

# MULE NEWS

Edition 35 | 2023

[www.nemsa.co.uk](http://www.nemsa.co.uk)



BRANCH REPORTS

INTERVIEWS

NEWS AND VIEWS

SHOWS AND SALES

FEATURES

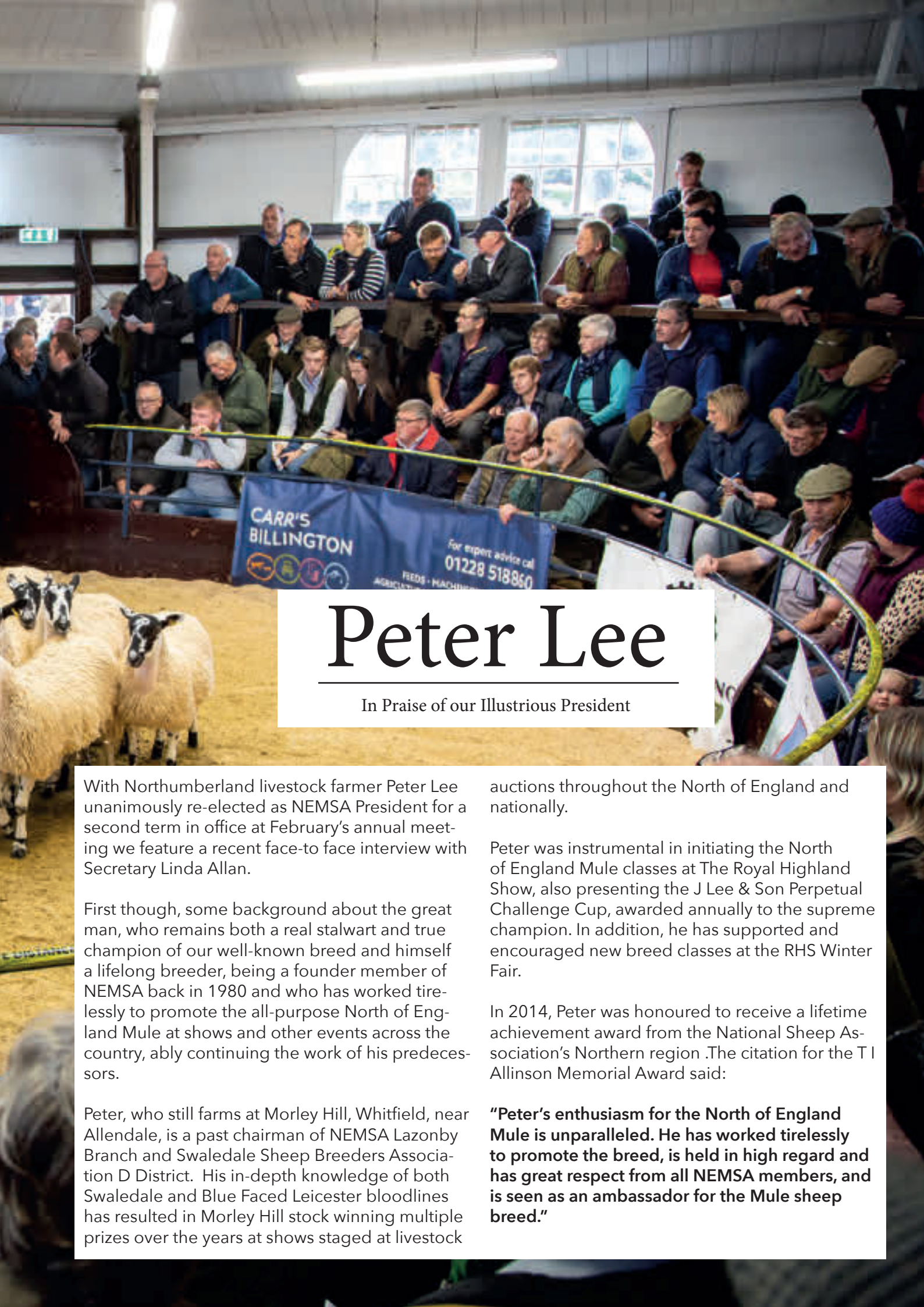


The North of England Mule is a cross-bred sheep sired by the Bluefaced Leicester ram with either a Swaledale or Northumberland type Blackface dam - all famed for their hardiness, thriftiness and longevity.

Lazonby 2022



Jonathan (Jonty) Lee, Peter's Father, pictured here in the 1980's at Lazonby Mart. Jonty Lee was one of the founder members of Nemsia and travelled the country promoting the Mule.



# Peter Lee

In Praise of our Illustrious President

With Northumberland livestock farmer Peter Lee unanimously re-elected as NEMSA President for a second term in office at February's annual meeting we feature a recent face-to-face interview with Secretary Linda Allan.

First though, some background about the great man, who remains both a real stalwart and true champion of our well-known breed and himself a lifelong breeder, being a founder member of NEMSA back in 1980 and who has worked tirelessly to promote the all-purpose North of England Mule at shows and other events across the country, ably continuing the work of his predecessors.

Peter, who still farms at Morley Hill, Whitfield, near Allendale, is a past chairman of NEMSA Lazonby Branch and Swaledale Sheep Breeders Association D District. His in-depth knowledge of both Swaledale and Blue Faced Leicester bloodlines has resulted in Morley Hill stock winning multiple prizes over the years at shows staged at livestock

auctions throughout the North of England and nationally.

Peter was instrumental in initiating the North of England Mule classes at The Royal Highland Show, also presenting the J Lee & Son Perpetual Challenge Cup, awarded annually to the supreme champion. In addition, he has supported and encouraged new breed classes at the RHS Winter Fair.

In 2014, Peter was honoured to receive a lifetime achievement award from the National Sheep Association's Northern region. The citation for the T I Allinson Memorial Award said:

**"Peter's enthusiasm for the North of England Mule is unparalleled. He has worked tirelessly to promote the breed, is held in high regard and has great respect from all NEMSA members, and is seen as an ambassador for the Mule sheep breed."**



Linda popped up to meet the man behind the legend on home turf : Peter Lee is a beef and sheep farmer on the Whitfield Estate in an area twixt Hexham and Alston. He was the eldest son born to Jonathan (Jonty) and Alice Lee. Alistair and Geoffrey followed and where Alistair farmed with Peter on the family farm it was Jeffrey who followed in his mother's footsteps and became a school teacher and subsequently a headmaster.

It was great to meet Jennifer, Peter's wife and 'perfect accompaniment.' She fills in the gaps where they appear in Peter's memory - not that it's failing, but more that it's full of so much information of people and places, sheep and cows that he has come across over his lifetime that Peter needs Jennifer to help him retrieve the info!

Peter and Jennifer were blessed with four sons. Jonathan, the eldest, lives and farms within the business, while Philip works as an actuary in London - Actuaries help leaders make strategic decisions and consumers prepare for their future. David is a civil engineer presently dealing with gas imports from the US to compensate for the Russian downturn in production. Charles is the second youngest and completes the family farm.

Peter has made the pilgrimage to The Royal Cornwall Show for over 40 years and always with his partner in crime, one of his recent predecessors as President, Randall Raine. He remembers that on his first few visits they were building Okehampton bypass where work began in 1985 and while he admits that perhaps the first five years attending the RCS appeared a waste of time events like this are difficult to gauge and experience has dictated that results aren't instant. He's well aware it take years to gain the respect and trust of farmers.



Peter showing at The Highland Show



Geoff Taylor, Peter Lee, Randall Raine at The Royal Cornwall Show



John Geldard and Peter Lee at NSA Malvern Sheep Event

Onto Peter and his family's experiences in Swaledale breeding. When they took over the neighbouring farm, Goatstones, 18 years ago, they substituted the sheep with Swaledale replacements sourced from Arthur Sowerby's flock at Mossdale. This went on for 10-15 years and now these sheep provide the backbone for their Swaledale flock.

Peter was unsure who advised him of his venture, but the following wise words have stopped with him ever since:

**"It doesn't take long to find out about Swaledale sheep, but it takes a lifetime to learn about Swaledale men!"**

While visiting the Lees it also became clear just how important the Limousin cattle breed was to Peter, In fact, he mentioned breeders like they were household celebrities and Limousin cattle brochures were in abundance around the kitchen.

Peter, alongside Geoff Carrick, and with the help of my own predecessor, Marion Hope, was instrumental in getting the North of England Mule classes to The Royal Highland Show, with Peter and Geoff both diligently tending the show classes and sheep in subsequent years. Peter recalls how, traditionally, the Association went with a breed stand within the NSA tent at a substantial cost, so having their own class appeared a natural evolution when the NSA tent stopped in that form.

I remember Marion Hope once saying:  
**"If you could cut Peter in half he would have NEMSA written right through him!"**

Peter's dedication to the sheep industry can only be compared to that of the legendary John Geldard, who has himself travelled the length and breadth of the country promoting sheep and thankfully Peter has spent his life dedicated to the NEMSA Mule.

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# 2022



ISSUE 35



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Linda Allan  
Charlotte Peart  
Wayne Hutchinson  
Adrain Legge  
Robert Smith  
John Bentley  
Mary Heard  
Julie Blacow

### CONTRIBUTERS:

Chris Harrison, Linda Allan, Robin Moule, Mary Heard, John Bentley, Wayne Hutchinson, Karl Pendlebury

### NEMSA BRANCH CHAIRMEN:

Brian Knowles  
Andrew Reed  
Thomas Carrick  
Tom Willoughby  
Clive Metcalf  
Ian Cousin  
Michael Burnop  
Ken Pears  
Willie Weatherson

ENQUIRIES TO

# 0789 699 2598

[nemsa@btinternet.com](mailto:nemsa@btinternet.com)

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A photograph from Will Riddington featuring Fotheringhay Church, Northamptonshire. Will buys his lambs at various Markets across the North of England. There is a full feature on Will on Page 64.



# CHRIS HARRISON

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## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT



I'm writing this report a week before Christmas, outside the wind is blowing as the temperature starts to rise gradually above freezing after a couple of weeks of hard frost. Frost has been a novelty this back end, I can only remember one night of frost at the end of October, November turning out to be one of the warmest on record with the grass still growing towards the end of the month. This December's prolonged hard frost is a good example of how our weather can be so fickle, in a short period of time all that grass has now disappeared! Well, what a year it has been.

NEMSA AGM took place on Monday 21st February at Hexham Mart and who would have forecasted the events that followed? By the following Thursday 24th Putin began his invasion of Ukraine and ever since this has had a huge impact on the rest of Europe with the pain felt by everyone in some way or other. It's hard to imagine what life must be like in eastern Ukraine, some days when we think things aren't going too well in our lives, just compare what we have to what the Ukrainians are going through and our lives don't seem too bad after all. As a consequence of this war the price of gas and oil have gone through the roof and inflation is in double figures and there's been a huge price hike in the cost of feed, fuel and fertiliser as we all know to our cost! You have to

think twice before you drive to the hardware shop for a bag of nails!

The summer months brought political turmoil and three Prime Ministers later we are where we are and no matter which way your political allegiances lie the country is in bit of a mess at present and it's going to take a couple of years before we see any improvement. Away from the political stuff one thing that is constant in our annual farming lives is lambing time, sheep shows and sheep sales. The usual regional and national agricultural shows took place again this year. A big thank you to everyone who helped to put these events together, the organisers, the committees, the exhibitors etc. The Mule class at these events continues to attract lots of attention, the competition and the standards were as high as ever. Well done to all concerned.

As we move into the sale season, most marts were reporting that averages were roughly £10-£20 down on 2021. NEMSA lambs averaging more than non-NEMSA lambs. Topping lamb prices didn't take as big a hit as the running lambs. Low rainfall and lack of grass in other parts of the UK were giving buyers difficult decisions to make. We had a feeling that this would be the case as news of drought conditions were continuing well into September and stocks of winter feed



were being used on sheep as well as cattle. But the buyers headed north and it was good to see familiar faces around the ringside. I must also mention the auction marts, NEMSA branches, our sponsors Shearwell Data and Eden Farm supplies and branch sponsors who held pre-sale shows, the quality of lambs on show was exceptional. All these events were recorded by Linda who must have travelled hundreds of miles to attend these events, pictures and results were usually uploaded onto social media the same day...thank you Linda, a good job really well done.

Store lambs took a hit also but once again not as much as we expected. We were expecting a drop in trade due to the drought conditions and the cost of feed making finishers a bit cautious.

Agri - Expo 2022



There are three phrases that spring to mind in situations like this, the first is ..... the buck stops with us the 2nd is pass the buck...most retailers pass their costs onto us but who can we pass ours onto? We're the last in the food chain so we have to take the hit. And the third phrase is

**.... Farming is one of the only industries that buys at retail, sells at wholesale and pays haulage both ways.**

If I was to sum up the sheep trade it would be predictable but not disastrous, bank balances helped by the advance payment of BPS, who knows what next year will bring. I cannot write this annual report without mentioning the sad loss in October of Roly Hayton. A former chairman, Roly never missed a show or NSA event, a gentleman and a true ambassador of the Mule, he'll be sorely missed.



Melton Fat Stock Show 2022  
Chris judging the Mule Gimmer Lamb Class at Melton Fat Stock Show 2022  
L/R - Chris Harrison, Don Green (holding champion sheep from Duncan Burton ) Duncan Burton; Melton Mayor - Alan Hewson and Melton Mart CEO - Hugh Brown

As I come to end of my 3 years in this post I would like to thank everyone for their support especially Marion Hope who as Secretary guided me through all the protocols in my first year and latterly Linda who has picked up the mantle and is so enthusiastic about the Association, one example of this is the new look Mule News, which, as we all can agree is a first class publication.

With Peter Lee as president, Jonathan Hodgson as the next chairman and Linda as secretary NEMSA is in good hands. I'll end by quoting Jonathan's advertising logo...You can't beat a Mule!!



Jonathan Hodgson presenting Chris with a Newcastle Utd Nemsu Football Shirt at the Nemsu AGM : February 2023

# SECRETARY'S REPORT

LINDA ALLAN

After the last Mule News the first significant event for everybody was lambing time. Barring a disease outbreak, the weather is often the determining factor between a good or bad lambing and this year Mother Nature was very kind. A barometer to our farms lambing time workload is if we must put up temporary pens in the bottom of the silo pit and this year this was avoided. I often compare lambing time to giving birth-Can go on a bit, hurts a lot and tempers can get frayed! But time is a great healer and within a short period the pain is either forgotten or blocked out and we are good to go another year!

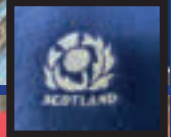


Beef expo was a new event to be represented by Nemsas and it was to be my first event in Secretarial residency. Held at the new Auction Mart in Darlington, we were first struck on arrival at the hoard of animal right protesters at the gate. Some farmers engaged in and mostly ignored. It emerged through the day that many of the protesters are paid for their services and although I am sure that there were genuine protesters present who felt strongly enough to get their voices heard it did make a mockery of the protest when their demonstration was manned by paid thugs. The event was well supported, and it gave us the opportunity to meet members and buyers. Many thanks to Peter Brown from Cordilleras Farm, Richmond for kindly supplying the sheep for the stand.



Scot sheep was the next event on the agenda and this led my companions and I . Chris Harrison, Jonathan Hodgson and Brian Knowles into an area of Scotland previously uncharted by the Allan family. Dundee is perhaps best known for being the home of publishers DC Thomson and Son Ltd which produced The Beano and Dandy. The landscape had quite a European feel with acres of Strawberry and other soft fruit lining the roadside of this fertile area. It was only 15 mins the other side of Dundee where the host farm was situated and proved a fabulous venue for the event. Chris Harrison was quick to spot one of Scotland's farming celebrities and it was great to meet him alongside regular Nemsa Buyers. Perhaps we have new customers for our sheep and lambs in the future. Many thanks to Malcolm Robinson and Family from Mountain View near Kendal for kindly loaning us the the two hoggs with Suffolk lambs.

Picture - Ian Stark with Frazer Stark , farms in Perthshire with 250 Nemsa mule ewes crossed with the Beltex alongside 140 calving sucklers - George McFadzean (right). It was also great to Meet John Vipond who is the brother of previous secretary Dorothy Bell who among other things set up the Highland Mule Association.



The Malvern NSA event is held every two years. A special thanks to Michael Burnop and partner, Rachel Davidson for taking the sheep and the hexagonal sheep pens down the day before and helping to get set up. The sheep were supplied by Skipton and Hawes Branch Gavin White's 3 mule gimmer lambs, a ewe with two lambs from Dan Stockdale and hogg and lamb from D & J Coates, Pot Haw Farm, Coniston Cold- Many thanks to Gavin White, Tom Willoughby, Will Sedgely from Hawes Branch and Michael Burnop, Alistair Lawn, Tom Walker, and Dan Stockdale from Skipton Branch. The weather was still hot and for many of us 'Northerners' it was the first glimpse of the scorched grass and this was the theme for the show , many commented on the extreme weather and just hoping the weather would change before the ewe lamb sale season started. The event was well attended and it was great to see so many old and new customers at the stand. Many Auctions from the North have the own stands and many thanks to those who bring the Nemsa mule down as their showcase animal.

The drought conditions that dominated the conversations at Malvern meant that the Shearling sales down south were coming around all too quickly. Exeter's main shearlings sale was held at

the beginning of August and had an average of £164 which was £13 back on the year. Full report is available on page X

To continue my busman's holiday, I popped in at Honeybourne store lamb fair. Not that long ago the auctioneer stood on a cart that was pulled by a horse as it went up and down the sheep lines selling the lambs pen by pen. The horse and cart are now replaced by a pick up.

