her Husband Jim Taylor, houses a collection a rural memorabilia reciting the Dentdale story.



GREAT YORKSHIRE SHOW

JUDGE: Mr Will Sedgley, Barbon

AC&K Pye, who farm in the Forest of Bowland at Abbeystead, were crowned North of England Mule champions with their first prize single gimmer lamb as the Great Yorkshire Show made a welcome return to live action.

The Pyes - Mum and Dad, Alan and Kim, and their two sons, Chris and Phil - whose singles stood both first and second in class, saw their red rosette winner go on to clinch the title courtesy of show judge and NEMSA stalwart, Will Sedgley, of Kirkby Lonsdale.

Shown by Chris Pye, the victor was sired by Steele N3, a Carry House Flash son bought out of Lanark last back end. The breed champion received the Jack White Memorial Trophy, a Yorkshire Agricultural Society champion's rosette and NEMSA merchandise.

The family achieved further success when also presenting the first prize pair of ewe lambs, adding to their silverware when awarded the Alan and Katherine Barnes Perpetual Trophy. This duo comprised their show champion, the other by a home-bred tup M37, himself a son of Barley L7.

Taking the reserve championship were Barnard Castle's David and Michelle Buck with their first prize single shearing ewe, acquired from fellow breeder Steve Fawcett, Barden.





Martyn Archer (Centre) and his Champion Pen with Chris Harrison, Nemsa Chairman (Left) and the Judge Alan Smith (Right)

ROBERT SMITH PHOTOGRAPHY

HEXHAM AUCTION MART

NORTHUMBERLAND BRANCH REPORT

With COVID still rumbling on there we're no shows for us to attend as a Branch. This meant the 1st event in the Northumberland Branch was our 1st sale at Hexham Auction Mart, where a strong show of lambs was brought forward by all exhibitors. Our master judge on the day Mr Alan Smith, West Shield Farm, expertly placed the pens of 25 in the following order.

1st Sale Show Results
Pens of 25
Judges: Alan Smith, West Shield Farm

1st - RD Archer & Son, Carry House
2nd - BD&MS Hope, Albierigg
3rd - Messrs Charlton, Whiteside

The Stuart Ridley Memorial Trophy for the best run of 100 lambs was awarded to RD Archer & Son, Carry House. All lambs were in huge demand, resulting in a great trade for vendors.

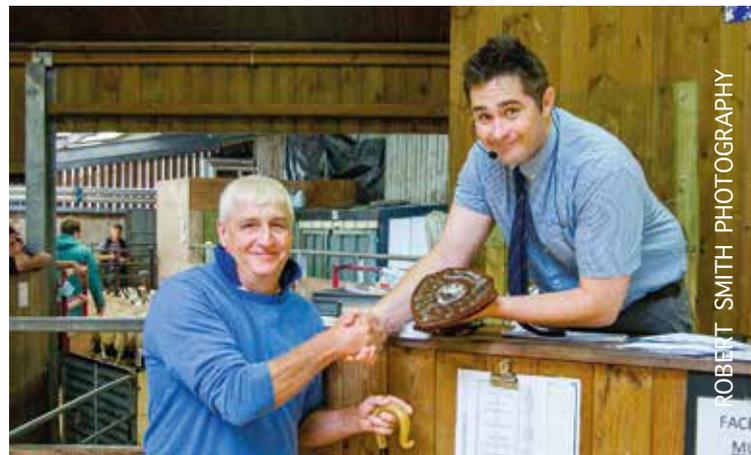
Also this day, our Branch members combined to donate 2 pens of 6 lambs to our chosen charity, the Air Ambulance. Buyers bid freely and almost £2,000 was raised for this fantastic cause.

1ST SALE : Celia Ridley presents Martyn Archer with the Stuart Ridley Memorial Trophy for the best Run of 100 lambs or more.



ROBERT SMITH PHOTOGRAPHY

2ND SALE : Auctioneer, Drew Patrick presents David Hope with the Shield for the best run of 60 Lambs



ROBERT SMITH PHOTOGRAPHY

The 2nd sale saw another great show of lambs forward. Trade would be dearer on the year, with most vendors content with their day's trading. The show pens of 10 were ably judged by Mr Mike Kay, Haresteads, and he awarded the tickets as follows.

2nd Sale Show Results
Judges: Mike Kay, Haresteads

- 1st - Messrs Armstrong & Hunter, Carrick
- 2nd - Messrs Walton, Penpugh
- 3rd - R English, Brownsleazes

The best run of 60 was awarded to BD & MS Hope, Albierigg, for the 2nd year running.

I would like to wish everyone my best for the coming year and hope you all have a good lambing.

*Kevin Ridley,
Northumberland Branch Chairman*



2nd SALE :
Champion Pen of 10 from Messrs Amstrong & Hunter, Carrick



COMMENTARY FROM THE ROSTRUM

Hexham and Northern Marts' grand opening sale saw an increased attendance of buyers handsomely rewarded with a flying trade throughout. There were new purchasers ringside choosing the 'Hexham Type Mule' as their flock replacements, many seeing a £10 - £20 increase on the year. The final sale average of £149.06, against £127.24 in 2020.

The second sale had an entry of 1,236 head from both NEMSA members and non-members. Trade throughout was buoyant for tuppings and running lambs and the latter would see the biggest increase, up £35 on last year's second sale. The overall average was £139.11.

Auctioneer Drew Patrick said: "The two types of North of England Mules (ex. Hexham Blackface and ex. Swaledale) have been in real demand this year. All the ewe lamb sales saw large increases in averages on the year, as were the Mule shearlings.

"It has been very noticeable this autumn that commercial producers are coming back to using North of England Mule ewes within their flocks due to their ease of lambing, longevity and the ability to consistently raise two lambs. Many have tried new hybrid breeds, but found themselves coming back to the original hybrid to use as the nucleus to their flocks."



Hexham and Northern Marts

Ewe Lamb Sale Dates 2022

Hexham 1st Sale
mainly ex NE Blackface
2nd September 2022

Hexham 2nd Sale
mainly ex NE Blackface
16th September 2022

Tow Law Sale
@Hexham
22nd September 2022
ex Swaledales

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TOW LAW SALE @ HEXHAM

WEARDALE BRANCH REPORT

Sitting down writing my report for 2021. Storm Arwen has just reeked havoc on the surrounding areas with snow and wind knocking electric cables, telephone lines and trees are down everywhere! After covid 19 last year, things were gradually getting back to the new normal. The year started with a cold spring and no grass and coupled with a large crops of lambs, which made it an expensive spring. Sheep in general, from fat hogs, cull ewes and ewes and lambs, were a good trade. Summer saw the return of local shows and it was good to see the countryside up and running again.

Sales started with the Tow Law sale at Hexham Mart, lambs were in good order after the spring.

A big thank you to all who donated money to the doddie weir foundation which raised £1,500

Again a huge thank you to auction companies, staff, sponsors, judges and purchasers for there continued support.

Branch Report continues with St Johns Chapel

Show Results:

Pen of 10

Judge: Stephen Kirby, Northallerton

- 1st WM Reed & Sons, Lands
- 2nd WJ Scott Ltd, Low Leam
- 3rd R&MJ Lee, Harwoodsheid
- 4th K&HA Ridley, Allensheids

Best Run of 100 lambs or more

- 1st WM Reed & Sons, Lands
- 2nd WJ Scott, Low Leam
- 3rd I Potts, Redburn

John Reed, Lands Farm with Auctioneer Drew Patrick





Held on Saturday 4th September on the Tyne Willows Field at Alston, Cumbria we found an event which is testament to a community that knows how to put on a good show.

The Mule classes were stewarded by John and Vanessa Reed, The Knarr and the Man tasked to judge was Robert Tarbatt, Darwen, Lancashire.

Judging was never going to be an easy job with no less than 10 exhibitors sending out 36 single mule gimmer lambs in one class. Classes for Pens of 2, 3 and 6 followed and the Judge was spoilt for choice.



The Judge - Robert Tarbatt

SHOW RESULTS

Judge: Robert Tarbatt

OPEN CLASSES

Single Mule

- 1st: NC Marston, Millstone Moor
- 2nd: C Pears, Fellside House
- 3rd: C Pears, Fellside House

Pair of Mules

- 1st: C Pears, Fellside House
- 2nd: NC Marston, Millstone Moor
- 3rd: J Smith-Jackson, HighTown

Pen of Three

- 1st: C Pears, Fellside House
- 2nd: NC Marston, Millstone Moor
- 3rd: J Smith-Jackson, HighTown

Pen of Six

- 1st: NC Marston, Millstone Moor
- 2nd: I Potts, Redburn
- 3rd: B Moore, Highside

N SHOW





ST JOHNS CHAPEL AUCTION MART

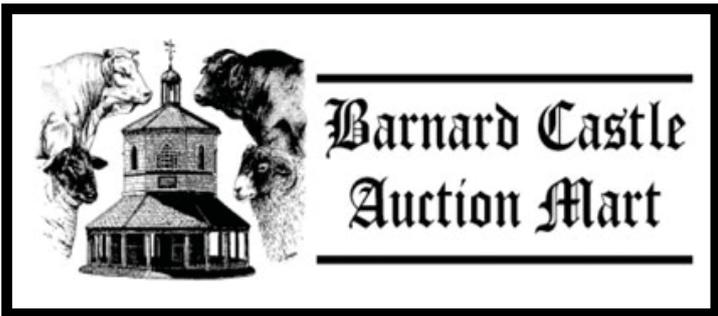
Show Results:

Judges: Christopher Tunstall and Simon Plumb
Pen of 10

- 1st M&B Coulthard, Bridge End
- 2nd WM Reed&sons, Lands
- 3rd Messrs Pattinson, Pinfold Farm
- 4th J Robinson, Ling Riggs

Best Run of 50 Lambs or more

- 1st M&B Coulthard, Bridge End
- 2nd J Robinson, Ling Riggs
- 3rd Weardale Estates



COMMENTARY FROM THE ROSTRUM

Managing Director and Auctioneer Libby Bell noted: "Barnard Castle & Teesdale Farmers Auction Market Co's annual sale saw a catalogued entry of 2,300 head presented to a keen ringside of regular and new buyers, resulting in a marvellous trade throughout the day. Many purchasers commented on the quality of the lambs on offer, so every credit goes to the vendors for their hard work and stockmanship. The sale averaged £123.29, £18.18 up on 2020."

WEARDALE BRANCH REPORT cont.

Again a huge thank you to auction companies, staff, sponsors, judges and purchasers for there continued support.

Best of luck for 2022.

Stephen Collingwood
Weardale Branch Chairman



Champion Pen from M/s Bainbridge

MIDDLETON IN TEESDALE MART

TEESDALE BRANCH REPORT

Writing my final chairman's report, I look back at my first report and I'm encouraged by how gimmer lamb prices have risen every year since and also how fat lambs have excelled these past two years and I have every faith that the North of England mule breed will flourish in the years to come.

Our first sale at Middleton in Teesdale on Wednesday 15th September with a show of 1500 lambs present to average £108.37 +£16 on the year.

Branch Report continues with Barnard Castle



Harrison & Hetherington's annual fixture is noted for high hill-bred lambs famed for their ability to thrive and grow on new pastures. It attracted both new and regular buyers, when both top end tuppens and tail-end runners met with a fantastic enquiry. Running lambs in particular would be £8-10 ahead of previous seasonal trade.

Show Results:	
Judges: Mr Trevor Foster & Mr Mike Dickens	
Pen of 10	
1st	N&A Bainbridge, Laneside
2nd	N&A Bainbridge, Laneside
3rd	JC&J White Rigg Farm
4th	C&J Stephenson, Pikestone
5th	DJ Mallon, Pallet Crag Farm



AGRI -EXPO

Best Pair of Mule Gimmer Lambs

Judge: Mrs Val Brown

- 1st James Robinson & Zac Ward
- 2nd J Wilson & J Dunning, Settle
- 3rd James Robinson & Zac Ward
- 4th James Robinson & Zac Ward
- 5th M/s Elliot, Mungrisedale
- 6th James Robinson & Zac Ward
- 7th Richard Batty, Kendal
- 8th Richard Batty, Kendal
- 9th Stephen Ridley, Penrith

Scott Donaldson, Managing Director of Harrison & Hetherington, fittingly introduced the Class and its judge on the run up to the Show. He said: "The Mule Gimmer Lamb class, is always one of the most highly anticipated classes in the sheep section and, as a highly respected Mule sheep breeder, I know that Mrs Brown will make a tremendous job of judging. I would like to thank her personally for giving up her time."

When asked what she would be looking for Val said " I will be looking for lambs which are correct, good on their legs, with good skin, plenty of bone and obviously there needs to be natural pairing and they need to be good for the breed type. I wasn't disappointed."

The day didn't disappoint either, with a record entry of 22 pairs, where Jam Robinson and Zac Ward's exceptional lambs stood top of the line.

There was a fabulous entry from all over the country and were a credit to all the exhibitors.

THE NEXT SHOW: FRIDAY 28TH OCTOBER 2022



David Lawson, Zac Ward, Emily Robinson (holding Blake), James Robinson



Nemsa very proudly sponsored The David Allen Stockperson of the Year at this years Agri Expo and some familiar names in the Nemsa Mule world picked up the prizes - Congratulations to all involved.

1st: Sophie and Chris Mitchell
WALTON YFC

2nd: Josh Geary & Jack Robb
WOBURN YFC

3rd: Henry Crocker & Taylor
Charlton, SKELTON YFC





CHARLOTTE PEART PHOTOGRAPHY

BARNARD CASTLE AUCTION MART

TEESDALE BRANCH REPORT cont.

The annual two-day fixture as usual saw Day 1 (Wednesday) open to both NEMSA members and non-members, with an increased entry of 2,200 lambs, which averaged £116.74, up £10 on the year.

Day 2 (Thursday) was again the official NEMSA show and sale day, when 4,200 gimmer lambs, on a par with the previous year, were on parade. Once again a tremendous show of lambs was forward, resulting in an average of £121.65, up £8 on 2020. Managing Director and Auctioneer Libby Bell thanked both regular and new purchasers.

I would again like to thank all our sponsors and both auction mart companies for making this years' lamb sales a success and to all the buyers for their support. Finally, thanks to Becky our branch secretary and all committee members for their support over the past four years. I would like to wish Clive Metcalf the best of luck, as our new branch chairman.