The Honeybourne lamb sale is held on the first Wednesday of August near to the village of Honeybourne. The sale which has been held for many decades attracts app. 7,000 lambs from producers within a twenty-mile radius of the sale site. This is one of the first store lamb sales of the season and usually sets the trade for the forthcoming autumn period. Producers follow family traditions from generation to generation to sell most of their lambs on one day with many selling from 400-900 lambs on the sale day. Thame sheep fair followed, now split into two days with the Mule shearlings and older ewes now finding their place on the Friday. The NE Mule average beat the odds and remained the same average as last year.



## MALVERN NSA EVENT 2022



## PROUD TO HOST A WELSH YFC TOURING PARTY

In October, at our farm in Killington, we hosted a group of Welsh Young Farmers. Unfortunately the 52 seater bus couldn't get down our lane so we had to compromise by loaded them into the back of the cattle trailer! We explained the Nemsu Stratification story and they were amazed at the lambing percentage of the Swales. The group was led by Lee Pritchard ( Pictured far right) who headed a group of enthusiastic young farmers from across Wales.



The ewe lambs' sales began and I tried to visit as many centres as possible to their first sales. I visited the first sales with trepidation, the Hexham sale held its own but I think many were waiting to get a proper feel for trade from Skipton. It still hadn't rained, feed prices were set to astronomical in the back end and with many drought ridden areas already eating into their winter crop, the prognosis wasn't good. But it came back with a respectable average of X. Things seem to settle down, the buyers knew what to expect from the sales, the averages weren't scaring people away and the wheels of the bus didn't fall off! Many thanks to individuals and auctioneers who made the effort to supply grass keep for regular buyers. We got through the season with the majority of lambs finding homes.

I have completed my first full year now and I'm still learning a lot and meeting new people all the time. I have always done the farm books but never actually been a secretary as such so learning new skills in that department as well. Looking forward to the year ahead. My thanks as always to our two main Sponsors, Shearwell and Eden Farm Supplies.



## EDEN FARM SUPPLIES (BROUGH) LTD

Eden Farm Supplies (Brough) Ltd have had a busy 12 months and have thoroughly enjoyed supporting NEMSA at some of their sales and shows. It has been a privilege watching both old and new customers strive forward in the breeding of the North of England Mule and to see many new names beginning to appear in sale reports around the region.

It was also fantastic to see the agricultural shows back in full swing last year, providing a perfect opportunity to showcase all of your hard work. The stock on show at both these and the auctions was a credit to you all.

As a company we continue to cover much of the North of England with branches at Penrith, Bentham, Darlington and Leyburn as well as the main shop in Winton near Kirkby Stephen. Our reps travel all of these areas daily and would love to support you with all your farming needs. Contact numbers can be obtained from our main store on 01768371458 or via our website at [www.edenfarmsupplies.co.uk](http://www.edenfarmsupplies.co.uk)

We wish all customers old and new the best of luck for lambing time and can't wait to see the fruits of your labour at future sales and shows. We look forward to continuing our relationship with NEMSA and once again supporting the society over the year ahead.

# SHEARLING SALES

## NORTH OF ENGLAND MARTS



### HAWES

#### Mule Shearling Show Results

Judged by Stephen & James Dixon  
1st JR & LA Capstick, Killington £240  
2nd JR & LA Capstick, Killington £218  
3rd WA Towler, Clitheroe £220  
*Mule Shearling Average £181.30*

### NWA LANCASTER



The pre-sale show judged by Stuart and Ellie Garth, Bleasdale. The championship rosette was awarded to the first prize pen of Mules from P&M

Crackles, Burrow which went on to sell for £210 purchased by the judge. The sale saw a two tier trade with good quality sheep in big demand with purchasers looking to buy shearlings that had lambed and been double abortion vaccinated. Second quality sheep were met with selective demand, as many purchasers were willing to pay that little bit extra for quality.

### NWA J36



The trade throughout the sale was buoyant with people looking to purchase quality replacement sheep. The presale show saw a wonderful offering of Mule gimmer shearlings with the quality on offer a credit to the vendors.

#### Mule Shearling Show Results

Judged by Ian Dixon, Low Newton and Charlie Lines, Buckinghamshire  
1st J Robinson and Z Ward, Nether Kellet ( £280)  
2nd J Robinson and Z Ward, Nether Kellet ( £300)  
3rd JK&BE Townley, Brookhouse (£250)  
*Mule Shearling Average £176.00 (-£1.37)*

It was heartwarming to see that trade for Mule Shearlings and Ewes held to last years trade with only slight fluctuations on the year. It was reported to have been said that:

**“Mule Shearlings have never been as good to sell.”**

Robin Moule concluded from the CCM Skipton sale that “The opening annual prize show and sale of gimmer shearlings attracted one of the largest crowds of customers seen ringside for several years.” Penrith Auction also noticed an improvement on both the quality of sheep forward and the number of buyers. “One of the finest shows of breeding sheep imaginable was forward to the busiest ringside of buyers present for a lot of years, all keen to purchase grazing stock from local well-established flocks.”

Penrith’s report also reflected what was a common theme throughout the Shearling and Ewe sales:

**“A shortage of good sheep that had reared lambs and were double-vaccinated for abortion with many more required to fulfil demand.”**

### **J36 Report continues:**

The Mule gimmer shearling trade saw a busy ring of buyers ensuring all types of sheep were well bid on. It was noted that sheep that had lambed which were double abortion vaccinated were in most demand with people looking for powerful sheep following on from a good trade throughout the summer in the cast ewe ring.

Phil Mulcaster, Ulverston very kindly donated two Mule gimmer shearlings to be sold for the Crook Young Farmers Charity raising money for Blood Cancer research which raised £1000 for this worthy cause, a big thank you to all the bidders and under bidders.

### **BENTHAM**



#### **Mule Ewe Show Results**

Judged by David Buck, Barnard Castle

1st: Fox farms, Clitheroe (£215)

2nd: T & S Binns, (£208)

3rd: M & Y Barker (£190)

A mixed entry of quality throughout all sections saw the 'character' lots good to sell and second quality sheep harder to place, mainly due to several Southern buyers waiting for the grass to grow. Best of the 1 crop ewes £160-£180 with lesser types £130+. Older Mule ewes depending on age £110-£130 with a few below £100.

Saturday Shearlings



#### **Mule Shearling Show Results**

Judged by Graham Humphries, Brackley & David Whitwell, Eldroth

1st Robinson & Ward £410

2nd Robinson & Ward £315

3rd BW & C Lawson £315

4th DW & DM Elliott £290

5th C Hewitt £355

Auctioneer's Report (Stephen Dennis): The Great Annual Show & Sale of Gimmer Shearlings saw 6745 sheep go under the hammer in front of a busy and enthusiastic audience. Buyers from Aberdeenshire and to the Isle of Wight were treated to an outstanding show of sheep. Quality sheep were in high demand with over 58 pens of Mules exceeding £200 with the whole section averaging £177.28 (up £3.28 on the year). Auctioneer Stephen Dennis commented that throughout the sale, for all breeds, quality sheep were particularly well sought after whilst second quality sheep were harder to place as a result of absent buyers from Southern & Eastern drought affected areas.

### **SKIPTON**

#### **Mule Shearling Show Results**

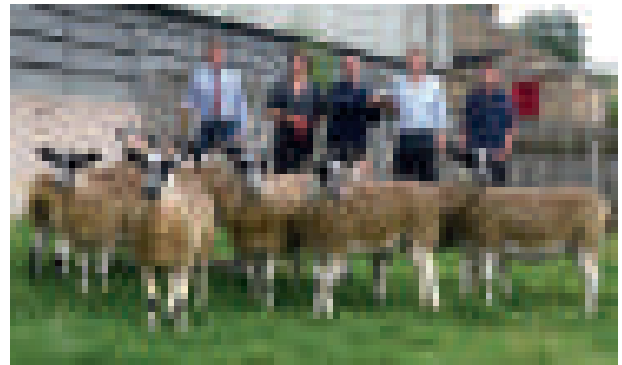
Judged by Jon Frankland & Angus Dean

1st WA VJ JA Towler (£260 )

2nd Amy Wilson (£270)

3rd Fox Farms (£255)

*Mule Shearlings av £176.85 +£1.28*



Mules were a very sharp trade, continuing to sell very well right to the very last pen. Across the board, Mule buyers bid strongly for pens vaccinated against Enzootic Abortion and Toxicosis, with additional buyers looking for sheep which were treated with Footvax. Most of the fully vaccinated pens sailing away from £180 into the £200s



#### **2nd sale Mule Shearling Show Results**

Judge - I Lancaster

1st: T&S Binns (£230)

2nd: JE Thwaite (£215)

3rd: T&S Binns (£220)

## BARNARD CASTLE

A tremendous show of sheep was presented to a packed ringside of buyers, with 82 purchasers being registered on the day a tremendous trade was achieved for all classes of stock.



### Mule Shearlings Show Results

Judged by Wayne Dalton & Richard Dale

1st AC Hill & Son, Northallerton - £215

2nd S Plumb, Farndale - £208

3rd AC Hill & Son, Northallerton - £212

*Mule Shearlings averaged £177 (+£6)*

## CARLISLE / LAZONBY

On Thursday 8th September Harrison & Hetherington saw a smaller show of mule gimmer shearlings which saw an intense trade throughout as buyers battled to secure this year's crop of breeding sheep, on the whole sheep were turned out in good bloom, the top end looked the best value with the middle run looking exceptionally dear resulting in a sale average of £184.54 which is a remarkable £11.66 up on last years' sale. The pre-sale show was kindly judged by Phil, Mike and Simon Wood, Kinnerton who awarded the overall champion to Adam and Jack Lawson, Hundith House which sold for £200 a head to the judge. The top price of the day was £222 for a fabulous pen of 20 shown by Messrs Harrison, The Sceugh Farm which also sold to Messrs Wood.

## COCKERMOUTH

The sale got under way with the regular aged ewe section, which set the tone for the rest of the day. Trade was fast and furious throughout with a huge ring side of buyers which had travelled from all four corners of the country.

The championship rosette was awarded to the first prize mule 2 shear ewes from JM Mawson, Holebeck.

Receiving the Bill Skelton Memorial trophy was the first prize pen of mule shearlings from J&D Mattinson, Cragg Farm.

## Show Results

Judged by : Miss Emma Jackson, Gosforth and Mr Andrew Etches, Buxton



### Mule 2 Shear or above

1st JM Mawson, Hole Beck

2nd W&E Gate, Rook Farm

3rd M/s Batty, Flimby Hall

### Mule Shearlings

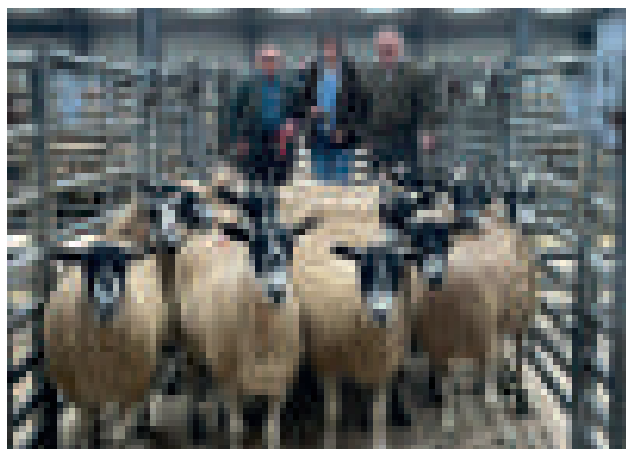
1st J&D Mattinson, Cragg Farm

2nd JM Mawson, Hole Beck

3rd T Hird, Westray Farm

## PENRITH TUESDAY 6TH SEPTEMBER

The Mule 2-shear section attracted the largest buzz and trade of any on the day, with numerous annual buyers returning to secure some of the best stock possible, topping at £240 for the champion pen of bold, strong boned sheep with great character and strength from Mr BW Hewitson, Shatton Lodge, whose consignment of 300 averaged £197.98. A total of 13 pens sold in excess of £200 with Messrs W & R Lawson, Stubbsgill, averaging £203.56,



Three shear ewes sold regularly in excess of £150, topping at £180 per head for a pen of 20 hand-picked, exceptional sheep from Messrs JJ & A Brough, The Clappers,



**Show Results;  
Mule '2' Shears**

Judge: Mr A Layfield, Crook

1st Mr BW Hewitson, Shatton Lodge Farm (£240)

2nd Messrs W & R Lawson, Stubbsgill (£235)

3rd Mr BW Hewitson, Shatton Lodge Farm (£210)



**Mule Shearlings**

Judge: Mr A Mitchell, Skelton

1st S Ridley, Half Thwaite House (£230)

2nd TR & PE Little, Low Moor Dyke (£200)

3rd M Ridsdale & Son, Yew Tree Farm (£195)

*Sale Averages:*

*Mule Shearlings £177.82; Mule 2 Shears £179.00;*

*Mule 3 Shears £151.89.*

**HEXHAM**

Mule Gimmer trade on the day started sticky but grew in stature and turned into flyers as the sale went on. It bucked the trade of other centres and sold to an average that was £5 dearer than last year. As previous years, gimmers that had reared lambs sold to a premium, Mr F S Vickers, Rennington South brought his usual stamp of quality and sold gimmers that had sucked lambs to £242.00 and went on to sell an outstanding run of 175 to average £220.79!



Remarkably, fifteen pens, made up of both Ex Swaledale and Ex Blackface Mules broke the £220.00 barrier.



**Mule Shearling Show Results**

**Mule Gimmer Ex Blackface (Reared Lambs)**

1st Prize : Mr FS Vickers, Rennington

2nd Prize : Mr FS Vickers, Rennington

**Mule Gimmer Ex Blackface (Not Reared Lambs)**

1st M/s Telford, Branton East Side

2nd Mr RS Walton, Coatyards

**Mule Gimmer Ex Swaledale (Not reared lambs)**

1st M/s Walton, Coatyards (£242)

2nd M/s Dods, Denham Mill

Champion-R W & K Telford, Branton East Side

Reserve Champion-Mr R S Walton, Coatyards

**LEYBURN**

Despite the droughty conditions shearlings were shown in good form as consignors had done their best to bring the sheep out in their usual top order.

**Mule Shearling Show Result**

Judged by Mark Dale of Goole and Robbie Dalton, Barnard Castle

1st : Lowesby Farms, Leicestershire (£210)

2nd: Lowesby Farms, Leicestershire (£205)

3rd: Clive Simpson (£185)

*Mules Shearlings averaged £174 (+9)*

The run of 184 sheep from Lowesby Farms averaged £196 up £13.



# KILNSEY SHOW

Judges: John Reed and Michael Burnop

## Best Single Mule Gimmer Lamb

- 1st W & D Lawson & Son
- 2nd WA & A Booth
- 3rd WC Porter & Son
- 4th WC Porter & Son
- 5th G White

## Best Pair of Mule Gimmer Lambs

- 1st WC Porter & Son
- 2nd WA & A Booth
- 3rd W & D Lawson & Son
- 4th W & D Lawson & Son
- 5th WC Porter & Son

## Best Pen of 6 Gimmer Lambs

- 1st WC Porter & Son
- 2nd G White
- 3rd WA & A Booth
- 4th W & D Lawson & Son

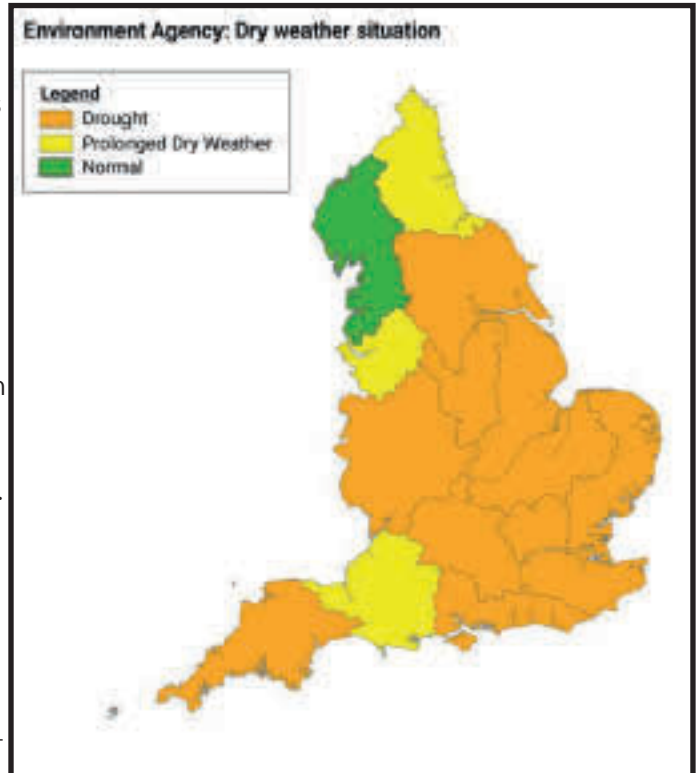




# SHEARLING SALES

## SOUTHERN MARTS

This year's drought has been compared to the summer of 1976, the big difference being that '76 was a nationwide drought where the North of England was equally affected as the south. The map to the right shows how the different areas were affected as of August 2022. The Northwest had normal rainfall which has thankfully held the shearing trade holding up across Northern Marts. The Southern marts tell a different story and with the majority of Nems Gimmer Lambs normally heading south the knock on effects to the Ewe lamb trade would be evident. The branch reports unanimously count a drop on the year with vendors fluctuating between £5 and £20 down on the year and extreme cases report a greater shortfall. We cannot underestimate the strong relationship we have and need to maintain with Southern farmers. The weather has been the determining factor in this year's trade is very much out of our control and as Tom Wrench from Rugby states "Trade an honest reflection of Farming conditions with the Weather and the top three inches of the land we farm currently reminding all whom is in control."