*Philip Dixon
Teesdale Branch Chairman*

Wednesday Show Results:
Judges: Philip Elliot & Duncan Burton
Pen of 10

1st	J&SE Bainbridge, Dousgill Farm
2nd	C&R Metcalf, Park House
3rd	Hodgson & Brooksbank, Hill House
4th	MW&E Dent, Wythes Hill



Thursday Show Results:
Judges: Mark Ellworthy & Robin Bellas
Pen of 10

1st	J&SE Bainbridge, Dousgill Farm
2nd	MW & E Dent, Wythes Hill Farm
3rd	C & R Metcalf, Park House Farm,
4th	J & MJ Walton, West Shotton Farm



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**St Johns Chapel Auction
Mart**

FRIDAY 23RD SEPTEMBER 2022

3000 GIMMER LAMBS

Libby Bell Auctioneer : 0781 8435728

WEDNESDAY SALE



CHARLOTTE PEART PHOTOGRAPHY

FOOTVAX

YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED



with
SARAH HARKER

Lameness is an ongoing and frustrating problem in many sheep flocks, and there is no single or simple solution. It helps to remember that it is largely an infectious and contagious disease and vaccination can play a major role in control. Here, we put some questions to Sarah Harker of Farmgate Vets to help guide us in the right direction.

Does Footvax Really Work?

Yes! As mentioned above, there is no single, simple solution but Footvax can play a major role in reducing incidence in a flock.

Does The Vaccine Stop CODD? Unfortunately not. There are two distinct causes of infectious lameness in sheep: Footrot and CODD. Footvax only directly protects against footrot, but a healthy footrot-free foot is less likely to let CODD in. It is therefore estimated that Footvax protects up to 30% against CODD.

How Much Does It Cost?

This is always one of the first questions that farmers ask and my answer is always "less than it's worth!". It is actually around £1 per dose depending on supplier and size of pack purchased.

Can You Vaccinate Lam Sheep?

Yes. Footvax helps to treat footrot in addition to preventing future infection. The vaccine can be given to lame individuals at the same time as antibiotic treatment.

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What Time of Year Do You Inject and How Many Doses Do You Need to Give?

The guidance for use suggests vaccinating in advance of peak risk, so this is farm specific and requires individual advice depending on circumstances. The product guidance recommends 2 doses 6 weeks apart under conditions of heavy disease challenge, or a single dose with further doses if necessary, so it can be very much tailored to the farm. Many farms vaccinate once annually mid pregnancy (e.g. around scanning time) or pre-tupping and this is often adequate. Try to vaccinate 3 -4 weeks before tupping if possible. It is recommended to avoid vaccinating ewes 4 weeks either side of lambing.



Can You Just Do Some of the Flock?

A whole flock approach works best in reducing disease incidence and therefore contamination on the ground. It is possible to do just some of the flock, but response will be sub-optimal. However, if the breeding flock are appropriately vaccinated, the reduction in challenge means lambs generally do not need vaccinating before they are sold, or if retained, can be vaccinated as they join the breeding flock.

Will We Still Need to Footbath?

With appropriate use of Footvax and an overall coordinated approach to lameness, the need for footbathing should be greatly reduced. It may still be necessary intermittently to control scald and early CODD lesions in lambs for example.

I Have Heard That Lumps Are Often Found at the Injection Site. Can This be Avoided?

Some vaccines require the inclusion of an 'adjuvant' for the body to react to, and with Footvax, this oily adjuvant increases the risk of lumps forming at the injection site. To a point, it is an unavoidable consequence of ensuring the vaccine works, but risks can be minimised by ensuring sheep are vaccinated on a dry day, through clean dry wool with new clean needles and clean equipment. This is important with all vaccines, but especially so with Footvax. The vaccine should be given under the skin on the side of the neck, a few centimetres behind the ear. Injection into the muscle should be avoided as this can exacerbate any reaction. Warming the vaccine gently before injecting can help to make it more syringeable, but be careful not to overheat it. Sheep should not be vaccinated within 6-8 weeks of clipping to avoid aggravating potential lumps. It should also be borne in mind that if sheep are to be sold or exhibited, lumps can persist for several weeks.

WARNING: The oily adjuvant also makes self-injection particularly dangerous so immediate medical attention should be sought. The injected area can lose its blood supply and has resulted in loss of fingers etc.

Is It True That Footvax Cannot be Used With Certain Wormers?

Yes. Cydectin 1% injection and Footvax should not be used in the same individuals. This applies for the entire lifetime of the animal and does not just apply to use on the same day. Sudden deaths have been seen where both products have been used, but use of Cydectin drench or Cydectin LA injection is safe.



LOVE IT OR HATE IT ? SOCIAL MEDIA IS HERE TO STAY

Linda Allan guides Mule News readers through some of the more popular social media platforms out there. James Rebanks, sheep farmer and author from Matteredale in Cumbria offers some advice along the way.



FACEBOOK

At the moment this appears to be the most popular outlet for farmers to post, share and connect. Many breeders share their show and sale successes and many auction marts have their sales reports on Facebook the very day of the sale.

Don't forget, Facebook suggests a perfect life where we only tend to post photographs of our bonniest Mule lambs - never mind if a tup got 10 sets of white faced ones earlier in the week, this bonny set is worthy of a post .. and don't worry they are probably twin tups!

James Rebanks reiterates the point. "I'm proud of my stock so I don't show them my every setback or failing. I try to keep it fairly real, but I have days where the wheels come off and that's better left private, Nobody has a perfect life or perfect stock"

James Continues "If your focus is breeding the best pen of Mule ewe lambs then maybe you shouldn't take your eye off the ball trying to talk to the public. Social Media isn't for everyone."

Some of the best farmers never put a post on Facebook and can still rock up to the sales, get first prize and achieve a great price, but for us mere mortals Facebook is a great tool to have in your back pocket. I have lost count of the number of stories where people have sold their stock at auction and the purchaser has gone to the auction to buy that cow or sheep on the strength of their Facebook post. It does work!

LIVESTREAMING

Either via Facebook, Youtube or a third party, this a fabulous addition that has really taken off. The majority of auction marts were up and running by the back end of 2020 sales and many of us have been able to view Mule trade across the North of England for two seasons now. The quality and angle of the video mean that it is sometimes difficult to define the finer points such as size, but you can generally get a rough idea.

CCM Skipton came up trumps by a producing a series of lines on the wall where the lambs came in to give the buyer a guide on size. Online bidding was available in some circumstances and used to a certain extent.

Livestreaming the tup sales has been of equal benefit for many and particularly for those nervous of big crowds and perhaps the older generation who were unable to make it in person. They can settle in in the safety of their own home and not miss a thing. Some auction marts have continued to live stream their regular fat and store markets and hopefully this trend will continue after the pandemic. Stand aside Coronation Street and Emmerdale and bring on the Fat Market live stream!

INSTAGRAM



Many think this is the future of social media as it "Allows users to edit and upload photos and short videos through a mobile app." Filters are a big thing that differ from the sister company Facebook

- and who doesn't love a filter! As well as photo enhancement there is an array of stickers and animation to make your posts look better. You can post a permanent post which will appear on your profile tab page or choose to put a photo on your 'story' which will remain for 24 hours.

Instagram has been made for the phone, and gives a better mobile experience. It is very similar to Snapchat – it only differs in that you can post a more permanent post (up to 10 photographs) where Snapchat appears more temporary. Hash tags are important across Social Media and Instagram especially uses hashtags as a fuel to run and steer your profile. It's aimed at the young, it's used by a lot of the younger generation and is probably going to play a big part in Social Media in the future.