The summer drought had led to poorer scanning percentages which mean the after effects could be seen well into next season. Simon Draper from Thame Farmers Mart commented "The news from the scanning teams is that results are mediocre at best with plenty of March lambers scanning 160 to 180% rather than the usual 200%. Potential purchasers are likely to have less money in their pocket to spend if they have less sheep to sell. We will have a better idea of cull values after the April Muslim festival. Trading will be interesting."

### EXETER

'A larger entry of Mule shearlings were as expected harder work to sell but overall no disaster with vendors of the best more than happy with their efforts whilst the good farming sorts were often £165 to £175 if vendors were willing to sell and there was very little less than £150 today despite several lean sheep forward.

Given the circumstances a clearance rate of 85% and overall average of £164, back £13 on the year is a pleasing result. Judging this year was in the capable hands of David Chugg of Barnstaple who had the unenviable task of sorting through the best sheep and finally awarded champion pen to one of Emily Pearse of Crediton's fine run of eye catching pens.'

*Russell Steer*

### SHOW RESULTS

- 1st Emily Pearse, Crediton (£212)
- 2nd Maurice & Doreen Hockridge, Crediton (£195)
- 3rd Tony Dallyn, Barnstaple (£195)



Emily Pearse pictured here with her Champion Sheep and Judge David Chugg

## THAME

The terribly dry conditions experienced in the south of England, including Oxfordshire were a huge concern to all involved and the effect the weather could have on trade. Considering the lack of grass, sheep kept their condition, which was reflected in the trade, averages were close to last year's records in most breeds Friday's sale centered around North of England Mules both theaves and older ewes. Henry Tustian of J H Tustian took the Mule trophy for his run of 60 plus lambed sheep topping the section at £225.00 and £220.00.



Phot by Greg Knight, Rural Shots

Davis Morris of P L Morris followed at £205.00 and Chris and David Hunt £198.00. Messrs. G E Haynes and Son sold at £196.00 and Will Allan £195.00. Dry sheep peaked at £195.00 for a strong pen from A Olorenshaw who also sold pens for £192.00 Messrs. Thorncombe Park also sold at £192.00 Mule double theaves sold to £170.00 from F C Lester & Son. Messrs. A Pearson and Son sold their usual run of 5 crop ewes to £155.00 for 3 pens while Stephen Shed took £152.00 for his pen.

N C Mules topped at £225.00 to average £171.00 which was the same as last year



## RUGBY

The Annual August Fair saw a nice yarding in numbers of genuine Sheep. Talk of the day quite obviously the drought we have witnessed and the effects starting to show in the sheep with quality and bloom markedly down on the year. Thankfully a large number of travelled buyers this year with Welsh and Northern Counties taking a large proportion of sheep to graze the flush of grass they are now witnessing. Aged Ewes were very hard sell with limited interest topping at £140 for 6t NCM from Jonjoe Morris. As ever this fixture sees the annual Show and Sale of NEMSA North Country Mules Theaves on behalf of the NEMSA Hawes branch. Our thanks to Will Sedgley Judging on behalf of the North and to Phillipa Batchelor and nephew Ted Tutton representing the South together with all the prize sponsors.



## SHOW RESULTS

### Pens of 20

- 1st J & H Tustian, Epwell (£300)
- 2nd J & H Tustian, Epwell (£221)
- 3rd J Morris, Yelvertoft (£202)

### Singles

- 1st AR & J Collett, Culworth (£230)
- 2nd W H Allan, Hornton - Of special note a massive thank you to Will and Britney of W H Allan whom donated their 2nd place Single in Memory of Len Eadon making an amazing £2655
- 3rd J & H Tustian, Epwell (£222)

A large proportion of the Mules today selling to travelled customers with large proportions going back to Wales and Scottish Borders in search of grass. Best end sheep a swift trade and regularly hovering either side of £200. Theaves having lambed and being in good condition the favoured commodity with those having lambed and weathered badly being the largest drop on the year. Ran dry sheep well chased for best end sorts albeit second quality a harder sell with £150 seemingly the cap on these.

Champion Pen of 10 from  
RH & C Ayrton, Ouzelthorn Farm



## NWA J36 RURAL AUCTION CENTRE

KENDAL CHAIRMAN'S REPORT by Brian Knowles



As I sit down and write my first report as Chairman of the Kendal Branch, the temperature is minus 9 degrees, a far cry from the Summer when we were attending sheep events and shows with the temperatures in the mid thirties. So much for global warming! We attended many events during the year, including Scotsheep at Dundee, NSA Event at Malvern, Thame Sheep Fair, Blakesley Show and Oakhampton Show. The main topic was the weather but optimism was high for the Nems Mule as long as the rain would come.

Kendal Branch Show and Sales starting with the renowned 'Stars in Their Eyes' class at J36, which goes from strength to strength. With a ring full of people and going 'live' on Facebook, it was judged in the capable hands of the Geary Family.

Stars in their Eyes Results ( Individual Lamb):

- 1st Inman Family, Strickland Hill
- 2nd T.L.B & J Knowles, High Borrow Bridge
- 3rd AC & K Pye, Dunkenshaw
- 4th J & JA Burrow, Thursgill
- 5th Messrs Hodgson, High Borrans
- 6th D & CE Martson, Easgill Farm

The champion lamb went on to sell that evening



for £720 with proceeds going to the Christies Charity Fund. Thanks must go the Inman Family for this.

We then moved onto the pens of 10s and 20s. Our judges Mr Joe Townley, Caton and Mr Ashley Purchase, Barnstaple had a very daunting task with Pens of top quality lambs out to show.

Pens of 10 Gimmer Lambs:

- 1st RH & C Ayrton, Ouzelthorn Farm
- 2nd S Allan & Sons, Greenhow
- 3rd RI Dixon, Low Newton Farm
- 4th JA & CA Gibson, Longwell
- 5th T Ayrton & Sons, Yates Farm
- 6th T Ayrton & Sons, Yates Farm



Pens of 20 Gimmer Lambs:

- 1st A & H Watson, Middleton Hall
- 2nd S Allan & Sons, Greenhow
- 3rd PE & M Capstick, Whicham Hall
- 4th AC & K Pye, Dunkenshaw
- 5th TA & J Dixon, Yoad Pot
- 6th Inman Family, Strickland Hill

Then came the morning of the sale, a very good show of lambs once again. Many good full runs of lambs looking really well considering the ever-increasing costs to get them to this stage.

The Bruce Willison Trophy for the best run of lambs was won by RH&C Ayrton, well done to them. The sale average was £117.86 which was down £7 on the year, which seemed to be on a par for most sales.



WAYNE HUTCHINSON PHOTOGRAPHY

Kendal Branch Report Continues Overleaf

**NWA Lancaster Auction Mart**

Wyresdale Road, Lancaster, Lancashire

LA1 3JQ

Telephone: 01524 63308



**NWA J36 Rural Auction Centre**

Crooklands, Milnthorpe, Cumbria

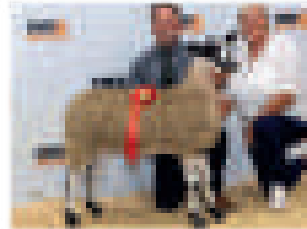
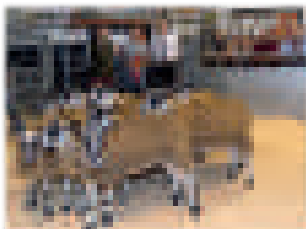
LA7 7FP

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## 15,000 GIMMER LAMBS SOLD THIS AUTUMN

from The Lakeland Hills, Yorkshire Dales & The Trough of Bowland

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 9th September at J36 Rural Auction Centre - 8000 North of England Mule Gimmer Lambs**

**Wednesday 13th September at Lancaster Auction Mart - 3000 Mule, Masham & Continental Gimmer lambs to inc NEMSA Lambs**

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Champion Pen of 10 from  
T Ayrton & Sons, Yates Farm



## LANCASTER AUCTION MART

"A great quality yarding of lambs forward at Lancaster saw many familiar faces ringside as well as fresh travelled buyers all commenting on the quality of lambs on offer. It was great to see all specification of lambs well bid on with all vendors leaving well pleased on a difficult year." Ian Atkinson

Kendal Branch Report Continued....

North West Auctions Lancaster were proud to host it's annual show and sale of 1500 Mule gimmer lambs, consisting of a large quantity of NEMSA lambs. The sale was again attracting a busy ring side of local and travelled buyers whom where impressed with the quality and size of lamb on offer with an overall market average of £120.33 (down £5 on the year).

"I would like to thank all vendors and buyers for making this a successful sale and hope all lambs go on and do well for everyone."

Finally, I would like to thank all branch members, judges, sponsors, buyers, NWA staff especially the auctioneers for all their hard work and without you all we would not have a sale.

Here's to a good 2023.

Brian Knowles, Kendal Branch Chairman



### SHOW RESULTS

Judges: Andrew Geary, Milton Keynes  
and Derek Clarke, Barnacre

Pen of 10 Mule Gimmer Lambs

- 1st T Ayrton & Sons
- 2nd AC&K Pye
- 3rd W&A Cornall
- 4th B&SE Carter

Pen 20 Mule Gimmer Lambs

- 1st W&A Cornall
- 2nd W&A Cornall
- 3rd RH&C Ayrton
- 4th T Ayrton & Sons

# MACKINTOSH

Robert & Angus Mackintosh, Manor Farm, Milborne Wicks.

Article and Photographs by Wayne Hutchinson

Deep in the heart of the Dorset countryside, there is a small enclave which will always be a bit “Northern” as Robert Mackintosh and his son Angus run Manor Farm in the picturesque hamlet of Milborne Wick.

Solely stocked with North of England Mules and their offspring. Robert has been heading North to buy his sheep since 1975 after seeing some mules and recognising the commercial attributes of this versatile sheep.

“Quite simply he still hasn’t seen anything that can beat it for doing its job.”

Roberts father, Ian, bought Manor Farm in 1955 when it was a crumbling of family Estate and over the years since Robert and then more lately, son Angus have farmed it themselves and now run 500 mules ewes and 100 hogs as well as retaining 70-80 Suffolk’s out of the mule ewes after selecting the best to sell as gimmer lambs and gimmer shearlings, selling through Exeter and Hereford auction marts as they feel it is important to support the live auction marts. Last year their Suffolk gimmer lambs at Hereford won first prize out of the 8000 head sold there, topping at £210.

Robert’s dedication and belief in the North of England mule after initially buying them back in the mid 70’s saw him buy for others down in the area and at one point he was fetching back 5-6000 mule gimmers from the sales centres in the North, buying from Applebly, Carlisle, Lazonby and Hawes, building up many friendships which endure to this day. This comradeship is another factor to the dedication to the Mule as the community at the marts

is good, with great company around and within the ring, where people all talk the same language..... “sheep”.

When buying their gimmer lambs, they look for a long, clean sheep with a sharp head and good skin, and as much power as they can. They buy to a budget so aren’t buying all the first pens, but lambs that they feel will blossom out into good ewes. These types of sheep carry and rear two lambs with ease, milk and mother well, with lambs either to the Texel or Suffolk growing quickly, swelling out to make good fat lambs without much intervention.

“They are, they feel, the original easy-care sheep. Other breeds make the claim, but the North of England Mule, does it all, and has done year after year.”

Fat lambs are sold through Exeter or Sedgemoor markets, again, supporting the live markets as they feel this is the best way to sell stock. The first lambs are selected as soon as they can, selling the early lambs once they reach 39kgs. They aim for the heavy lamb market and with the fast-growing Suffolk they soon hit 50kg and above. With all the gimmer hogs lambing and ewes bringing up two lambs apiece, its quick to see just how well the North of England mule does for them. Combined with the friendships and contacts built over the last 40+ years there seems to be no reason to break up a tried and tested method. If there’s one thing certain in these uncertain times, its that the North of England mule continues to be the best in the business.



GIMMER LAMB SALES 2022

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## SHEARWELL PRIZE DRAW

Every Year, Richard Webber travels north to personally deliver his sponsorship cheque and also do the Annual Prize Draw which gives a lucky member from each branch a £250 Shearwell Voucher. The Lucky people are this year :

Skipton Branch	Teesdale Branch, J Dickeson, Harker Springs
Northumberland Branch	DA & MA Teasdale, Grindon Hill
West Cumbria Branch	T Davidson, Bell Mount
Lazonby Branch	WI Foster, Combe Cragg
Kendal Branch	JS Atkinson, Syke Farm
Weardale branch	WA Watson , West Newlands
Kirkby Stephen Branch	K Fawcett, Rakestraw Barn
Hawes Branch	JR & LA Capstick, Beckside,



Richard Webber, (Center) with his family

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# KIRKBY STEPHEN AUCTION MART

## KIRKBY STEPHEN BRANCH REPORT

By Ian Cousin, Branch Chair

Our Year promoting the Nemsu Mule began in June when The Kirkby Stephen Branch, along with Lazonby, made the annual pilgrimage to the Royal Cornwall Show. Old friendships were rekindled and New Acquaintances made.



## SHOW RESULTS

Judges: Miss Emily Pearse, Crediton & Mr Chris Hewitt, Lancaster  
Referee: Mr Thomas Hird, Cockermouth

Class 1 - 10 Lambs open to all vendors

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

Class 2 - Restricted to Members of Kirkby Stephen NEMSA Branch presenting no more than 200 lambs.

- 1st P Brown, Oak House
- 2nd G Stephenson, The Gables
- 3rd D Curr & Son, Bowderdale
- 4th D Alderson, Cackleberry
- 5th C Hancock, Uldale



Fast forward to September, the presale show was well supported by onlookers and exhibitors. The Brown family from Asby Hall took the overall championship with their first prize pen from the large breeders. Paul Brown won the small breeders, and new Nemsa Member Charles Hancock from Uldale took a 5th prize in his first time showing. Many thanks to all for their continued support in this event. The sale day brought 9000 lambs forward to average £119.29 which was a very respectable £6 down on the year.

The well attended Branch AGM at held at the beginning of February gave us the opportunity to have a minutes silence in memory of Roly Hayton. Roly will be sadly missed and was a 'proper Mule Man'. We also took the opportunity to remember other colleagues from the branch who had passed in recent years. Alan Birbeck and Mark Jenkinson's dad were among these. Long standing Branch member Geoff Taylor was thanked for his time as President where he relinquished his role to Peter Lee in February 2022

Peter Pratt used the AGM to present his new Trophy for 'The Best Run' to Geoff Taylor and family . The first time that this branch competition was run was judged on the Sale day by Kevin Wilson and his son, James.



Cornwall Show 2022





The welcome return of this year's Royal Highland Show – celebrating a milestone 200 years of showcasing the best of the country's food, farming and rural life – saw the Elliott family, of Bank House, Mungrisdale, stand NEMSA Show champions with their first prize North of England Mule gimmer hogg, receiving the coveted J Lee & Son Perpetual Challenge Cup, presented by NEMSA's national vice-chairman Jonathan Hodgson at the Swaledale barbeque that evening.

The Elliotts – husband and wife, Philip and Denise, who run the farm in partnership with Philip's parents, David and Mary, and daughters Charlotte and Grace – took top billing with a gimmer hogg by West Biggins N10 from John Reed, himself a son of Highberries H2.

RHS reserve champions in 2017, 2018 and 2019, when the iconic show was last staged, the Elliotts had another excellent day at the 2022 renewal, also finishing runners-up in the geld hogg show class, as well as taking first and second in the ewe/shearling with two lambs at foot class, plus runner-up in the hogg and lamb class.

The family are long-serving NEMSA members, buying in up to 150 Mule gimmer lambs annually at official Association sales across their region, putting them to Texel-x tups and retaining all the ewe lambs in their 850-strong Texel-x-Mule flock, while selling all their Mules as shearlings the following year.

Julie Brough, Langrigg, was again among the prizes, both winning and also finishing third in the hogg with lamb show class – the red rosette-winning duo also tapped out as RHS reserve champions, while Neil Marston's Millstone Moor flock, Cockermonth, RHS supreme champion in both 2018 and 2019, secured the red rosette in the ewe lamb show class, also standing fifth.

The 2022 RHS attracted another solid and high quality entry across the four show classes, which were judged by Geoffrey Porter, Riddings. Worthy of special mention are the Geary family, first-time exhibitors all the way from Milton Keynes. A delighted Andrew Geary said afterwards: "I fulfilled a 20 year aspiration to show at the Highland. Best show I've ever been to by a long way! Hopefully we'll go again one day."