Who to watch:

Nemsa_Mule - Yep we are on here aswell ! We have collected over 500 followers but are always looking for more.

Lake_district_farming - Nathan Allen - works and lives in the Lake District, has a flock of Mules and posts a lot of stories - interesting man to follow with a backdrop of beautiful scenery.

Em_sheepy_pearse - Devonshire beef and sheep farmer and describes herself in her Instagram as a lover of working dogs and all things country. Full feature in this edition

YOUTUBE



There appears to be nothing interesting on television in an evening any more, so if the

family is not content scrolling through Social Media and you are lucky enough to have a smart TV, Ipad or laptop. then the must go to medium must be You tube - totally Americanised rubbish you may think and if you snook in and watched what my 10-year-old daughter was watching it is hard not to disagree. But at its best there is an endless catalogue to watch and if farming is your thing then there are lots of people to follow:

The Swaley Man - Sam Hutchinson videos and features life of a Yorkshire Dales farm

Tom Pemberton - one of the big boys - 397,000 subscribers and has had over 104 million video views. Based in Lytham St Annes, he has really put Lancashire farming on the map. What he does is quite simple - he films his everyday life, aiming it at both other farmers and the general public. He is good at it and obviously enjoys it. Everyone's farm is unique and Tom would be first to encourage all farmers to give it a try . He isn't just on Youtube

- Tom has Social Media accounts on Twitter and Instagram as well.

Hoof GP - Not sheep-related, but quite obsessive watching - Graeme Parker is a full-time professional cattle hoof trimmer who lives in south west Scotland. He takes his video camera with him on his travels.

The Sheep Game - Recently on television on the Scotttsh production of landward BBC Scotland countryside magazine show, Landward.

SNAPCHAT



As a natural hoarder and photographer I still can't get my head round why anyone would take a photo, share it with friends for it to miraculously disappear after just looking at it once. In this case I am the minority as millions of people use

Snapchat every day and love it.

I have now learnt to take screen shots and 'save to chat' and the whole platform is becoming slightly more appealing. Like Instagram and facebook users can post photographs and videos to their 'Story' where it stays for 24 hours.

STREAKS

If you start to Snapchat a friend everyday a number will appear next to their name. That number is a 'streak'. If you happen to forget to send a chat one day your 'streaks' with that person will be lost. This is definately a young persons game and the longer the run , the more addictive it appears to get. Some streaks have got over 2000!

SNAP MAP

After you have created a Bitmoji (cartoon character of yourself) You choose if you want to share your location and who you want to share it with. The user can bring up Snap Maps and instantly see the location of their friends.

A few years ago a group of Young farmers went out socially in a local town. A fight ensued and the friendship group got dispersed. One friend was lost in action and it was 'Snap Maps' which saved the day and found him hiding in a nearby bush!



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SOCIAL MEDIA cont.



TIK TOK

TikTok is a video platform where users post short videos (15secs - 3mins) of dances, pranks, tricks, songs etc. After creating a username you can post your own videos, follow others and start to generate a following.

TIK TOK is massive with the younger generation. They love the filters, video effects, music etc. Users are presented with a 'following' feed and a 'for you' feed where random popular videos can be seen. Users can start to generate an income via TIK TOK if you are 18+, 10 thousand followers and had 100 thousand views. This enables you to get on the 'TIKTOK creator fund' where you start to get paid on the popular videos you post.

As with many social media platforms you can partner with Brands to create sponsored posts to help promote products.

James Rebanks keeps it real:

"The number of followers on social media has absolutely nothing to do with being a good farmer. Let's be honest, the best farmers are so focused on their day job they won't want to mess about on Twitter talking to the public. It's a form of media that hypes up people that can be bothered to build an audience. To be successful in Social Media you need a good eye for a photo, endless patience with the public, a thick skin, and a passion for communicating."

There are other things to watch out for. Social Media is a great way to get information out - providing the information is correct. Donald Trump immortalised 'Fake News' and Social Media is full of it - whether it's a photograph that has been 'photoshopped' or people spreading lies - things don't always appear as they seem. Believe at your own risk and beware of scams.

Change your passwords regularly to improve security. Social Media is faceless social interaction that is a great addition to rural life but should never replace the auction mart. When you go the auction mart you talk to a colleague. You and your friend inevitably have a moan, compare notes on what has gone wrong and inevitably you both take something away with it. A lot of Social Media is about bragging, showing off and you sometimes have to be in the right frame of mind to take a big dose of that! If in doubt cheer yourself up by turning it off!

HASHTAGS

- # Hashtags allow people to easily follow topics they are interested in. It links people with common interests.
- # Hashtags can 'grow your reach, get more engagement and attract more followers'.
- # Hashtags make content more discoverable when creating platform searches.
- # They always start with a # but they won't work if you use spaces, punctuation or symbols.
- # Only works if your social media account is 'public'
- # On Instagram, users can follow hashtags as well as other users.

To figure out which hashtags to use, look at posts from colleagues, friends, competitors with similar interests and see which hashtags they are using.

Once you get into a routine of using them look back on posts where you have used certain hashtags and see which has been most effective in achieving the greatest reach. The hashtags we use most are :

#nemsamule
#northcountrymule
#nemsamule #sheepfarming



MULES AND HILL FARMING

A PHOTOGRAPHERS PROJECT

BY JOHN BENTLEY

I'm a photographer based in Settle and I'm working on a project to document hill farming in all its aspects, from markets and shows to the everyday activities of the farmers involved. I'm not from a farming background, but I'm learning very fast as I delve into the intricacies of rearing hill sheep. The obvious starting point for the project was the main breeds of hill sheep like Swaledales and I have spent a lot of time photographing some of the associated shows and sales, like Tan Hill Sheep Show and the big Autumn tup sales at the various markets. Then I discovered the rather spectacular extensive mule sales at markets like Lazonby and Hawes, where penned sheep can be seen almost as far as the eye can see.

After several visits to these markets, I decided to investigate further and look into the preparations for the mule sales. I'm very grateful to Linda Allan at NEMSA, who has been very helpful in getting me behind the scenes. I started off at Linda's farm at Killington, photographing her and husband Neil preparing their Mules for sale at Hawes. I photographed the various processes involved, the gathering in of the sheep, trimming, washing and tagging, then the business of going to market.

About the same time I also visited the Pedley's farm at Barbon to photograph the gathering up of their extensive flock for carriage to Hawes market in one of Shuttleworth's big articulated livestock transporters. I witnessed the tensions at the market as the groups of mules are penned and given the final wash and brush up ready for show / sale. Then the final tense walk to the sale ring, amid the uncertainty of what sale prices will be forthcoming.

I was also keen to get some coverage of the celebrated big Alston Moor mule sale at Lazonby. When I previously visited that sale pre-Covid-19, I had chatted to Geoff Wharton who farms at Murton, near Appleby.

I observed that Geoff was a serious and successful breeder of mules, as well as a very affable sort of chap, and I thought he would be a good subject to document, preparing his sheep and going to market. I am not a betting man, but I couldn't have chosen better!

Not only did Geoff kindly agree to me photographing his preparations and his visit to the show and sale, but he actually won first and second prizes at the Alston Moor Show for his two pens of sheep.

You can see a selection of the pictures I've taken presented here. As a photographer I really feel that it's important to document hill farming, as it exists at present in the 2020s. I currently have a photography exhibition ('Going to Market') at The Folly in Settle. It documents some of the livestock markets I've photographed from the late 1970s to the present. One thing I've learnt over the years is that everything changes and what may seem commonplace today will not be the same in, say, forty years time (as can be seen in my market photos). The exhibition is currently scheduled to run at The Folly in Settle until at least 19th February 2022.

<https://thefolly.org.uk/event/going-to-market/>

More of my photographs of farming and livestock markets (as well as other subjects) can be seen on Flickr photo site-

https://www.flickr.com/photos/john_arc-images/collections

In the meantime my sheep farming photography project continues. I want to try and cover the different areas of the north of England, as well as the range of activities in the hill farming calendar and a broad coverage of the people who make up the farming community.



COCKERMOUTH AUCTION MART

WEST CUMBRIA BRANCH REPORT

Well time certainly flies as I write my last report as chairman of west cumbria branch. I wish our next chairperson all the best and hope times are easier for them in going to shows and events to meet people and help promote NEMSA. What a year it has been for market prices of sheep and lambs, who could have predicted it as I write fat lambs are up over £40 on the same week last year. The year started of wet then very cold throughout lambing with very little grass for the ewes to milk off but summer came and stock did remarkably well in the warm dry weather. Then the sales came and I have to admit the mule gimmer lamb sales have been the highlight of my autumn sales. The atmosphere was fantastic with old and new buyers attending our sales. Most of our members commenting that their averages were up over £20 on the year which is a great achievement for the mule.

Report continues overleaf.

Show Results

Judges: Trevor Foster and Bruce Davies

Open Class

- 1st NC Marston, Millstone Moor
- 2nd Messrs Folder, Wescoe
- 3rd AG & KF Nicholson, Swinside End Farm
- 4th RW & JH Emmott, Wythop Hall
- 5th GW Whitfield, Low Stowbank

Small Breeders

- 1st JT Davidson, Bell Mount
- 2nd GL Hutton, Setmabanning
- 3rd JT Davidson, Bell Mount

Mitchells Auction Mart conducted its annual Lakeland Prize Show & Sale of 9,035 head, which averaged £125.80, well up on the previous year's £98.15. Auctioneer John Wharton said: "The auction mart this year was full of outstanding runs of lambs from start to finish which had flourished with the kind summer. The sale is establishing itself as a must to most buyers now." *John Wharton Auctioneer*

QUALITY STOCK FROM CUMBRIAN
FARMS

Mitchells SINCE 1873
LIVESTOCK AUCTIONEERS & VALUERS

FRIDAY 2nd SEPTEMBER
Annual Show & Sale of 5,000 Mule Gimmer Shearlings & Ewes.

FRIDAY 16th SEPTEMBER
Great Annual Lakeland Show & Sale of 10,000 Mule Gimmer Lambs.
(2021 sale figures – 8442 NEMSA)

SATURDAY 17th SEPTEMBER
Annual Sale of 5,000 Lakeland Store Lambs.

MONDAY 19th SEPTEMBER
Annual Show & Sale of 150 Bluefaced Leicester Rams & Females

MONDAY 3rd OCTOBER
Annual Lakeland Show & Sale of 4,000 Swaledale Draft Ewes, Gimmer Shearlings & Gimmer Lambs.

For information contact John Wharton 07912946549 or
David Porter 07704282373
or alternately follow us on Facebook or our website

John Smith Jackson and his Champion Pen of Ten



CARLISLE BORDERWAY MART

WEST CUMBRIA BRANCH REPORT cont.

I'd like to thank the 4 auctions in our branch for all the time and work they put into making the sales a success. Thanks go to all our customers and we hope the lambs go on and do well for you and we see you again in 2022. A big thankyou to our branch secretary Christina Coulthard for all the work she puts into our branch. Thanks go to all that donated in our charity buckets at the sales to raise money for the four charities in memory of Martin Mawson. Lastly I'd like to wish Marion all the best for her future and thank her for all the hard work and time spent in being the NEMSA secretary for the past 16 years. I also wish our new secretary Linda all the best and look forward to the future of NEMSA with her and hope she enjoys her time as secretary.

*Chris Walton, West Cumbria Branch
Chairman*

Show Results:

Judges: Thomas Hird, Cockermouth and
Ian Sowerby, Appleby

- | | |
|-----|----------------------------------|
| 1st | JW Smith-Jackson, High Town |
| 2nd | F & M Moore & Son, Highside Farm |
| 3rd | JT James, Midtodhills |
| 4th | Kilnstown Farms Ltd |
| 5th | W Ridley, Wood Hall, |
| 6th | F & M Moore & Son, Highside Farm |

Harrison and Hetherington's annual 'Latter Fair Sale,' noted for its exceptional quality, certainly lived up to expectations, buyers gathering from near and far, with a large number of local supporters. The majority of ringside fanciers were keen to secure strong tuppings hogs and this class of sheep met an unrivalled seasonal trade. An overall average of £131.01 was recorded, with NEMSA lambs levelling at a record £136.87, against £108.75 in 2020. *James Little, Auctioneer*



WIGTON AUCTION MART

"A smaller turnout of 1,039 head was seen this year, with more required to satisfy buyers' requirements. As a result, a super trade to an average of £129.08 from tuppens to runners was achieved, +£26.03 on the year. All classes were exceedingly good to sell. Congratulations to all vendors for producing an excellent show of lambs." *David Bowman, Auctioneer*

Show Results:
Judges: Thomas Hird, Cockermouth

Champion
M/S Pears, Fellside House farm

Reserve Champion
M/S W. Ridley, Woodall

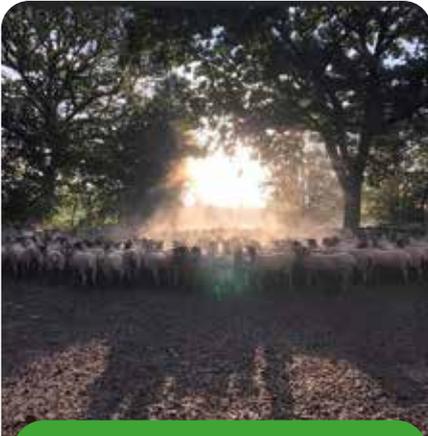


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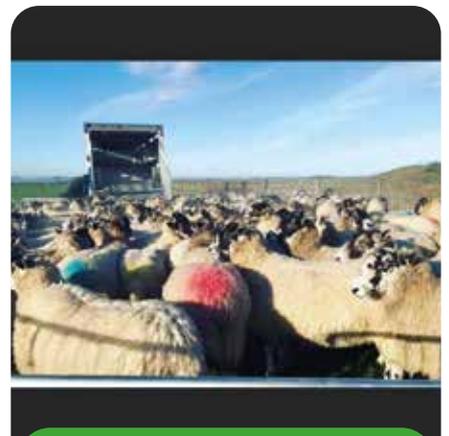




We run 1000 N England Mules on an easy grass based system.



The Ewes winter and tup on cover crops and turnips.