A mention, too, for past exhibitor Robert Marrs, who was showing for the first time in the ewe lamb class. He expressed himself "delighted" with his debut 4th placing.  
Article by Robin Moule





# THE HIGHLAND SHOW

Judge : Geoffey Porter



## RESULTS

Champion : M/s Elliot with their Geld Hogg  
 Reserve Champion : Julie Brough with the Hogg and Lamb

CLASS 1: Ewe/ Shearling with two lambs at foot

- 1st: M/s Elliot
- 2nd: M/s Elliot
- 3rd: M/s Geary
- 4th: M/s Geary
- 5th: M/s Marrs
- 6th: T Common & Sons

CLASS 2 : Ewe Lamb

- 1st : M/s Marston
- 2nd: MW & CM Ridley
- 3rd: MW & CM Ridley
- 4th: M/s Marrs
- 5th: M/s Marston
- 6th: MP Burnop

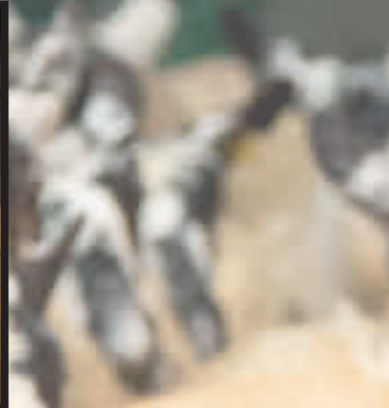
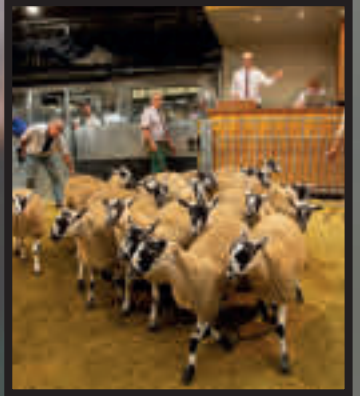


CLASS 2: Hogg and Lamb

- 1st : JJ & A Brough
- 2nd: M/s Elliot
- 3rd: JJ & A Brough
- 4th: Amy Wilson
- 5th: D & M Buck
- 6th: M/s Common

CLASS 4 :Geld Mule Hogg

- 1st: M/s Elliot
- 2nd: M/s Elliot
- 3rd: D & M Buck
- 4th: Amy Wilson
- 5th: M/s Geary
- 6th: M/s Geary



CCM Auctions conducted their opening Fortnightly Show and Sale of NEMSA members Mule Gimmer Lambs at Skipton Auction Mart on Tuesday 6th September with 4,898 sold.

The pre sale prize show was well supported as usual with excellent quality present in both sections. A decent average of £123.33 was recorded for today's sale, representing a fall of £7.02 on the year, a year in which weather conditions and availability of grazing were forecast to have an effect on demand for lambs from Southern and Eastern customers.

The sale saw a sluggish early start as customers looked to gauge trade, but quickly the ringside filled up with many regular travelled buyers from across the English Counties present and lambs were in the main a decent trade, some vendors reporting sale averages up or similar, whilst some seeing sale averages down.

The Walker Family with their Champion Pen of Ten



# SKIPTON AUCTION MART

## 1st GIMMER LAMB SALE



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

### SHOW RESULTS

Best Pen of 10

Judges: Mr William Oldfield & Miss Emily Pearse

- 1st JC Walker & Son, Dunsop Bridge
- 2nd CD&RF Kitching, Threshfield
- 3rd CM Ryder & Son, Blubberhouses
- 4th JK Wilson & Son, Blubberhouses
- 5th AJ Mason, Embsay
- 6th JC Walker & Son, Dunsop Bridge

Best Pen of 20

Judges: Mr Tom Gribble & Mr Dan Branson

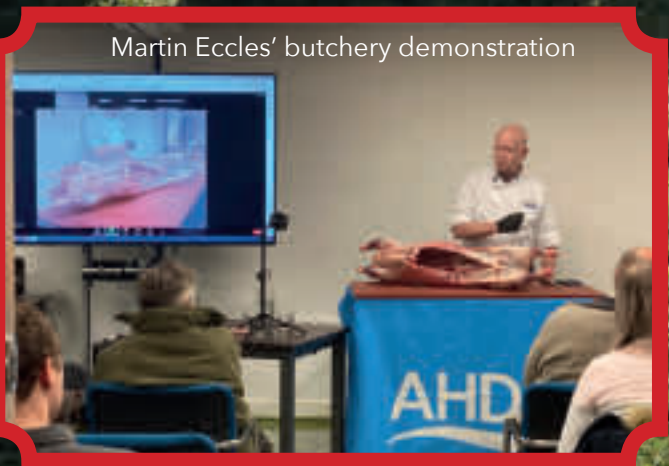
- 1st WA&A Booth, Feizor
- 2nd JK Wilson & Son, Blubberhouses
- 3rd FA Caton, Weston
- 4th CD&RF Kitching, Threshfield
- 5th CM Ryder & Son, Blubberhouses
- 6th JK Wilson & Son, Blubberhouses

ADRIAN LEGGE PHOTOGRAPHY

ADRIAN LEGGE PHOTOGRAPHY

# UNDERSTANDING THE HALAL MARKET

BY KARL PENDLEBURY



During November, AHDB's halal sector manager, Awal Fuseini, led a series of farmer-focused meetings throughout Cumbria to showcase the halal market and dispel common misconceptions about what it entails.

The halal sector presents many opportunities for farmers and processors to diversify their livestock production to cater for the growing demand for halal beef and lamb in the UK. Awal works closely with key stakeholders to create a

better understanding of the requirements of halal meat production through educational resources and events.

Over 200 farmers from the local area attended the meetings, which presented a unique opportunity for them to ask their own questions. As well as watching a live butchery demonstration by AHDB Senior Trade Butcher Martin Eccles, it was shown how lambs can be cut differently to maximise the sale of the product and gain better returns on the carcass.

At each meeting Awal highlighted the significance of the halal market to the

sheep industry and talked through the intricacies of the slaughter process while clarifying the importance of animal welfare throughout. He explained the importance of the Demonstration of Life protocol in providing assurance to Muslim consumers on the compatibility of head-only electrical stunning for halal meat production. The Demonstration of Life protocol is an industry-led assurance tool that was introduced in the UK for abattoirs to be able to demonstrate to the Muslim authorities that head-only electrical stunning of small ruminants is non-lethal and hence compatible with halal slaughter.



Awal also discussed opportunities in the sector, highlighting that the peak time for halal meat consumption is observed around the religious festivals, particularly during Qurbani. Qurbani is the festival of feast during which each Muslim family places an order with a butcher or an abattoir for an animal to be processed on their behalf. There is a requirement for the animal to be sexually mature which is interpreted to be a minimum of six months for lambs and 24 months for cattle. Farmers wishing to supply stock to the Qurbani market can read more about the requirements and dates of the festival by reading our 'Understanding the Qurbani market' guide available on the AHDB website [ahdb.org.uk](http://ahdb.org.uk).

Other speakers at the events included Grace Randall from AHDB's Market Intelligence team who told the audience about the demand for the halal sector within the UK, which is of growing importance to the national economy. Spend in the UK halal food and beverage industry in 2016 reached an estimated £4.64 billion, or 8% of the UK's total food and drink spend. A major part of the halal food market is meat. Although Muslims account for just under 5% of the UK

population, they account for an estimated 20% of lamb consumption in England alone. More than 60% of halal consumers eat lamb weekly, compared with just 6% of the general UK population (AHDB, Demand for halal meat report, 2020). It is not only in the domestic market where there are opportunities for the halal sector. There are opportunities for the export of UK halal sheep meat to the EU, with the major destinations being France, Germany and Belgium. Outside the EU, there is appetite for UK sheep meat in Muslim-majority countries, including countries in the Middle East and Asia (AHDB, Opportunities for the sheep sector report, 2021).

The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) forecast that global sheep meat consumption will grow 1.7–1.9% annually in the coming years. Asia-Pacific and Africa are the two regions forecast to see significant increases in consumption due to a rapidly emerging affluent middle class.

The UK has market access to many countries in North Africa and the Middle East. Figures from HMRC show that between 2018 and 2019, there was a 301% increase in the volume of UK

lamb exported to the Middle East from animals that were stunned prior to slaughter and there are opportunities to further increase our presence in these export markets.

You can see more of our analysis and sign up to receive our email publications on our website. With the global halal market projected to see a continual rapid growth, AHDB has several initiatives aimed at further developing the domestic and export markets. This includes work to identify and open new halal markets for both sheep meat and beef and working with our international exports team who attend multiple conferences and exhibitions around the globe to meet with key buyers of British beef and lamb.

If you would like to know more about these meetings or content, please contact Karl Pendlebury, Knowledge Exchange Manager (North West) via our contact pages [ahdb.org.uk/beef-lamb-engagement-team](http://ahdb.org.uk/beef-lamb-engagement-team).





ADRIAN LEGGE PHOTOGRAPHY

**SKIPTON AUCTION  
MART**

**2ND GIMMER LAMB SALE**



Francis and James Caton taking 1st place Pen of 20

**SHOW RESULTS  
Pens of 10**

Judges: Mr Derek Clarke & Mr John Capstick

- 1st JC Walker & Son, Dunsop Bridge
- 2nd JK Wilson & Son, Blubberhouses
- 3rd Saddle End Farms
- 4th EW&JR Parkinson, Dunsop Bridge
- 5th CD&RF Kitching, Threshfield
- 6th JC&N Throup, Draughton

**Pens of 20**

Miss Amy Mountain & Mr P Stephenson

- 1st FA Caton, Weston
- 2nd JK Wilson & Son, Blubberhouses
- 3rd FA Caton, Weston
- 4th ASE Crisp & Son
- 5th CD&RF Kitching, Threshfield
- 6th WP&B Walker & Son

**SKIPTON BRANCH REPORT**  
by Michael Burnop, Skipton Chair

The First Sale was held on Tuesday 6th September and had nearly 5000 lambs forward with an average of £123. The Second Sale, a fortnight later, had 5500 lambs forward with an average of £116 which I thought was very respectable averages after the dry summer we'd just had. I'd like to thank Claire Mason, our Branch Secretary, for all her excellent work she does, the branch committee for all their hard work, the auctioneers and staff at CCM and Linda Allan for all her hard work in promoting the breed.

**SKIPTON BRANCH REPORT**



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## MULE GIMMER LAMBS



**Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> September – 8,000 lambs (NEMSA Members)**

**Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> September – 10,000 lambs (NEMSA Members)**

**Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> Oct – Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> Oct – Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> Nov (Open Sales)**

## BREEDING SHEEP

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

**Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> August – 5,000 Gimmer Shearlings**

**Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> September – 300 Blue Faced Leicester Rams**

**Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> September – 5,000 Swaledale Draft Ewes & Shearlings**

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

**STORE CATTLE - Fortnightly Sales of 500-1,000 Young Feeding Bulls,  
Beef Feeding Cows, Bullocks & Heifers & Breeding Cattle.**



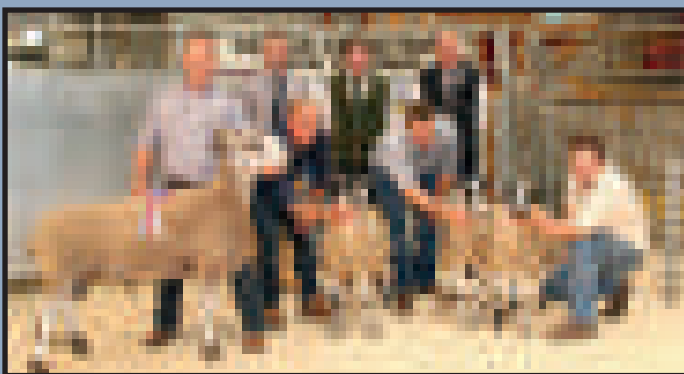
## SKIPTON BRANCH REPORT cont.

In July the branch attended Malvern NSA Sheep Event with sheep kindly supplied by Mr H Coates and The Stockdale family. A lot of talk at the event was about the dry summer we were having and the subsequent shortage of grass. In early August I attended the Thame Sheep Fair, We found the sheep on sale was in good order after the dry summer and sold well. Later in August the branch held our progeny show at Craven Cattle Mart which was well supported in all classes with JK Wilson taking away the championship with the same ram that won the previous show three years ago.

### NEMSA Skipton Branch Progeny Show

Taking leading honours with their home-bred 2018-born Bluefaced Leicester ram, Hewness L1, shown with three Mule gimmer lambs, were NEMSA stalwart and immediate past national chairman Kevin Wilson, who farms with his wife Daphne and son, James, in Blubberhouses, between Skipton and Harrogate.

The tup, won the 2-shear or above show class, before being awarded overall champion group by co-judges Stephen Collingwood and Ian Potts, both travelling south from their respective homes in Ambling Gate and Redburn.



The event attracted a near 40-strong entry split across five show classes from North of England Mule aficionados who are familiar faces at Skipton. Presenting the reserve champion group, which stood runners-up in the 2-shear or over show class, were Ellis Bros, who farm on Addingham Moorside with their h  
A strong single Mule gimmer lamb show class - it attracted 17 entries - was won by the Kitching family, from Threshfield, who also stood third, both their lambs by a home-bred tup himself by the well-utilised H8 Smearsett, bred by the Booth family in Feizor, north of Settle. The victor was shown by Frank Kitching.



Kevin Wilson with his Champion Group

#### LEADING RESULTS:

Home-bred BFL ram, born 2021, with its 3 Mule gimmer lambs - 1 JK Wilson, Blubberhouses, 3 JC Throup, Draughton, 3 WP&B Walker, Apple-treewick;

Bought-in BFL ram, born 2021, with its 3 Mule gimmer lambs - 1 I Lancaster, Wiswell, 2 CD&RF Kitching, Threshfield, 3 AJ Mason, Emsay; 2 Shear or over BFL ram (home-bred or bought in) - 1 and overall champion JK Wilson, 2 and reserve champion Ellis Bros, Addingham Moorside, 3 JC Throup; single Mule gimmer lamb - 1&3 CD&RF Kitching, 2 JK Wilson.

SKIPTON BRANCH PROGENY SHOW WILL BE HELD AT GARGRAVE SHOW 2023





George and Joe Throup with their Champion Pen

PHOTOGRAPH BY CHARLOTTE PEART

# PATELEY BRIDGE AUCTION MART

The Judging of the pens of ten Mule Gimmer lambs was carried out by 12 outstanding pens were presented and the championship was awarded to a superb pen of 10 lambs from from JC& N Throup, Berwick Intake Farm, Draughton, Skipton, these later sold for £285 to RG Johnson & Son, Harrogate.

**SHOW RESULTS**  
**Best Pen of 10**  
 Judges : Sam Chapman, Skipton & Duncan Burton, Leicestershire.

1st	JC& N Throup, Berwick Intake Farm
2nd	SA & TL Fawcett, Fold House Farm
3rd	SA & TL Fawcett, Fold House Farm
4th	CD&RF Kitching, Grisedale Farm

**Best run of 50 or more**  
 Judge: Ben Towers, Kirkham,  
 1st - K Fawcett, Dale Head Farm, Barden

## SKIPTON FARMERS' FUNDRAISER



Addingham & District Sheep Breeders' Association stalwart Joe Throup again co-organised its 16th 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 £4400. Over the years, the seasonal showcase has raised close on £60,000 for Sue Ryder Manorlands.

The main prize winners at Addingham & District Sheep Breeders Association's 2022 charity lambs show, from left, Robin Booth and the champion - it netted a spectacular £1,410 - co- judges Neil Allan and Trevor Stoney, runner-up Patrick Walker, third placed Chris Ryder and Roy Nelson, who finished fourth.



## ELLEN & TOM YANDLE DEER PARK FARM, DEVON

**Mary Heard went to meet a couple whose difference of opinion is the secret to their success.**

When I was asked to go and visit Ellen and Tom at Deer Park Farm, Oxtou, Devon, to compile an article, I wasn't quite sure what to expect - the message was 'they are married but farm separately....' Well, I was intrigued and interested to find out more!

Upon arrival, it was apparent to see that although the couple have their distinct preferences in sheep breeds, they are in fact very much a team. Ellen is a lifelong North of England Mule fan. Tom's preference has always been his mixed flock of Dorsets, Dorset Mules and Suffolk Mules which number around 1150. Whilst there is a palpable competitive streak at talk of selling lambs, when it comes to the smooth running of the enterprise, both are so in tune with one another that they know exactly the other one's preferences right down to when it comes to the ewes and rams they buy. It soon became clear to me that their separateness is in fact, very much a togetherness. "We work alongside one another and each helps the other one" says Ellen.

Mules have featured in Ellen's life long before her marriage to Tom. Her parents kept them on the family farm at South Molton on the edge of Exmoor. Whilst

they dabbled in Scotch Mules, they soon gravitated back to the North of England Mules as they felt they milked just that little bit better in their circumstances. "I've grown up with mules" says Ellen "They are just so easy to handle". It's plain to see that when Tom married Ellen, he was going to have to take on her mules too!

When Ellen first met Tom, she was invited down to Oxtou to help with lambing one afternoon. She soon proved herself to be good farmer's wife material as she got stuck right in in the lambing shed and knew exactly what to do. The rest is history and now Ellen and Tom work together on their 350 acre farm close to the South Devon coast. They also rent a further 400 acres from nearby Powderham Estate and use this to graze sheep all year.

The area is very dry and prone to burning in the summer so grass can be in short supply at times. The soil is good though and allows the couple to grow 90 acres of barley -they sell the grain but keep the straw for their own use. The farm also supports 140-150 acres of forage crops, swedes and kale plus another 9 or so acres of fodder beet. The latter used to be bought in, but the sheep took to it very well, so 3 years ago, Tom decided to grow it himself for the first time. It's harvested, clamped under straw and fed from around January to March to the ewes as they lamb. The forage crops are strip grazed from mid January. "All this helps to cut the cake bill a bit" says Tom. The farm supports one cut of grass which is baled mainly as haylage and

some hay "Tom's Dorsets are a bit fussy so prefer haylage, but my mules will eat anything!" smiled Ellen.

Ellen and Tom have two budding young farmers - their children Hannah, 9 and Ben, 7. Hannah is the sheep lady, but Ben has been the instigator of the latest acquisitions to the farm - a mix of 20 Belgian Blue and Simmental calves, which arrived in time for his birthday! This is the first cattle to come onto the farm since Tom's father sold the suckler herd following the drought of 1976. Since then, the concentration has been on sheep with a bit of arable. However, now the plan is to rear and fatten these calves with maybe more to follow.

The Yandle's farm was historically home to the deer on the Oxtan Estate. Over time, the estate's land has been split up and sold off with the main house being turned into apartments. Tom's parents bought Deer Park Farm which they ran along with nearby Black Forest Farm. When Tom and Ellen got married, they moved into and took over the running of Deer Park Farm.



So to Ellen's mules... She keeps around the 300 mark and buys in her replacement shearlings from the mule sale at Exeter in August under the very able eye of auctioneer, Russell Steer. This year she aims to buy about 60-80 as she's been quite ruthless on the older members of her flock given the buoyant market for cull ewes of 2022 so far. "I like to aim to buy the top end shearlings" said Ellen, who ideally tries to buy from the same vendors each year. Her choice would be mules from Emily Pearse or Maurice Hawkridge, both of whom buy ewe lambs from the North then sell them on as shearlings in the South. To top up numbers, Ellen also buys in a few mule hogg single couples in April, again at Exeter. In 2021, Ellen's shearlings cost her on average £200 - her maxim being "You've got to spend to get good lambs".

Ellen's chosen ram breeds are primarily Suffolk with the odd Chartex thrown in to sweep up too. (These Chartex are also used to go on the childrens' small flock of Blue Texels). She's found that Suffolks are reliably good at producing lambs which reach a desired weight quickly. Depending on the year too, she can

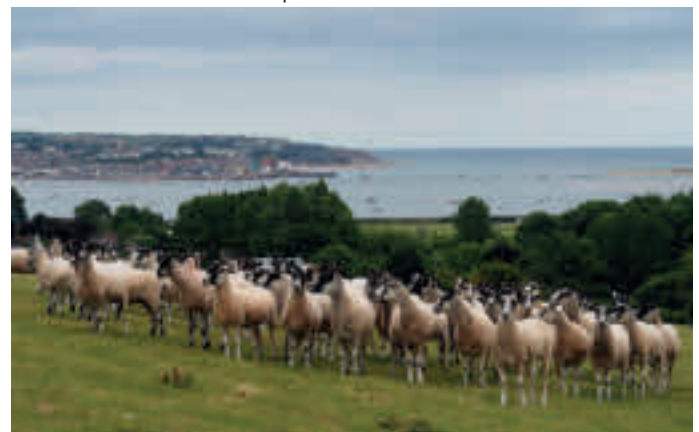
also hit either the fat lamb market or the breeding market with her ewe lambs. This year, as long as the fat prices stay good, everything will go this way. Ellen's rams go in with the ewes towards the end of August to start lambing later in January finishing around April time. This follows neatly on from Tom's lambing sequence which he starts in November with his Dor-



sets and progresses through the Dorset and Suffolk mules in December/early January. Again, Ellen buys her rams from Exeter market at the NSA sale held there in August. Amongst her breeders of preference are the Derrymans from Honiton. She quite regularly will spend around 800gns for rams to ensure her best chances of getting good, strong lambs. When choosing her rams, she recalls the words of a wise old local farmer "Buy what's in front of you". So she isn't influenced on paperwork and bloodlines in particular - if the ram is a good strong beast with the best of conformation, it is guaranteed to catch her eye.

Ellen's mules routinely scan around the 200% mark "I don't want any more than this" says Ellen "I prefer to have a good, strong single or double than triplets". Lambing in January means the percentage sticks closer to 200 plus Ellen gets to catch the early market with her lambs.

Both Ellen and Tom lamb their ewes indoors as you would expect at that time of year. The sheds are in a slightly cold position in a valley at the farm, however if the weather is dry, the lambs go out straight away. For worse conditions, the lambs are taken to their other farm, Black Forest Farm, which nearly neighbours them at home. Here they will go into nursery pens of about 10 ewes until weather permits them to be turned out.





As we all know, lambing time is pretty intense and Ellen and Tom dig in for the long haul, sharing night shifts between them. During the days, they are helped by their full time workman plus one other who comes in and does the routine, yet vital jobs of cleaning and disinfecting pens as well as feeding and watering everything. Every ewe will go into a clean pen to minimise infection risk. The couple hate to lose any lamb – “You put time and money into keeping the sheep so why waste it? You don’t get paid for a dead lamb”, which are very true words.

Another positive which comes from a 200% lambing is very few tame lambs. If there are any, Ellen will try to rub a lamb in with a single. She likes to turn every ewe away with a double if at all possible however there will always be the odd lamb which ends up in the orphan pen. She’s very proud of the fact that one such lamb has just topped out at £150 in the fatstock market on June 6th in Exeter.

Ellen strives for big strong lambs at birth so will feed the ewes prior to lambing. Nothing goes away to keep at winter but they are fed whilst outside with the good haylage made on the farm earlier in the year. They will also be topped up with ewe nuts at 18% protein. The ewes are brought in 3 weeks before lambing to allow them to settle and therefore avoiding twin lamb disease. From this point, the concentrates for the singles is reduced, but not cut out completely. By keeping the cake in front of the ewes, not only are the lambs born fighting fit, but they should receive top notch colostrum and milk. If for any reason one needs a helping

hand, Ellen ensures it has artificial colostrum, but this is rarely needed.

The mules run with their lambs either at the home farms or at keep at Powderham. The lambs will have access to a blended creep based feed from the age of 3 weeks. Ellen doesn’t tend to wean her lambs, but picks them straight from the ewe then directly to market 10 minutes up the road in Exeter. She aims to start selling lambs around the middle of April at weights between 44 and 50kg. This year, her first 17 lambs went on April 17th with her most recent consignments averaging £151 on June 6th and a pen of Suffolk mule lambs hitting £170 on June 27th. “I even beat Tom that week” Ellen said with a grin. I can sense there is often a bit of friendly rivalry between Ellen and Tom on market days to see who can achieve the highest price.

However, not all years are the same and sometimes if there is a dry, hot spell the grass doesn’t grow fast enough to sustain both ewes and lambs so Ellen takes the lambs home to fatten in the shed on a blend. Her aim is to get them gone by mid August – all as heavy lambs to market. She doesn’t sell as store or send any deadweight.

So now, the ewes relax for the summer and dry off in time to go to the ram again as August wears on. They are kept up to date with all their vaccinations and minerals – anything which is bought in is innoculated against abortion and everything gets Heptavac and a mineral bolus in November before they come in. The soil at Deer Park Farm is very sandy so there



is a tendency to be a lack of selenium. Ellen prefers boluses to mineral lick buckets so that she knows that everything has been treated thoroughly. "It may take longer, but I like to make time to do a job properly" she says.

I soon picked up from my chat with Ellen and Tom that they really do put a lot of hard work and dedication into running their farm. They quietly yet confidently aim high and you get the feeling that they have the admirable approach that only the best will do. They are prepared to put in the hours and think nothing of a 4.30am start on market days to ensure the work is done first.

To wind down and change the scenery a bit, Ellen enjoys making use of the nearby bike trails in Haldon Forestry. This is something the children join in on too. She is also proud of her sheep dogs and has bred and kept puppies from the same line since she was 10 years old. This started with a brown collie from Victor Pitts. She trains her dogs herself and you can see the bond is strong between her and her canine workmates. Just recently she has bought in some new blood in the form of Missey who is 1 year old and learning the ropes, (with some ideas of her own at the moment too!). But everyone is excited at the prospect of welcoming yet another new addition to the pack in 2 weeks' time when the cycle is complete and a brown collie bitch pup arrives at Deer Park again, from Victor Pitts.

It was a real pleasure to spend the morning learning about Ellen, Tom and their respective sheep, and to

have the privilege of being shown around their lovely farm in the amazing undulating landscape in Devon between forestry and coast. It is good to see the two different flocks running side by side and the hard work put into both. Ellen is clearly smitten with her mules - she nurtures them, always wills them to do well and is rightly proud of them when they invariably do. I'd hazard a guess that North of England Mules are now a well and truly permanent fixture at Deer Park Farm!



Editorial and Photos by Mary Heard



The winning pen from Ms Lord, Low Dowgill

# PENRITH AUCTION MART

The sales season got underway this year in the middle of one of the most challenging summer periods for livestock grazers for decades. The unprecedented lack of grass in southern and eastern parts gave real cause for concern and for once Lazonby vendors were relieved to be at the autumn end of the fixture list.

The sales however, kicked off with a great start at Borderway with the joint Lazonby and Carlisle Shearling sale which went on to average £154.54, which was a confidence boosting £11.66 up on the year.

Penrith enjoyed some fantastic trade with the first Gimmer lamb sale levelling at £121.02, down just £2 on last years great trade with judges Mr J Baty, Hethersgill and Mr A Collett, Banbury awarding the honours in the show to Messrs Lord, West Dowgill which sold for £300 to Mr J Winter.

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1st Sale Show Results  
 Judges: Mr. J Baty and Mr A Collett  
 Referee: Mr A Geary

- 1st Messrs Lord, West Dowgill
- 2nd Messrs P & A Sowerby, Cote House Barn,
- 3rd Messrs WM Hutchinson, Redgate
- 4th Messrs S Allan & Son, Greenhow
- 5th Mr GT Birkett, Lonscales

“The early morning judging saw the largest and strongest show of 21 pens of show sheep, all well worthy top pens. Through the sale ring many consignments averaged the same as last year, even considering more running lambs were on offer. Despite the recent sales and trade, Penrith smashed all expectations with a sale average of £121.02 being achieved, only a couple of pounds back on the year.” Andrew Maughan





PHOTOGRAPHY BY CHARLOTTE PEART

# LAZONBY AUCTION MART



## LAZONBY BRANCH REPORT

The Alston Moor sale at Lazonby with over 15000 lambs averaged £112.60 for Nemsal lambs, followed by an average of £95.08 at the second sale and £82.50 at the later sale on the 26th October.

Overall the quality of lambs on show from the hills around Lazonby was fantastic especially considering the challenging summer conditions and an impressive line up in the show at the Alston Moor sale gave this year's judges Thomas Binns and Graham Humphries plenty to contemplate. It was in the end a remarkable pen of lambs from WM Reed & Son, Lands Farm, West Gate which went on to clinch the William Armstrong memorial cup and sell for £400 to Mr Philip Elliott, Bankend.

The show at the second sale saw an equally impressive turn out and this time the honours went to long time enthusiasts Peter and Pauline Smith, Parsons Shield whose show pen went onto sell for £158 to Mr Robb, Leighton Buzzard.



1st Sale Show Results	
Judges: Thomas Binns & Graham Humphries	
Referee: Thomas Hird	
1st	WM Reed & Son, Lands Farm
2nd	F & M Moore, Highside Farm
3rd	JW Smith-Jackson, Hightown
4th	Burrow & Rutter Armstrong
5th	PM & P Smith, Lonning House
6th	GT Birkett Ltd, Lonscale Farm





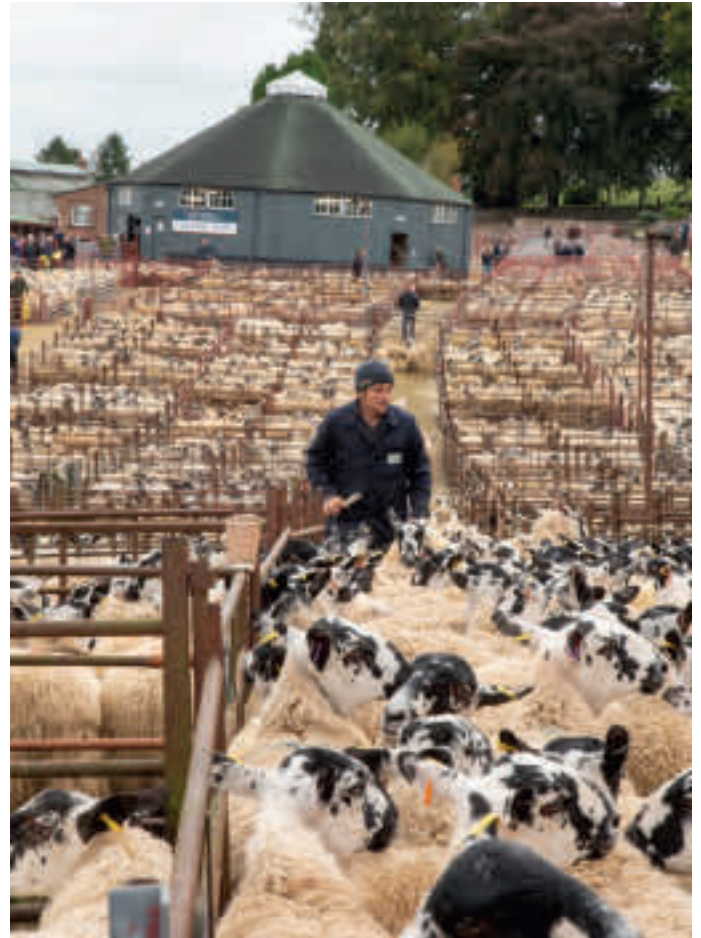
“On Wednesday 28th September the ‘Harvest of the Hills’ took place as the Annual Alston Moor Sale of 15,205 North of England Mule Gimmer lambs was held within Lazonby Auction Mart.

Buyers from all areas of the UK were buying all classes of lambs. A larger percentage of running lambs were on show with the high feed costs and current economic climate seeing vendors out ..... on concentrated feeds, this being said those that carried on as usual would be rewarded with their returns.

The sale average levelled out with a sale average of £112.60 (-£10) with NEMSA lambs averaging £114.72 and Non NEMA averaging £108.36.

Lambs were met with a trade keeping in line with many other local centres. Over 500 lambs sold in exec of £150 with many lambs selling between £120-£130. Smaller running lambs were harder to place, but still found themselves selling between £100-£110.

A great sale was had at ‘The Sheep Centre of the North’, with many buyers still requiring more lambs to satisfy demand.”



Champion Pen from PM & P Smith



## LAZONBY AUCTION MART - Second Sale

2nd Sale Show Results  
Judge : Tom James

- |     |                                |
|-----|--------------------------------|
| 1st | PM & P Smith, Parson Shield    |
| 2nd | Kilnstown Farms Ltd, Kilnstown |
| 3rd | RH & EH Lord, The Bog, Alston  |
| 4th | Kilnstown Farms Ltd, Roweltown |

“On Wednesday 12th October at Lazonby Mart, Harrison & Hetherington held their annual second sale of 6290 Mule gimmer lambs.

A large numbers of buyers from all over the UK with running lambs sold to some of the dearest trades this backend with tuppung lambs being a straight trade throughout. A trade for NEMSA lambs averaged £95.08 with Non NEMSA averaging £90.41 with all trades more than matching and surpassing other centres.

Before the sale the show took place, this years judging was left to Mr Tom James who has been a big supporter of Lazonby for many years. After looking over the 10 pens forward it was decided that the champion pen would be awarded to Peter & Pauline Smith, Parson Shields who later went on to sell for top price of the day of £158 selling to Mr Robb, Leighton Buzzard.”

LAZONBY BRANCH REPORT cont.

Another challenging year with unpredictable weather and demand gave sheep farmers across the area plenty to worry about come sales season, but the enduring demand for our unique maternal breed of sheep came through in the end and gave us all reason to be positive about producing breeding sheep in the hills for years to come whatever the challenges may be.

Thanks to the Lazonby Branch committee for your commitment to the promotion of all our sheep and to the two centres at Penrith and Lazonby for your support.

Finally, thanks to our new secretary, Chloe James who has hit the ground running and is no doubt going to make a brilliant impact on the association.

Thomas Carrick





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**Saturday 13th May**

New Fair Show & Sale of Mule Hogggs with Lambs at foot

**Friday 8th September**

Prize Show & Sale of NEMSA Gimmer Lambs  
Show to be held Thursday 7th September.

**Friday 22nd September**

Sale of Mule ewes and shearlings

**Saturday 28th October**

Luke Fair Sale of breeding sheep to include the Second sale of Mule Gimmer Lambs

### **MIDDLETON**

**Tel: 01833 640281**

**Wednesday 13th September**

Show & Sale of NEMSA gimmer lambs

### **LAZONBY**

**Tel: 01768 898313**

**Wednesday 27th September**

'Alston Moor' Show & Sale of Mule gimmer lambs  
Show for NEMSA members to be held Tuesday 26th September (evening)

**Wednesday 11th October**

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

**Wednesday 25th October**

Third Sale of Mule gimmer lambs

### **CARLISLE**

**Tel: 01228 406200**

**Thursday 7th September**

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

**Thursday 14th September**

Latter Fair Show & Sale of Mule gimmer lambs



Martyn Archer and his Champion Pen



ROBERT SMITH PHOTOGRAPHY

# HEXHAM AUCTION MART

## NORTHUMBERLAND BRANCH REPORT

by Willie Weatherson, Branch Chair

Hello Ladies and Gentlemen, it's come around to report time again and yes, I'm back 20+ years later as Chairman for the second time.