They get no hard feed over winter just hay,

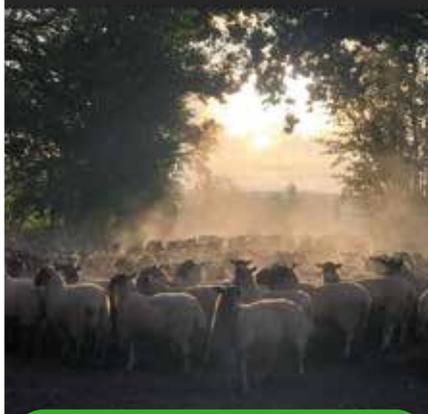


MY MULE STORY - OLIVIA TOBUTT

Salisbury Plain - Wiltshire



The grazing is mostly on 'clean leys' so worming is very little.



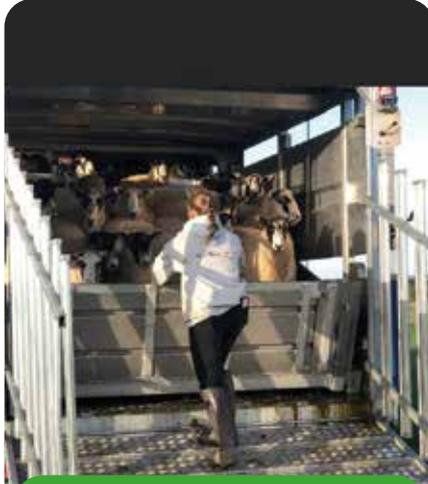
The ewes get blood tested before lambing to make sure everything mineral and energy wise is ok.



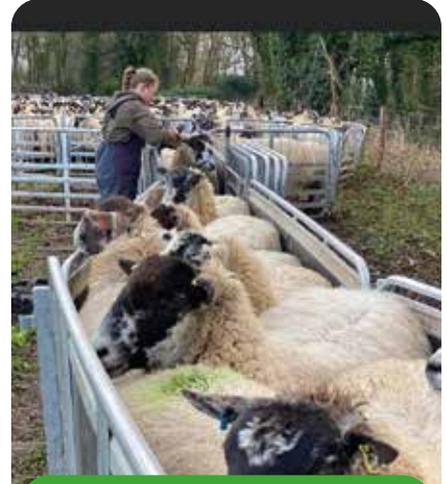
Scanning results are usually around 200-210% They lamb from February through to March.



From 2 months old we start to draw fat lambs from 38 kilo. They gain an average of 650 grams per day.



The rest of the lambs are weaned at 100 days.



“ NE Mules are easy to look after and they have cracking lambs “



LONGTOWN AUCTION MART

C&D Auction Marts' main breeding sheep sale had an entry of 8,447, with buyers represented from all over the UK and trade very good throughout. Averages were well up on the year, levelling at £125.22, + £23.93.

"Congratulations must go to all loyal vendors as it was clear to see that a lot of time and effort had been put into the presentation of their sheep. Once again, after a trying Spring and a dry summer they still managed to produce the goods, as the quality of sheep on offer was second to none, which in turn was well rewarded with another great sale, simply outstanding.

"Purchasers and vendors travelled from as far afield as Caithness, Aberdeen, Devon, Cornwall, Cheshire, Wales and Northern Ireland and stood all day to purchase the outstanding show of Mule sheep on offer. Many more lambs can be sold to vendor advantage at this thriving sale, with plenty of potential customers going home empty handed." *John Walton Auctioneer*

SHOW RESULTS

Judge: Richard Fox
Ex NE Blackface.

1st R.W Carruthers & Sons,
Hill Brae

2nd W.B Nichol, Lawston

3rd Wanwood Partners,
Wanwood Hall

Ex Swaledale.

1st The Firm of Hugh
Montgomery, Assloss

2nd R.J & D.G Telford,
Holme Head

3rd Alex Batey,
Heathery Knowe



LONGTOWN MART

Wednesday 31st August
Main Sale of Mule Shearlings & Ewes

Tuesday 13th September
Principal Show & Sale of Mule Ewe Lambs
Second Sale of Mule Shearlings & Ewes

Tuesday 27th September
Second Sale of Mule Ewe Lambs
Sale of Mule Shearlings & Ewes

Longtown Mart, Townfoot, Longtown, Cumbria,
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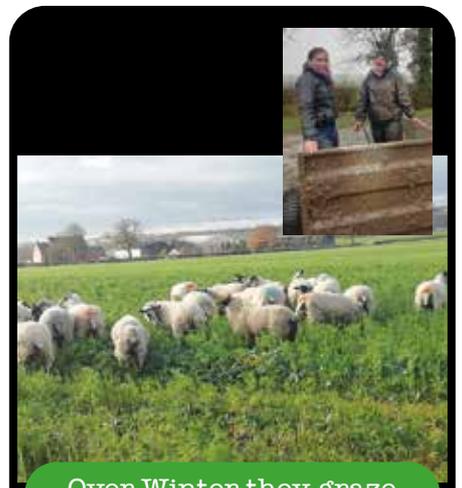
www.suffolksheep.org Tel: 028 2563 2342



We farm with our parents near Banbury, South Northamptonshire.



We farm 3000 NC Mules, 1000ewe lambs and 2000 ewes. We buy the lambs from The North in Autumn.



Over Winter they graze cover crops and stubble turnips. This means lots of electric fencing.



OUR MULE STORY - ZOE & HANNAH COLLETT Banbury



Scanning is usually around 200% for the ewes and !50% for the ewe lambs.



We put Suffolk, Texel and Cheviot tups on the ewes and Texel and Beltex on the Ewe Lambs.



We start lambing with the older ewes in February, The main bunch in March and the Ewe lambs in April.



The lambs mainly go deadweight to Farmers Fresh or live weight through Rugby Market.



The theaves are weaned in June so they can be sorted for the Summer Sales.



We sell our theaves late summer, buy the gimmer lambs 'up north' and the whole process start again.

A SEASON IN RHYME

BY KELLY ARMITAGE



The North of England Mule Sheep
A popular breed that farmers keep
It all starts with a Blue Faced Leicester ram
Crossed with the hardy Blackie or Swaledale dam

Productivity of a mule sheep is key
A ewe with twins is what we like to see
Renowned for being an excellent mother
Rearing crops of lambs like no other

1980 the year NEMSA was born
Seen many a Shepherds crook with a fancy horn
Chairman Chris Harrison is currently the man at
the top
Who passes the baton to Jonathan Hodgson for its
next stop

The Secretary of NEMSA plays a vital part
Important they have the Mule breed at heart
Retired this year was Marion hope
Now Linda Allan has taken the rope

Lots of information can be found in the Mule News
From Branch reports to adverts to Auctioneers
Views
Geoff Taylor is the current NEMSA President
Breeds Leicester's and mules, a really nice gent.

Mule shearing sales cause lots of talk
Up and down the alley judges will walk
Important to some is colour and skin
And to others condition or size ideally not thin

Thame sheep fair is where everyone goes
What trade will be like nobody knows
Seen this year live on the series Clarkson's Farm
Mule sheep haven't done Jeremy any harm

The month of September means only one thing
Mule gimmer lamb sales are in full swing
The buyers travel from far and wide
Watching farmers turn out lambs with pride

Choosing the top ten can cause lots of stress
Whether you've got it right is anyone's guess
Sheep away to market looking their best
It's down to the auctioneer to do the rest

Hexham

Martyn Archer made £340 of his champion pen
He also had best run and was pretty proud of him
sen
Auctioneer Drew Patrick sold the Mules and
smiled
Then rushed off for the birth of his 2nd child.

Skipton

Expectations are high at this early sale
Average price quickly travels the dale
The Walker family claimed a memorable hat-trick
win
Mules are judged on colour, size and skin

Kirkby Stephen

Large breeders champ went to Asby Hall
Andrew's nephew Adam has his eye on the ball
Small breeders champ was Paul and Ivan Brown
After sale celebration drinks take place up town

Bentham

Bentham and Kendal take place on the same night
Judges looking for lambs alert and bright
Co judge Emily Pearse bought the champion pen
Hutchinson's Redgate outstanding group of ten

Kendal

Individual competition 'stars in your eyes'
Saw Brian and Jayne Knowles take 1st prize
The pre-sale show is judged the night before
The Pye family completely swept the floor

Hawes

Hawes is renowned for its 2 day sale
Right in the heart of the Wensleydale
Auctioneer Raymond Lund is certainly one of a
kind
Leicester's Swales & Mules at the front of his mind

Penrith

Held this year on Tuesday the twenty first
Everyone hoping the trade didn't burst
Champion pen was from Messrs Allan of
Greenhow
Making £380 means they can smile now

Hexham Tow Law

Weardale Branch had 13 pens out to show
Lands Farm won for the fourth year in a row
Reeds top pen was bought by an undisclosed buyer
Trade for the Mules was an absolute flier

Lazonby

Alston Moor a much-anticipated annual event
Lambs penned outside no sign of a tent
Geoff Wharton took 1st and 2nd in the show
The trade left every vendor on a high not a low

Carlisle

Champion pen came from Messrs Smith-Jackson
of Hightown
Mule Gimmer colour should be a nice hard
brown
Buyers ringside were keen to secure strong
tupping hogs
Bidding at the auctioneer using sale day
catalogues

Leyburn

Riddings Farm were the judges first choice
Later the sale ticked along to the Auctioneer's
voice
Bert Tiplady was the winner of the Best run
The average was up when the sale was done.

Cockermouth

9,000 lambs entered for the Annual Sale
Farmers watching judging leaning on the gate
rail
1st prized pen came from Marstons of Millstone
Moor
Messrs folder in second knocking on the door

Barnard Castle

J&SE Bainbridge claimed the 1st prize pen
described by the auctioneer as a tremendous ten
The best run of lambs is split into three
Keeping the judges busy with lots to see

Middleton

Tuppers & runners were all a good trade
Lambs are washed, clipped & finally sprayed.
N&A Bainbridge won first prize in the show
The very first time they've ever had a go

200,000 Mule lambs have gone from here to
there

It's now time to think about next year if we dare
Off to market in search of a tup for the ewes
Hoping the price isn't that high it makes farming
news

November is the month the tups are let go
Hoping for a nice winter ideally no snow
When lambing time memories become a distant
haze
Most start counting down to important sale days

One more event was Agri Expo
22 pairs of Mules were out for the show
Jam Robinson & Zac Ward took the crown
Expertly judged by Mrs Val Brown

This nearly brings the NEMSA poem to an end
So take a moment to think of your Mule memory
or friend
The Association is there for the needs of you all
Communication is key just give them a call

Now let's not forget other advantages of the
Mule
The wether lamb is a great commercial tool
So why not try and put them to the test
Mule sheep really are some of the best!

Written by Kelly Armitage - November 2021



OBITUARIES

Our deepest condolences go out to all those who have lost a family member or close friend in recent times. In this new feature we pay respect to those who we have lost who have played a major role in our Nemsas Family or our sheep industry as a whole. Please email future notices to nemsas@btinternet.com

DEATH OF A FOUNDER MEMBER



Gordon Wilkinson

In 1982, Gordon was invited, along with a few others, to attend a meeting with the Bluefaced Leicester Sheep Breeders Association, with a view to promote the sale of mule sheep.

NEMSA was formed, and to start the finances off, all nineteen of the farmers put £5 in the pot. Following on from that meeting, branches were set up in different districts of the North of England.

Gordon was chairman of the Kendal committee and tasked with persuading Kendal Auction Mart to have association sales. It wasn't easy!

Representatives from the committees went all over the British Isles to main agricultural shows to advertise the mules. Gordon went to Builth Wells and the Devon county show, resulting in lots of buyers from Wales, Devon and Cornwall.

Gordon also enjoyed judging sheep at many sales and shows from Hexham to Welshpool, as well as local shepherd's meets.

He farmed in Rusland from 1947 until he retired, putting his heart and soul into family and valley life. The photo was taken this year, on his 91st birthday, at the place he loved most - on top of the fell, looking down the Rusland Valley.

QUAD BIKE ACCIDENT CLAIMS FORMER WEST CUMBRIA CHAIRMAN'S LIFE



Martyn Mawson

Martyn farmed at High Side Farm at the foot of Skiddaw in the Lake District. On Sunday May 3rd 2020 he lost his life due to quad bike accident.

Martyn, aged 52, was a former Chairman of West Cumbria Branch of Nemsas and sold gimmer lambs at Carlisle, Wighton and Cockermouth. He was "...a true champion of the Mule, a great ambassador on behalf of the breed and a special friend to many."

Martyn was a previous Keswick Show Chairman and Bassenthwaite Parish Councillor. He was a Community man who will be missed by many.

Earlier this year his sons James and Edward Mawson held a charity day in their Dad's memory. The event at Keswick Rugby Club included a half marathon, a rugby match between Keswick and Cockermouth, raffle and Auction, live music and a hog roast.

The family's target was to raise £5000 for a variety of charities including Keswick mountain Resue, The Great North Air Ambulance Service, The Alzheimers Society and Prostrate Cancer UK. This target was smashed and they raised a massive £24, 000. A fitting tribute indeed.



Rachel Lumley

Rachel has recently been posthumously awarded the George Hedley Memorial Award. She passed away suddenly in July 2020, aged 37.

Rachel was the oldest Child of Ken and Jennifer Lumley and sister to Alice who farm in Blachland, near Hexham.

She is probably best remembered for being the driving force behind the 'Love Lamb Campaign' which was started in 2015. She was, however, a woman of many talents. Rachel was known as a former secretary of the English Shearing Circuit and a competitive wool handler representing England at the World Championships in 2017. She was a keen Young Farmer and competent horse woman.

In 2017 she went to live with her partner, John Errington, near Penrith where they had their daughter Francesca. The photographs below were taken at the Hexham Shearling Sale in September 2021 where Rachel's partner and family recieved her award on her behalf.



Hannah Brown

Hannah was brought up in Newton-le-Willows near Leyburn where her parents had a beef and sheep farm. In 2019 she moved to Cumbria to be with her partner Ben Richardson at Ghyll House. In August 2020 she gave birth to their daughter, Mille.

Hannah died on Tuesday 23rd March 2021 after a short illness she was only 26 years old. Her list of successes in the show and sale ring is numerous but at present she remains the only person to ever win the Young Handler Classes in both Cattle and Sheep at the Countryside Live Event.

The tragic news sent shock waves through the rural community. Tom Willoughby, Nemsas Hawes Branch Chairman commented " Hannah was raised up full of Nemsas...her Mum Val was Hawes Branch Secretary and Dad Martin has held the post of Hawes Branch Chairman. Hannah has loved the Mule Sheep from a young age showing her parents and grandparents and then buying and showing her own with great success. "

Her love of sheep didn't just stop with the Nemsas Mule. The Northern Beltex Club went on to say "Her love for cattle and sheep was second to none and her stockmanship skills were just some of the best."