We started the year with a good winter and it remained mild for lambing time and we had grass for a change. As May arrived we had our branch AGM when I was selected as Chairman and Ridley Browell, Quarry House as Branch Secretary. I am particularly looking forward to 2023 as North Sheep will be in our area after being deferred due to covid.

Summer for us was great on a hill farm, grass seemed to grow for fun with the heat and plenty of moisture in the ground making the silage plentiful and good quality to take us forward for winter. As summer went on the extra heat caused problems and drought conditions and real problems further south which carried on right into the back end and sales time, to the stage it was going to affect lamb sales. When we got around the first sale the south of England was barren but as usual all sales went ahead with another outstanding show of lambs with a £6 per head rise

on average.

We have some very challenging times ahead what with feed costs and fuel rising out of control and the world in a total mess. At the time of writing this the tups are out again and we are all set for the challenges ahead, we as farmer produce the food for everybody to eat and we will do so to the very best of our ability.

Wishing all and another good lambing  
Willie Weatherson



1ST SALE : Celia Ridley and Judge Philip Elliot present Andrew Hunter with the Stuart Ridley Memorial Trophy for the best Run of 100 lambs or more.



2nd Sale - Champion Pen of 10 Messrs Armstrong & Hunter, Carrick



**2nd Sale**

ROBERT SMITH PHOTOGRAPHY

### 1st Sale

#### SHOW RESULTS

Judge: Mr Philip Elliot, Mungrisdale

Best Pen of 10 Mule (ex Blackface):

1. Carry House
2. Shitlington Hall
3. Quarry House

The Best Run of 100 lambs or more: Messrs Hunter, The Steel

### 2nd Sale

#### SHOW RESULTS

Judge: Mr Andrew Proctor, Swarland Old Hall.

Best Pen of 10 Mule (ex Blackface):

- 1st: Armstrong & Hunter, Carrick
- 2nd: Messrs H & L Morshead, Harsondale
- 3rd: Messrs R English & Son, Brownsleazes

Best Run of 60 Mule Ewe Lambs- Messrs H & L Morshead, Harsondale





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# TREVOR SIMPSON

## RETIRES

After spending the last 50 years working at Hexham mart, auctioneer Trevor Simpson, retired earlier last year. Blue Faced Leicester Secretary, Helen Carr Smith, gives us a resume of his career at Hexham Mart.

On leaving school Trevor joined Hexham council as a draftsman, but soon realised it was not for him and joined Hexham and Northern Marts in 1972 when the market was still in the town centre.

He initially started by clerking and then moving on to selling furniture before moving on to livestock in the form of young stores and sheep before becoming one of the mart's senior cattle auctioneers for many years.

He says: "The quality of the store cattle we sell at Hexham is unrivalled as it is one of the best stock areas in the country. It draws buyers from all over the UK and I have made so many good friends over the years, both our regular vendors and customers those who travel a long way to Hexham, who I may only see once a year. It's not just the people that I have met over my career but the social side of the Auction Marts is so important for all farmers."

"Auction marts have faced some difficult times, particularly BSE and foot and mouth, but the fact they have survived and thrived just proves how important they are and remain the best place to show and sell your stock to a ring full of buyers."



ROBERT SMITH PHOTOGRAPHY



ROBERT SMITH PHOTOGRAPHY





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Hexham 1st Sale  
mainly ex NE Blackface  
Thursday 31st August  
2023

Hexham 2nd Sale  
mainly ex NE Blackface  
Thursday 14th  
September 2023

Tow Law Sale  
@Hexham  
21st September 2023  
ex Swaledales



“The task of judging fell to Mr Chris Hewitt, Eskewbeck Farm, Lancashire who had thirteen pens to cast his eye over. Mr Hewitt awarded the champion pen of 10 and the GW Robinson, Rosebowl to a tremendous pen from John, Steven and Andrew Reed, Lands Farm for a remarkable fifth year in a row! A truly outstanding achievement.

The William Reed Perpetual Trophy for the best run of 100 lambs went to Mrs R & Mr M J Lee, Harwood Shield. Prospective purchasers stayed and waited for the Harwood Shield sheep who were the last run through the ring on the day and the first pen went on to sell for £240.00. The Lee’s fabulous run of 230 lambs went on to average a very respectful £142.00.

As a result of the dry summer locally, it was noticeable that lambs weren’t as strong as last year all through. Trade throughout was very similar to other northern centres this autumn with the larger tuppung lambs easily sold and very much in line with last years rates. Smaller, younger running lambs harder to cash and undoubtedly suffered from the lack of grass in the South.

As a consequence of more lambs forward and less strength throughout the sale, the average was down by fifteen pounds on last years extremely dear sale but still in front of the 2020 sale.”

Drew Patrick





# TOW LAW SALE @ HEXHAM

## WEARDALE BRANCH REPORT

by Andrew Reed, Branch Chairman

As I sit and write my first report, and reflect on what for some has been a very challenging summer. A severe drought in some parts of the country certainly had an impact on the lamb sales, with breeders having very little fresh grass to wean lambs on too and buyers reluctant to have extra mouths on scorched land.

On to the sales and the Tow Law sale at Hexham Mart had an increased entry on the year.

I would like to say a big thank you to Hexham & Northern Marts and Barnard Castle Auction Mart for all there hard work in making the sales a success. And to all sponsors, judges, purchases and vendors for the continued support.

Also on behalf of Weardale Branch we would like to thank Hexham Mart Auctioneer Trevor Simpson for all the hard work he has put into the Tow Law Sale over the years and wish him a very happy retirement.

### Show Results:

Pen of 10

Judge: Chris Hewitt, Bentham

- 1st W M Reed & Sons, Lands Farm
- 2nd R & MJ Lee, Harwood Shield
- 3rd J Lee & Sons, Agars Hill
- 4th R Collingwood, Stewartshield Meadows

- Best Run of 100 lambs or more
- 1st R & MJ Lee, Harwood Shield



The Reed family, Lands Farm with Judge Chris Hewitt and their Champion pen



# ALSTON SHOW

Judge : Richard Hargreaves

## SHOW RESULTS OPEN CLASSES

Pens of 6 Nemsas Mule Gimmer Lambs

- 1st : N Marston
- 2nd : M/s Reed
- 3rd: M/s Folder

Pair of Nemsas Mule Gimmer Lambs

- 1st : M/s Reed
- 2nd : M/s Marston
- 3rd : M/s Folder

Pen of 3 Nemsas Gimmer Lambs

- 1st : M/s Reed
- 2nd : M/s Folder
- 3rd : Kilnstown

Single Nemsas Gimmer Lamb

- 1st : N Marston
- 2nd : M/s Folder
- 3rd : M/s Reed

**Alston Show is fast establishing itself as one of the premiere mule shows in the North of the England.** With only three tickets in each class it was a great achievement in any breed to get a rosette on the day. Richard Hargreaves from the renowned Barley flock of Leicesters was tasked with the judging job. As well as very strong open classes Richard had to manoeuvre through well supported local classes.

Neil Marston's Champion Mule on the field was a single gimmer lamb sired by Highberries Highlander. Marston's 4th prize, M1 Highberries sired single joined up in the pairs with another Highlander daughter to get the second prize ticket. Her success didn't just stop at Alston show as she was part of the winner pair at Agri Expo in October but now under the new ownership of James Robinson from Carnforth. The Winning Group of six lambs at The Highland was made up of the following 1 x G1 Highberries Highlander; 1 x M1 Highberries; 1 x P5 Highberries; 3 x N10 Highberries Golden Boy.

*continued overleaf*



John Reed and family have been showing at Alston for 5 years now and experience was starting to tell as they were successful in winning both the pairs and group of three. The pair was sired by P2 Honeymoon & H2 Highberries. And the Pen of Three were: P2 Honeymoon, N10 West Biggins & H2 Highberries. The Reed family stood 2nd in the Pen of six which comprised mainly of Highberries H2 daughters with the addition of one Honeymoon P2 & 1 homebred West Biggins N10. The third prize single was a P2 Honeymoon lamb. All six lambs brought to the show went on to be sold at the Hexham Tow Law Sale in a pen of 10 which were bought by the Elliot family Mungrisedale. Team Elliot kept up the lambs showing prowess by achieving second at the Boderway Agi Expo.

Tapped out first in the massive single Class, the Classy lamb sired by Kirkby Redgate P29 from the Birkett Family was pipped at the post in the final throws of judging to get a worthy second prize. The Pen of 6, all out of Homebred Swale Ewes, were the foundations which went on to win the overall championship at the Cockermouth Auction sale. Today the pen stood third and was

compiled of 3x N9 Hewgill; 2x Homebred sons of K7 Hewgill and 1x P29 Kirkby Redgate. The third prize pair was sired by N9 Hewgill and the Kirkby Redgate sire. Later in October the same pairing, but now in the new ownership of Julie Brough McNay and family were placed at the Borderway Agri expo.

The Waugh family made their debut at Alston Show in 2022. Melanie said "It's the first time we've ever shown at Alston. We decided to take part as after covid because we thought these smaller shows needed our support more than ever." The family was rewarded in getting a third prize ticket in the Pen of three gimmer Lambs. This was a tremendously strong class, two of the three Kilnstown's lambs were sired by N22 Kilnstown who was by J3 Greenriggs. And one by M2 Skelgate (Marion Porter) who was by Carryhouse Jackpot.

The other three that day that made up the pen of six were 2 by N10 another son of Greenriggs J3 and 1 again by M2 Skelgate.







CHARLOTTE PEART PHOTOGRAPHY

# ST JOHNS CHAPEL AUCTION MART



**Show Results:**  
**Best Pen of 10 lambs**  
 Judges: Denise Elliott & Joe Vickers.

1st W M Reed & Sons, Lands Farm  
 2nd C Hodgson & K Brooksbank, Hill House  
 3rd M & B Coulthard, Bridge End Farm  
 4th J Robinson, Ling Riggs

**Best Run of 50 Lambs or more**  
 Judges: Les Gittings & David Buck

1st M&B Coulthard, Bridge End Farm  
 2nd C Hodgson & K Brooksbank, Hill House  
 3rd J Robinson, Ling Riggs, Ireshopeburn



Joe Vickers and Denise Elliot





“On Friday 23rd September 2022, St John's Chapel Auction Mart held their Annual Prize Show and Sale of Mule Gimmer Lambs. A catalogued entry of 2300 Mule Gimmer Lambs from Weardale and surrounding areas were presented to a company of regular and new purchasers with the stronger lambs maintaining the recent strong trade but the smaller lambs more difficult to place. The sale averaged £110.41.”

Libby Bell, Auctioneer



## WILL RIDDINGTON NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

This Year, around the Sales, Linda met a very enthusiastic buyer whose optimism was contagious. We asked Will Riddington to tell us about how his farming career began.

“ I am 25 and farming in the Lincolnshire, Northamptonshire and Cambridgeshire borders, near Oundle. Coming from a farming background this is all I've ever wanted to do for as long as I can remember. Some years ago, because of a family dispute, the possibility of being able to farm with my family was not an option. I was determined not to let this deter me from farming and, in fact, it had the opposite effect of inspiring to build up my own business.

In 2014, whilst at school I knocked on the door of a neighbour's who had a small paddock in the village and asked if I could use the paddock to graze some sheep. Luckily, the neighbour said yes, and this was the start of my embryonic sheep business. I started with buying 16 mule Gimmer lambs, with the intention of running them round to sell as shearlings. The following year I began to grow the business by contacting several more local landowners to ask if I could graze their fields. During my years at agricultural college and throughout university, I maintained having around 50 acres and about 200 sheep. With the help of family and friends who supported me with daily shepherding, I managed to make this enterprise work alongside my studies.

After graduating with a BSc in Agriculture from Harper Adam's in 2021, I continued my approach to several local farmers with the aim of acquiring grazing land, as well as engaging to arable farmers about the potential to grow forage crops for winter keep. I took on some additional grassland which was a result of simply being in the right place at the right time and fellow local farmers generously promoting my endeavours to try and help me get a step on the farming ladder. In total I now farm around 250 acres of grassland either under grazing licence agreements or gentleman agreements across a 30 mile radius. Living in a predominately arable area, throughout the winter months I graze farmer's cover crops and I grow around 100 acres of stubble turnips.

This autumn, I bought 800 Gimmer lambs, 600 of which were NEMSA mules. These were purchased from Kirby Stephen, Kendal and Bentham.

**It is a fantastic experience buying these sheep at auction and the quality of the livestock is a credit to all vendors.**

Currently, I continue to run sheep on dry for a year and sell them as top-quality breeding replacements the following summer, similarly to what I have always done previously. I aim to sell as many sheep as possible off farm, although I do take a few of the smarter sheep to market with a view to establishing a good name for myself.



People often ask why I don't lamb them or why I don't have my own breeding flock. The answer to this is that the ground I take on isn't always top quality grazing and, whilst I'm very committed to sheep farming, I require another stream of income to support it which leaves me with insufficient time to be a full time sheep farmer.

Alongside the sheep business, I have a full-time farm manager's job for a 1500 acre arable farm which enables me, fortunately, to run my sheep business alongside the job. My employers are very understanding that I am at an early stage in my farming career, and they support me where they can, understanding that my sheep are an important priority. Most of my daily shepherding happens before and after work.

I have reinvested everything I've earned back into the business and, by being careful with money and by taking on a lot of extra self-employed work on the side, I have been able to continue to expand the business without having to borrow any money.

**Some of my friends think I'm mad because all I do is work and talk about farming, but I wouldn't have it any other way, I just absolutely love it!**

It really hasn't been easy and involves a lot of stress, financially, physically, and mentally. It also means I have to sacrifice many social events.

If I could give a single piece of advice to any young person wanting to start out sheep farming like I have done, it would be to go for it! I'd encourage them to be confident and work hard at building good relationships with local farmers, seizing opportunities that might not, at first sight, seem ideal. Even land that is unfenced, has no water and is not of the best quality can be made viable.

Secondly, if you can afford to, try and buy the best quality stock you can afford, as this will always prove to be a sound investment in the long term. Lastly, listen and learn from fellow farmers about their experiences and the mistakes they've made and learned from. Likewise get as much on farm experience as you can and don't be afraid to ask lots of questions.

It's important to be resilient, you have to stick at it and accept that you're probably going to have more bad days than good days when you first start out but that overall you can build a rewarding life for yourself in farming.”





Champion Pen from David Mallon, Pallet Crag Farm



# MIDDLETON IN TEESDALE MART

## TEESDALE BRANCH REPORT

by Clive Metcalf

As I sit down to write my first Chairman's report and reflect on the year, what a year it has been. When we just thought things were getting back to normal after COVID 19, the War in Ukraine has substantially impacted costs and the uncertainty has remained.

Thankfully some rain did come in September and the Mule Gimmer Lamb sales started with a good steady trade and lambs were still in demand.

Our first sale was at Middleton in Teesdale on Wednesday 14th September morning, with a show of 1525 lambs present to average £100.22 down on the previous year.

Teesdale Branch Report continues with Barnard Castle



### Show Results:

Judges: Mr Fawcett, Penrith & Miss Dickens, Milton Keynes

### Best Pen of 10

- 1st DJ Mallon, Pallet Crag Farm
- 2nd N & A Bainbridge, Laneside
- 3rd RJ Tiplady, Red House Farm
- 4th C & JC Stephenson, Pikestone Farm

"The finest show of Mule Gimmer Lambs that Weardale & Teesdale has to offer arrived at the market and were met with one of the best trades seen in recent years. A total sale average of £100.22 (-5) was achieved with all credit going to the vendors for bringing such quality and representing the area in all its glory.

A strong show was presented with vendors delighted with the days selling. Many more lambs could be sold to the vendors advantage with buyers from Devon and Cornwall going home empty handed. Small running lambs could be sold to a premium with many young born lambs selling over the £100 mark."

Joe Bowman, Auctioneer



## AGRI-EXPO SHOW RESULTS

### Class 1 : Single Mule Gimmer Lamb

- 1st : James Robinson
- 2nd : Philip Elliot
- 3rd : Julie Brough
- 4th : Philip Elliot
- 5th : James Robinson
- 6th : Chris Hewitt
- 7th : Chris Hewitt
- 8th : James Robinson

### Class 2 : Pair of Mule Gimmer Lambs.

- 1st : James Robinson
- 2nd : Philip Elliot
- 3rd : James Robinson
- 4th : Chris Hewitt
- 5th : The Geary Family
- 6th : Philip Elliot
- 7th : James Robinson
- 8th : Julie Brough



In the NEMSA show classes, nine exhibitors put forward 41 entries, the new single Mule gimmer lamb class proving particular popular. Adjudicator Trevor Foster expertly choose his champion lambs and was quick to comment afterwards that

**“As the bar gets higher, the breeders are rising to the challenge and the quality is improving year on year, producing a tremendous show of sheep.”**

Carnforth’s James Robinson achieved a remarkable show double and unprecedented class hat-trick at Borderway Agri Expo 2022 when winning the North of England Mule gimmer lamb pairs class for the third time in succession, also standing champion in the singles class, newly introduced this year.

The pairs victors, receiving the NEMSA Perpetual Trophy, were bred at Millstone Moor, Cockermouth, by Neil Marston and were from his prize-winning pen out of Hawes – the Royal Highland Show winner by Highberries P5 and its pairing by M1 Highberries.

Philip Elliot, Mungrisdale, stood runner-up with the first of his two pairs from the Reed family at Lands Farm, Westgate, Bishop Auckland, the second pair from the same stable standing sixth. James Robinson was in the prizes again in third place with a combination pairing from David Lawson and Andrew Brown, of Asby Hall, near Appleby, also the breeder behind the seventh place pairing, again from James.

Chris Hewitt, from Bentham, stood fourth in the pairs with a couple bred by Gavin White, of Horton-in-Ribblesdale and bought out of Bentham. The Geary family, long-distance exhibitors from Milton Keynes, finished fifth with a pair bred by Freddie Moore at High Side, near Haltwhistle, while Wigton’s Julie Brough

took eighth place in a fabulous line up with a pairing bought out of a pen at Cockermouth from Messrs Folder at Wescoe.

The singles class was equally as keenly fought. The judge, Trevor Foster, from Ryehill, Sedbergham, kept both exhibitors and onlookers on their toes with a last minute swap around to give James Robinson another championship with his lamb bred by Martin Allan’s Greenhow flock

Philip Elliot was bridesmaid again in the singles class with a lamb bred by the Fairburns at Marriforth. Third place went to Julie Brough with a lamb bred by Geoff Wharton, Keisley, and bought out of Lazonby, while Philip Elliot again chipped in with the fourth place single, a Hexham-bought lamb bred by the Reed family. James Robinson stood fifth with a lamb bred at Low Dowgill by Messrs Lord and David Lawson’s Gragereth breeding also helped James get eighth place, Chris Hewitt splitting the Carnforth prize winners in sixth and eighth with two individual lambs bred by Gavin White.

NEMSA’s national chairman, Cumbrian sheep farmer Chris Harrison, commented: “Agri Expo was, as always, a fabulous showcase for the North of England Mule. The show lambs are hand-picked from across the North of England and while the initial credit must be with the breeders it is down to the stockmanship skills of the purchasers to maintain the lambs at this exceptional level.

“While James Robinson and other more experienced exhibitors manage to win prizes year on year we are seeing more and more young keen farmers biting on their heels, like first-time showman Joshua Jack from Milton Keynes who made the trip up.”



# BARNARD CASTLE AUCTION MART



## TEESDALE BRANCH REPORT cont.

Lambing time had been very kind, but the good weather continued to the point that we were left thinking, was it ever going to rain? Not your usual British Summer! The record temperatures meant we were left wondering if buyers would want any lambs due to lack of grass. This coupled with increased costs meant we didn't quite know what was going to happen at the sales and if buyers would come.

The annual two-day fixture at Barnard Castle Auction Mart saw Day 1 on the afternoon of Wednesday 14th September open to both NEMSA and non-members. There were 1891 lambs sold with an average of £109.16, down on the previous year.

Day 2 on Thursday 15th September was the official NEMSA sale day. There were 3400 lambs sold with an average of £124.01 which was up on the previous year.

I would like to thank both auction mart companies, staff, sponsors, judges, and purchasers for their continued support. I would also like to thank Linda Allan for all the support she has given, visiting sales and all the hard work behind the scenes, many thanks Linda.

*Clive Metcalf, Teesdale Branch Chair*



### Wednesday Show Results:

Judges: Edwin Holliday, Wigton and Steve Kirby, Northallerton.

#### Best Pen of 10

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

#### Best Run of Lambs

Judges by Trevor Lyons, Lincolnshire & Alan Redpath, Leicestershire

#### Best Run of 50 - 100 Lambs

- 1st J & SE Bainbridge, Dousgill Farm,
- 2nd WF & DM Metcalf, Barningham House
- 3rd PJ Dixon, East House

#### Best Run of 101 or more Lambs

- 1st C & R Metcalf, Park House
- 2nd JW & EA Watson, Pallet Stone
- 3rd S Luck & Son, Nabb Farm, Bowes

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THE CAMPAIGN FOR WOOL  
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More consumers and manufacturers than ever are hearing the positive messages of buying British wool products.

With a social media following of more than 100,000, alongside a range of new and ongoing projects, farmer-led British Wool has made great strides in generating more demand for this 'incredible natural resource'.

Over the past year we've seen an increased number of end brands as part of the British Wool Licensee Scheme, including clothing manufacturer Fred Perry, premium mattress manufacturer Harrison Spinks, bedding specialists the Woolroom as well as seeing the creation of a traceability scheme and widespread promotions during Wool Month.



British Wool's work involves driving sustainable demand by making sure consumers are aware of the benefits of buying British, while also strengthening links with processors and manufacturers.

Sustainability is becoming more important to consumers who are increasingly looking for products with strong environmental credentials as well as high quality and welfare attributes. We know that British wool ticks all those boxes. The growth of the licensing scheme and success of our online shop indicates that these key messages are reaching consumers.

Wool Month, a promotional initiative as part of the Campaign for Wool raises consumer awareness of the benefits and sustainability of wool products.

A series of events took place including the hosting of press briefings, the launching of new products and retail activity to spread the wool message to consumers. Two of British Wool's largest licensees Woolroom and Harris Tweed targeted the mainstream press and saw celebrity endorsement too.

British Wool also used Wool Month to launch its 'What on Earth are your wearing?' campaign.

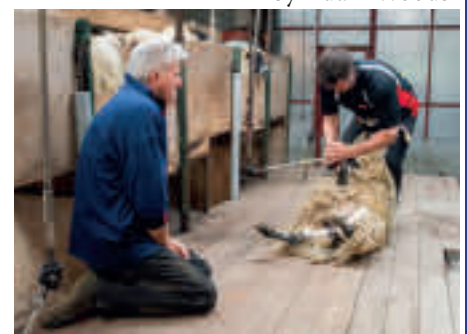
The idea came from consumer research that British Wool had commissioned which explored the buying habits of

consumers. The campaign highlighted the perils of fast fashion and how British wool garments can be one of the solutions to this highly publicised issue.

Finally, I wish you all a successful shearing season and the very best of luck to those of you who are competing at the shows. British Wool also looks forward to supporting the World Shearing & Wool Handling Championships in Edinburgh during June and wish all the competing nations the best of luck in what will be an excellent opportunity to showcase our sector on the global stage.

I look forward to catching up with some of you at the shows over the coming months.

by Adam Woods



THURSDAY SALE

CHARLOTTE BEART PHOTOGRAPH



# BARNARD CASTLE AUCTION MART

### Thursday Show Results:

Judges: Robert Johnson, Harrogate and Alistair Layfield, Crook.

#### Best Pen of 10

- 1st J&SE Bainbridge, Dousgill
- 2nd J&MJ Walton, West Shotton
- 3rd C&R Metcalf, Park House Farm
- 4th JB&GE Luck & Son, Milestone House

#### Best Run of Lambs

##### The Best Run of 50-100 lambs

Judges: Trevor Lyons, Lincolnshire & Aled Preece, Worcestershire

- 1st PJ Dixon, East House
- 2nd JE & E Dobson & Son, White Kirkley
- 3rd DH Ettey & Son, Bar Gap, Bowes

##### Best run of 101-200 lambs

Judges: Philip Elliott and Paul Ferries,

- 1st J & MJ Walton, West Shotton
- 2nd JB & GE Luck & Son, Milestone House
- 3rd WF & DM Metcalf, Barningham House

##### Best run of 201 or more lambs

Judges: Philip Elliott and Paul Ferries,

- 1st C & R Metcalf, Park House Farm
- 2nd J & SE Bainbridge, Dousgill Farm
- 3rd JW Dent & Sons, Naby View,







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# ABBEY WHITE

## YOUNG BREEDER FOCUS



After studying A Levels in Business and PE at Settle College, Abbey, now self-employed, has returned to the family farm to work towards having her own holding. Her family farm, Hillside, in Horton in Ribblesdale, comprises of 800 Swaledale ewes which are all crossed with the Bluefaced Leicester, 50 mules which are used as recipients for Leicester Embryos and the remainder crossed with the Texel. The family has two flocks of Pedigree Bluefaced Leicesters on the holding, the 'Ribblesdale' family flock and the newly established 'Ewebell' prefix which belongs to Abbie. Her Leicesters, totalling seven at the moment, she sees at the gateway to her future.

To fill in her week, she works 3 days a week for John and Jean Bradley in Settle, a day for Will and Gillian Sedgley at Kirkby Lonsdale, and the remaining three days at home. Working at these beef and sheep farms has introduced Abbie to Beef Cattle and is something that she has begun to relish.

Abbey and her family live in the small village of Horton in Ribblesdale which is perhaps better known for being the starting and finishing point for walking Yorkshire's Three Peaks, Whernside, Pen-y-ghent, and Ingleborough. The farm isn't your traditional farmstead with the family house been in the village and the land, a mixture of owned and rented, spread across the local area. The farm buildings are based a couple of miles outside the village which makes lambing time more challenging than for some - the introduction of lambing cameras has helped this year.



Unfortunately, due to the workload, as she tries to get herself established in the farming world, she has had to put Rugby on back burner for now. An accomplished Rugby player, Abbey captained Yorkshire U18 Girls and was able to make her debut for Yorkshire ladies when they played Cumbria in May last year. She said, "It's something that I'm definitely going to get back to, but farming is my No 1 passion at the moment."

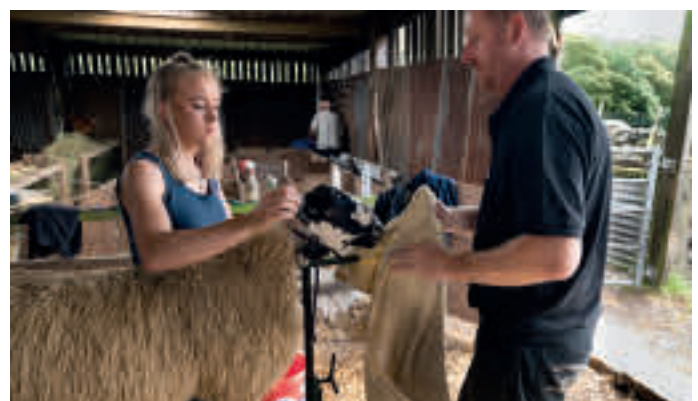
And what is it about Mules that attracts you?  
"Mules are the best mothers, we use them for recipients for our embryo work, they can easily suck two lambs and are easy care." But it is the breeding that lights Abbey's fire. "I love the showing, preparing our best lambs for shows and sales, for me it's the challenge to always improve, to breed better Mules that will go away and do well." And the breeding side what are the finer points to look out for? "Confirmation is key," Abbey said "...and follow on with a good skin. For show lambs we look for a hard black and a clean white that outshines our competitors in the sale ring. I prefer mules to have a straight line of black down the back leg and we are forever conscience of breeding lambs with as little horn as possible."

It's a multi-generational workplace when Abbey's at home, Grandad Winston now is full time at home after he retired from working in the local Horton quarry. Abbey's dad, Gavin, worked most of his working life at Arla in Settle and built up his farm in his spare time. Four years ago, Gavin, fulfilled his ambition to be in a position to work at home on the farm full time. Abbey (19) and younger brother Alex (15) make up the three generations.

The majority of the Swaledale replacements are bought as Shearlings either privately or through local auctions, Gavin and Abbie judged the shearing class at Bentham Auction this year. "We like buying shearlings, we think they are at an age where we get the best value for money. The shearlings will generally scan at that 160- 170% mark whereas the older Swaledales are heading up to that 185% mark. We don't like pet lambs at our house! So, if we can, we try and double up the singles as we go along."

And what does the future hold for Abbey "More of the same for the moment, I want to work towards having a holding of my own. Dad and I are very competitive, not least with each other, so I'll continue to try and beat him with the Leicester's and once I am able to get established to breed my own mules the rivalry will continue!"

Article by Linda Allan, Photography by John Bentley



## West Cumbria Branch Report

by Ken Pears

West Cumbria Nemsu Branch is made up of four Auction Marts which are Carlisle, Cockermouth, Wigton and Longtown.

The overall Gimmer Lamb average for all four centres worked out to be £119.50. Which was roughly 10 pounds down on the year. With the number of lambs sold down 12 percent.

Most vendors would be happy with the trade considering the lack of grass down country. But all auctions did well with finding keep for these lambs which resulted in a better than anticipated trade.



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### FRIDAY 1<sup>st</sup> SEPTEMBER

Annual Show & Sale of 6,000 Mule Gimmer Shearlings & Ewes.

### FRIDAY 15<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER

Great Annual Lakeland Show & Sale of 10,000 Mule Gimmer Lambs.

### SATURDAY 16<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER

Annual Sale of 6,000 Lakeland Store Lambs.

### FRIDAY 22<sup>nd</sup> SEPTEMBER

Annual Show & Sale of 150 Bluefaced Leicester Rams & Females

### MONDAY 2<sup>nd</sup> OCTOBER

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

Annual Show & Sale of 150 Swaledale Rams.

Second Sale of Mule Gimmer Lambs also Breeding ewes & rams of all breeds.

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



## COCKERMOUTH AUCTION MART

A wonderful entry of quality Lakeland Mule gimmer lambs attracted a huge ringside of buyers from the length and breadth of the country. The standout trade of the season was witnessed being absolutely sublime and justly rewarding vendors for their efforts.

Messrs Stobart, Howbeck Lodge, kindly offered a Mule Gimmer Lamb from amongst their run for the charity which is close to their heart the Specialist Palliative Care, NHS North Cumbria. This lamb was offered for sale 6 times and accumulated a wonderful amount of £2470.

### Show Results

#### Judges:

#### Large Breeders

Judges: Mr Andrew Cook, Widcot Farm and Mr Jim Finlayson, Old Cluden.

- 1st Champion Messrs Folder, Wescoe
- 2nd AF & KG Nicholson, Swinside End
- 3rd Messrs Folder, Wescoe
- 4th NC Marston, Millstone Moor
- 5th AF & KG Nicholson, Swinside End

#### Small Breeders (Less than 180 Gimmer Lambs)

- 1st J & C Stobart, Howbeck Lodge
- 2nd M Brough, Chapel House
- 3rd JT Davidson, Bell Mount

#### The Best Run of Lambs

Judged by Mr William Hird, Town Head Farm

- 1st Messrs AG & KF Nicholson, Swinside End



Champion Pen of Ten from F & M Moore & Son, Highside



## CARLISLE BORDERWAY MART



### Show Results:

Judges: Mr W Hird, Wigton and  
Mr G Rylands, Kendal

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

On Thursday 15th September Harrison and Hetherington held their annual 'Latter Fair Show & Sale' of 5000 Mule gimmer lambs within Borderway Auction Mart.

Claiming the championship rosette along with the Dodd & Co trophy was the leading pen from Messrs Moore, Highside Farm which sold at £320 to AJ Geary, Yew Tree Farm, Milton Keynes.

A good trade was witnessed throughout the sale with NEMSA lambs levelling at £127.67 with an overall market average £121.06, best end sheep sold frantically with the runners seeing a good return being £100-110, middle run sheep once again seem to be the best value.



Champion Pen from The Pears family, Fellside



## WIGTON AUCTION MART

### Show Results:

Judge: Ed Gate, Dearham

- 1st: Messrs Pears, Fellside House Farm
- 2nd: Messrs W Ridley, Woodhall
- 3rd: JT Davidson, Bellmount

The annual show and sale of Mule Ewe Lambs was held in conjunction with our first 'Local Lamb Day' with plenty forward, vendor expectations were high and rightly so. The pre-sale shows ably and competently judged by Mr Ed Gate, Dearham, finding a strong entry and after deliberation 'The Edwin Holliday Memorial Trophy' was awarded to Chris Pears, Fellside House Farm, Caldbeck and these selling for £220 at sale time.



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# LONGTOWN AUCTION MART

## SHOW RESULTS

Judge: Mr Mike Kay, Haresteads, Cheshire

### Class 1 - Ex Blackface Bred

- 1st RW & M Carruthers & Sons, Hill Brae
- 2nd RW & SD Flintoft, Sourhope
- 3rd W & B Nichol, Lawston

### Class 2 - Ex Swaledale Bred

- 1st Messrs Hope, Orthwaite Hall
- 2nd M Smith, Mount, Blackford
- 3rd JT Davidson, Bellmount,

Average : £118.57 (£6.65 down on 2021)

Buyers were represented from over the UK, with trade as expected throughout. Top end lambs were easily sold and could have been a pound or two firmer on the year, whilst running lambs proved harder to cash due to the lack of grass in the south. Congratulations must go to all of Longtown Auction's 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 seriously dry summer they still managed to produce the goods. Many more top draw lambs can be sold to vendor advantage at this thriving sale at Longtown with plenty of new faces came and purchased high end quality with an abundance of potential customers going home empty handed.



## LONGTOWN MART



**Wednesday 30th August**  
**Sale of Mule Shearlings & Ewes**

**Tuesday 12th September**  
**Principal Show & Sale of Mule Ewe Lambs**  
**Second Sale of Mule Shearlings & Ewes**

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

**Tuesday 15th August**  
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# NINE PLANETARY BOUNDARIES

In 2009 Johan Rockström led a group of scientists to identify nine processes that regulate the stability and resilience of the Earth and its ecosystems.

These nine processes or planetary boundaries are important as crossing them increases the risk of generating large-scale abrupt or irreversible environmental changes, affecting humanity's ability to thrive and survive. So far, scientists believe we have breached five of the boundaries:

Land-system change, altered biochemical flows (phosphorous and nitrogen cycles)

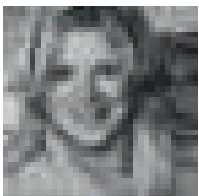
Environmental pollutants, including plastic.