Hannah will be missed by many and our hearts go out to Martin, Val, Ben, daughter Millie and families.





Kirkby Stephen Branch donating a massive £6177.00 to The Great North Air Ambulance.

From Left: David Alderson, Vice-Chair Kirkby Stephen Branch, Mark Richardson, Richard Tiplady, Mark Jenkinson and Deborah Gibbs, Community fundraiser for Great North Air Ambulance.

SPECTACULAR SUCCESS FOR NEMSA CHARITY FUND-RAISER

Big hearted NEMSA members have netted some fabulous sums for charity at this year's high profile annual sales at our northern auction marts, several individual marts themselves fully supporting the cause, a number also staged with the support of The Mule Group. Robin Moule picks out some of the highlights.

Special mention must go to every single vendor who sold at the Kirkby Stephen Mule gimmer lamb sale, as they ALL donated £110 each towards their chosen charity, The Great North Air Ambulance Service, with a cheque for £6,000 presented to the Service's Deborah Gibbs.

In a letter to Kirkby Stephen Branch Chairman, Ian Cousin, Dr Neil Hudson, MP for Penrith and The Border, offered a personal and heartfelt well done, writing: "The generosity of all those who took part in the charity sale of gimmer lambs is very commendable. The contribution by Harrison & Hetherington was a very generous gesture too.

"These funds will be very well received by the GNAA and will be used in helping those in need of the service in the remote areas they are so well placed to deal with."

At the Hawes Mart's big two-day sale, the champion Mule gimmer shearling from Rugby Mart was kindly donated by Banbury's Henry Tustian to be sold for the Sepsis Charity in memory of Hannah Brown. It raised a fabulous £1,000 when going to Raymond Heigh, Bentham.



Henry Tustian's ewe has made a quite a journey in her short life. Born and bred by Martin Allan near Appleby she was sold and wintered near Banbury with the Tustian Family before making a guest appearance at Rugby Auction Mart to win the individual show class. She raised over £500 in donations that day before making another star studded appearance at Hawes Auction where she found her home 'back up north' in Bentham with Raymond Heigh.

With charities nationally feeling the pinch due to the pandemic restricting fund-raising efforts, Leyburn Mart customers at various stages offered aid to The Yorkshire Air Ambulance and The UK Sepsis Trust in memory of Hannah Brown via livestock sales and other donations. At the Leyburn gimmer lamb opener, Tom An-

derson, Middleham, offered a single sheep to be sold for the UK Sepsis Trust and bought by Chris Metcalfe and family, Leighton, Masham, for £300.

Later, at the Leyburn shearling/ewes sale, Ken Thwaites, Leyburn, sold a single Texel-x shearling for the Yorkshire Air Ambulance, which was bought firstly by David Ford, Bedale, who offered the sheep again and was then sold for £165 to Richard Dent, West Burton

Charity lambs were also donated by NEMSA members at Hexham's 1st sale, when two pens of 6 were put forward, with proceeds of £1,812 again going to the Great North Air Ambulance, the first selling to judge, Mr Smith, West Shields, the second to annual buyer Dennis Jones, North Radworthy, Devon.



Northumberland Branch Representatives with Nemsa Chairman Chris Harrison and the Pen of Charity Lambs.

The Air Ambulance was again the beneficiary when £1,160 was raised at Wigton, with all marts receiving high praise from the Service for their efforts. A spokesperson said: "To enable us to continue to provide this service we must raise more than £5m each year. We couldn't continue to operate without you. Your donations will impact on the lives of people right across the region. Last year we were called out 1,640 times."

At Cockermouth, charity work was stimulated at the Mule shearling sale, with Thomas Hird, Westray, donating two Suffolk gimmer lambs sold to Anthony Spencer, Vicarage Farm, for £170 each. Anthony then put them back up for sale, this time making £140 each when purchased by Geoff Hird, Westray.

A fortnight later at the Mule gimmer lamb sale, John Ritson, Baggra Yeat, donated his sale

average of £150, while AG&KF Nicholson, Swin-side End Farm, also donated a Mule prime lamb which grossed £200.

All the above donations went to the Martyn Mawson Memorial Fundraising, which support four charities - The Great North Air Ambulance, Keswick Mountain Rescue Team, The Alzheimer's Society and Prostate Cancer UK.

At Kendal, several vendors presented lambs to be sold in aid of a number of local charities, with a £1,000 windfall the end result, while at Tow Law various vendors donated lambs, with proceeds going to the "My name's Daddie Foundation."

At Bentham there was a trio of different charities which benefitted from the generosity of vendors. AC & K Pye donated a lamb which made £850 which was donated to Ronald McDonald House. Soon after in the auction ring SJ & P Gardner donated two lambs in aid of 'Action for Well Being' which raised £750 in memory of their daughter. R & PE Hargreaves remembered Hannah Brown by donating the proceeds of their lamb to The Sepsis Trust which realised £440.



Charlotte and Chris Pye with their cheque to Ronald McDonald House which gives families a warm and comfortable place to rest, eat and relax, just moments away from their child's hospital ward. Their support is invaluable to families at a critical time in their lives.

These are just some of the prime examples of the generous gestures made by individual NEMSA branches, members and other kind-hearted individuals. There are likely more we have not been made aware of, but to all of you a massive 'well done.'



FROM THE OFFICE



WE WOULD LIKE YOUR EMAIL PLEASE

Thousands of pounds each year is spent on postage. We would like to collect the majority of members emails with a view to sending out regular newsletters and questionnaires. Tag order forms and AGM letters could also be sent via email which could free up the budget for more promotion and advertising. Please email your contact email address to Nemsa@btinternet.com. Please put your name and address in the email.

SECRETARY - LINDA

Email

nemsa@btinternet.com

Mobile / Whatsapp

0789 699 2598

KEEP IN TOUCH

As a breed secretary I am led by my committee and council, but the contact with the buyers and breeders at grassroot level is equally important in driving the society and breed forward. Please don't hesitate to phone, email, text or catch me in person at a show or sale to offer opinion and criticism.

WEARDALE BRANCH SECRETARY WEDS

Congratulations to our Weardale Secretary, Beth Collingwood, as she finally got to tie the knot with the love of her life, Stephen.



Mr and Mrs Robinson

TAGGING - BACK TO BASICS

In theory this is a simple job but don't be complacent as mis-tagging can happen. Please ensure that enough growing room is left within the loop.



BEST DRESSED

After talking to a Devon Couple, (You know who are Mr and Mrs T). They said that they would never buy any lambs off someone who didn't take pride in their own appearance. They thought it would definitely follow through to the care they gave their lambs - with this in mind this was my best dressed for 2021.



Mr Hunter, Redmire, Leyburn

NESMA MERCHANDISE

Look out on our website this Spring for our new Merchandise section where you will be able to buy your favourite items online. Jackets, Hoodies, hats and lots more.



NEMSA CONTACT DETAILS



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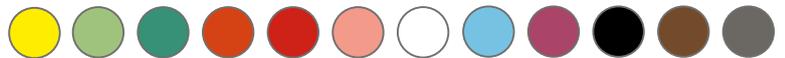
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* When ordering NEMSA sheep tags through Shearwell, NEMSA members will automatically be entered for the draw.

Prices correct November 2021. All prices exclude VAT and delivery charges.