Climate change

Loss of biodiversity

Species extinction

## REGENERATIVE AGRICULTURE The Market Opportunity



*Claire Benson, Sustainability Consultant for SDG Changemakers looks into defining the buzz words of the moment like 'Regenerative Farming' and 'Sustainability'*

**Conscious consumers demand more and more information about where their food comes from, how it was raised, who raised it and in what type of farming environment it was raised. These questions have an impact on how livestock farming generally is perceived, the shopping habits of mainstream consumers and in some cases, leave farmers feeling vilified and cultural wars raging.**

In the North of England as well as globally, regenerative agriculture as a term is gathering momentum, and the concept appears to be set to become a significant trend in food and fibre products internationally.

The reference 'regenerative agriculture' originated more than 30 years ago but has recently experienced a significant rise in public interest. Global consumer goods companies and non-profits are creating greater visibility, as are documentaries like Netflix's *Kiss the Ground*. Corporations like McDonalds, Microsoft and Unilever are also investing in regenerative agriculture.

### THE USE OF LANGUAGE

To understand regenerative farming and why it is gathering momentum, it needs to be considered in the broader context of sustainable development and the Global Challenges we all face.

As a definition, sustainable development describes policies, business operations, economic activity and investments that provide benefits today without sacrificing the environment and its ecosystems or society and communities in the future.

There are even 17 sustainable development goals, agreed to by 193 Nations in 2015, which outline key challenges such as land use, water pollution, gender equality, sustainable cities and climate change. These challenges sit across society and the economy as well as the environment, consequently, the true meaning of being sustainable for any business including farmers means being socially, environmentally, and financially sustainable.

With UK Agriculture aiming to be net-zero by 2040, for a sheep farmer, this holistic approach naturally means there is a focus on regenerative agricultural practices such as improving soil structure and water quality which in turn supports carbon sequestration activities to meet Green House Gas (GHG) emission targets. Regenerative farming sits under the general term of sustainable agriculture, along with organic farming, agroecology, permaculture, and biodynamic farming - all methods designed to work with nature, not against it.

Researchers at Wageningen University in the Netherlands created a database of 279 published research articles on regenerative agriculture. Their analysis found that people using the term regenerative agriculture used different principles to guide their efforts. The four most consistent principles were 1) enhancing and improving soil health, 2) optimisation of resource management, 3) alleviation of climate change, and 4) improvement of water quality and availability.

## FACTS AND FIGURES

In 2019, when compared to total emissions from all sectors, agriculture was the source of:  
10% of total GHG emissions in the UK  
68% of total nitrous oxide emissions  
47% of total methane emissions  
1.7% of total carbon dioxide emissions

The largest human source of nitrous oxide emissions is from agriculture which accounts for 68%. Agriculture creates both direct and indirect emissions. Direct emissions come from fertilized agricultural soils and livestock manure (42%). While indirect emissions come from runoff and leaching of fertilizers (25%)

## A BROKEN FOOD SYSTEM

**It is widely accepted that the global food system is broken. Everyone in the supply chain needs to make an income, but the input companies and supermarkets dominate.**

While the post-WW2 Green Revolution has increased yields and productivity globally, it has also led to unfair power distribution in the supply chain, increased stress on the land through the use of fertilisers, monocropping, intensive livestock farming and technology, and increased health issues - malnutrition affects people in every country. There are now more people worldwide who are overweight (1.9 billion adults) than underweight people (462 million).

Protecting national food security and creating a sustainable food system is driving the trend for sustainable farming, however, to create the systemic change needed to fix our food system, a holistic approach to farming is required - environmentally, socially and financially.

**For a hill farmer in Cumbria, what does this general move towards sustainability really mean for their business?**

Over the years, sheep grazing uplands has resulted in near monoculture grasslands with habitat and species loss due to sheep's habit of highly efficiently browsing tree seedlings. Yet under sustainably focused management, livestock can co-exist alongside fragile conservation sites, areas of scientific interest and breeding sites for endangered wildlife.

Being sustainable is also about mitigating risks on the farm- such as floods, fires, droughts, reduced yields and disease, and building resilience, stronger farming communities, better soil quality to limit the effects of flooding and improving food nutrition. All leading to stronger financial results.

As in all sectors, farmers need a viable income - so the focus on efficient livestock production, farming with the natural flow of the seasons and managing the land as described in environmental schemes worldwide, supports this as well as thinking about the Mule supply chain as a value chain. This means considering how value can be created every step of the way along the supply chain and how the Mule Brand can be elevated to the role of leading sustainable sheep breed in the UK and beyond, rather than just a commodity.



Regenerative Agriculture

## FINANCIALLY WHAT IS THE POINT?

Often the narrative around sustainability is associated with cost, the cost to add solar panels to a roof, and the cost associated with accreditations and certifications. But being a sustainable farmer actually aligns with making savings and creating value as it's about reducing food (human and animal) loss and waste, reducing the amount spent on inputs like seed, fertiliser, energy and fuel, and animal care bills.

**The financial gains are found in the market opportunity. It is estimated that the ethnic makeup of the UK population by 2050 will have changed dramatically and that Europe's Muslim population who eat a lot of sheep meat, will nearly double from less than 6% (43 million people) in 2010 to more than 10% (71 million people) in 2050.**

Current thinking suggests that with more people, more food is required - however globally there is already enough food in the world to feed everyone, it is the amount of food loss and waste and access to food which are the problems. Bluntly put, an increase in livestock increases GHG emissions. Therefore, a focus on animal efficiency and reducing food loss and waste should be the drivers, both of which will save money and help to create more value in the breed by shifting thinking from Mules being seen just as a commodity to a breed brand.

**Mules are regarded as being more efficient than other sheep breeds, generally scanning at 200%. With land use for farming predominantly viewed as at capacity, the adage 'less is more' fits well with the Mule breed story and feeding more people. Farm fewer sheep with Mules, increase productivity and meet market demands for lean, high-quality, sustainably bred protein.**

For agriculture to be truly sustainable, it must incorporate the following principles:

1. The needs of people: provide nutrient-rich food for farmers, farm families, and communities, help to maintain good public health, and improve the quality of life in rural areas.
2. Profit: a farming operation must be profitable, or it will go out of business quickly.
3. The planet and the environment: farming practices must be ecologically sound, promoting healthy biodiversity such as reversing the loss of bees and skylarks and sensible management of natural resources, so we don't transgress more of the nine planetary boundaries.

Research by Beef & Lamb in New Zealand shows that positioning regenerative agriculture or sustainable farming as part of the solution to climate change has the potential to capture consumer interest - however, linking regenerative production to health and product taste outcomes is thought to drive even greater consumer appeal.

Morrisons Sustainable Beef and Lamb Scheme and Waitrose's commitment to halving the environmental impact of UK baskets by 2030 by taking action across their most material impact areas: climate, deforestation, diet, agriculture, marine, food waste and packaging - illustrate how serious consumer brands are taking sustainability.



Regenerative Agriculture

## THE MARKET OPPORTUNITY

The UK sheep industry's 'stratified system' which plays to the strengths of different breeds and the environments and habitats of the country, is already a competitive advantage over the intensive systems in Latin America and the US.

But, to give the industry the edge over grass-fed competitors such as New Zealand, adopting sustainable farming methods across the whole supply chain is needed. This essentially is moving away from chemical inputs and fossil fuels, and rebuilding soil fertility and carbon stocks. It also means challenging the current market structure and diversifying markets for fairer prices across the entire supply/value chain.

**"Telling the sustainability story honestly, positively and constructively would help to counter how livestock farming is perceived and reinforce the value of lean, high-quality natural protein."**

Gareth Morgan, Head of Policy, Soil Association says "We cannot hide from the fact that we must change our diets to fight climate change. We need 'less but better' meat: less meat overall, but a shift to more meat from grazing animals that support wildlife and return carbon to the soils."

It's not just up to family and smallholder farmers to solve Climate Change, GHG emissions, water quality or food nutritional issues, but everything connected to healthy, nutritious food does lead back to a farm. As custodians of the land, farmers have a pivotal leadership role in the drive for economic, social and environmental sustainability. They can use this to their advantage to create more sustainable businesses.

Article by Claire Benson, [www.sdgchangemakers.today](http://www.sdgchangemakers.today)



# HAWES AUCTION MART

## HAWES BRANCH REPORT

by Tom Willoughby, Branch Chairman

It's mid November and I sit down to write my last report as Hawes Branch Chairman. After spending the day dry stone walling in a T-shirt, someone across the river was doing some round bale silage so it wasn't a Normal Autumn day!!

In the past week two great influential characters have sadly passed away. Roly Hayton, past Association President and a true stalwart of Nemsas. He was a true Gentleman and a man who never missed a show or Sale and always with his Nemsas Tie on....and then there was Big Jack. Jack Lawson only joined Nemsas a few years ago but his Blue faced Leicester flock 'Hundith' left their mark in several show pens across the mule world with Z4 Hundith known as perhaps the greatest and B4 Hundith 'X-Factor' closely followed. Both Gentlemen will be greatly missed.

After a mild open Winter leading into Spring, meant that a good lambing was had although generally there was less lambs on the ground.

The Overall average for both days was £122.35

## Show Results Monday

Judges: Caroline Mole, Aylesbury & James Towler, Grindleton.

- 1st M/S Lord, West Dowgill
- 2nd NC Marston, Cockermouth
- 3rd & Best in Hawes Branch  
W & D Lawson & Son, Westhouse
- 4th JC Walker & Son, Dunsop Bridge
- 5th WA & GR Sedgley, Barbon
- 6th NC Marston, Cockermouth

M/s Lord, Low Dowgill winning Mr Chugg Memorial Cup

## Show Results Tuesday

Judges: Phillip Elliott, Mungrisedale & Danny Branson, Towcester.

- 1st WA & A Booth, Feizor
- 2nd & Best in Hawes Branch  
WC Porter & Son, Swaledale
- 3rd S Allan & Sons, Dufton
- 4th G & HR Shields, Ravenstonedale
- 5th RW & JH Emmott, Wythop
- 6th GP Taylor & Son, Great Asby

M/s Booth, Feizor winning Mr Chugg Memorial Cup



David Booth with Tuesday's Sale Champion Lambs

Wayne Hutchinson  
2022

**HAWES AUCTION MART  
2ND SALE**



Champion 2nd Sale Lambs from M/s Fairburn

**Hawes 2nd Sale  
Show Results**

Judge: Michael Barker, Halton.

- 1st E Fairburn & Sons, Thornton Steward
- 2nd A Lodge, Malham Moor
- 3rd LV & N Croft, Ellingstring

Sale Average for Mule Gimmer Lambs  
was £99.80

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2023 Sale Dates

Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> August

Evening Show & Sale of 1000 Mule & Continental x Gimmer  
Shearlings & Ewes

Monday 11<sup>th</sup> & Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> September

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

Monday 25<sup>th</sup> September

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

Monday 9<sup>th</sup> October

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

For further information contact Auctioneers:  
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Kenton Foster 07711 469280

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Hawes Branch Report cont...

There has been several major significant events occurring during 2022 which have had a big knock on effect to our sheep industry . The War between Russia and Ukraine seems to have had an instant impact on prices. Fertiliser prices soared to a record high, fuel prices rocketed closely followed by sheep feed. Previously unthinkable prices have made us question if it is feasible to give the sheep the same amount of feed as previous years. I do worry how long we can all keep providing the normal excellent level of finish on our goods that we have all come accustomed to.



Will Sedgley, Gavin White & Tom Willoughby at the NSA Malvern Sheep Event

Summer was striding on and the temperatures were reaching record highs but it wasn't until we travelled down to Malvern to the NSA Sheep event that we could see the effects of the long sustained period of dry weather in its full glory.

Fields and fields of brown parched grass were backed up by people saying that they have had little or no rain since March. I think we all travelled

home that day with the apprehension of the knock-on effect of the forth coming Autumn breeding sales.

Rugby Shearling sale once again came around which saw Will Sedgley take on the task of the pre sale show. The sale continues in going from strength to strength - they enjoyed a good trade within the circumstances of the drought but it was noticeable that the shearlings were crying out for a change and a bite of grass. Congratulations to the Tustian Family on their pen of 20 winning the Hawes Branch Cup and the Collett family on winning the individual class.



It really has been a great pleasure and honour to serve as Hawes Branch Chairman. I wish Neil Allan all the very best when he takes over. I'm sure I'm passing the baton into safe hands. Thank you to all the Auction Marts Companies and committee members. Let's keep the Mule Sheep The UK Number One.

Signing off from Duties  
Tom Willoughby, Hawes Branch Chair

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# LEYBURN AUCTION MART

## Leyburn Show Results

Judges: Alan Bainbridge, Leyburn  
**Best Pen of 10**

- 1st M/s Dixon, Bellerby
- 2nd WC Porter & Son, Riddings
- 3rd H & EM Tiplady, Walden
- 4th J Allison & Sons, Seal Houses

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

“Local Bluefaced Leicester and Mule man Alan Bainbridge of Leyburn judged and awarded first prize to Bob Dixon from Bellerby. The lambs later sold for £142 to Alan Redpath, Leicestershire.

A small but nice show of lambs got away well to a good ringside of mostly local buyers. The overall Mule average of £118.50 was down £7.20 on the year.”

Stephen Walker, Auctioneer

**LEYBURN AUCTION MART 01969 623167**

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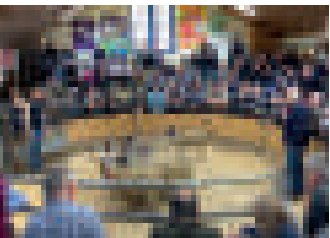


## 2023 SALE DATES

Mule Gimmer Shearling      Friday 1st September - 1500 head  
 Friday 22nd September - 500 head

Mule Gimmer (Ewe) lambs      Friday 15th September - 2000 head  
 Friday 29th September - 1500 head

**2nd Sale**



**2nd Sale Show Results**  
 Judge: Michael Lawson

1st AC & K Pye & Son, Dunkenshaw  
 2nd EW & JR Parkinson, Hareden  
 3rd A & L Hoddleston, Overhouses



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Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> May- 1250 Outfits

Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> May- 1250 Outfits

Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> June- 250 Outfits

**STORE LAMBS**

Tuesdays Fortnightly (July-March) 4000-8000 Store Lambs

**BREEDING EWES & SHEARLINGS**

Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> July- 4000

Friday 25<sup>th</sup> / Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> August- 10,000

Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> September- 4000

Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> October- 2000

**GIMMER LAMBS**

Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> September- 12000

Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> September- 5000

Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> October- 1500

**PRIME LAMBS; FEEDING & CAST EWES**

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1st  
Sale



## BENTHAM AUCTION MART



### SHOW RESULTS

Best Pen of 10 Mule Gimmer Lambs  
Judged by: Rosie Boden & Thomas Hird

- 1st WM Hutchinson & Son, Redgate
- 2nd HW & G White, Horton in Ribblesdale
- 3rd J Garth & Son, Birk Knott
- 4th AC & K Pye & Son, Dunkenshaw
- 5th WA & A Booth, Feizor

Overall Average £116.45 (2021 £129.13)

Best Single Mule Gimmer Lamb  
Judge: David Morris & Caroline Mole  
1st : WM Hutchinson & Son

"Another cracking show of North of England Mules saw the sale average for NEMSA lambs level at £119.27 with non members lambs £98.69. Lambs in general smaller than last year with top pens commanding a premium. The pre-sale evening show again proved a popular event with 23 pens of unrivalled quality placed in front of Judges Rosie Boden & Thomas Hird."  
*Stephen Dennis, Head Auctioneer*



## Iceberg Diseases - An Introduction

There are five infectious diseases of sheep that members of the sheep industry have identified as important: Border disease (BD), caseous lymphadenitis (CLA), Maedi Visna (MV), ovine paratuberculosis or ovine Johne's disease (OJD) and ovine pulmonary adenocarcinoma (OPA). However, awareness of these diseases is low, with a recent survey suggesting fewer than 5% of farmers screen for them routinely.

While the clinical presentation of these production limiting diseases is mild, difficult to differentiate or occurs very late in the disease process, they often cause inefficiency through subclinical disease. The extent of the problem within a flock can be underestimated because visibly diseased sheep are usually just the tip of the problem, which is why these diseases are sometimes referred to as 'iceberg' diseases. These diseases also share similar issues: none are treatable with antibiotics; interpretation of the tests can be challenging and limited information is known on prevalence.

The aim for the sheep industry is to develop appropriate health-monitoring schemes that help commercial farmers to understand the health status of their flock, while providing greater health assurance for the variety of production-limiting diseases. The responsibility starts with ram breeders and sellers of replacement ewes to ensure animals are of a known health status. However, demand also needs to come from the purchaser and, sadly, that generally only happens once they have experienced an issue.

Lis King AHDB Sheep Scientist (Iceberg diseases of ewes - Technical manual for vets, consultants and farmers)

### Ovine Johne's Disease (OJD)

Johne's in sheep is not as well publicised as it is in cattle – it does not cause the same tremendous watery diarrhoea in sheep as it does in cattle. Due to the insipid nature of the disease in sheep, and the methods of testing available, diagnosis is difficult and hence the disease is greatly underdiagnosed in the UK sheep industry. The causal bacterium, *Mycobacterium avium* subspecies paratuberculosis infects lambs early in life when they come into contact with the faeces of an affected sheep, or via the placenta, colostrum or milk of an affected ewe.

The clinical signs of chronic weight loss, poor body condition and poor fleece do not become apparent until the sheep is around three to four years old, however, in the meantime the affected animal will have begun shedding the bacteria within the flock, known as a 'carrier' or 'subclinical' case. Over this time, ewes may be more susceptible to worm and fluke burdens and can give birth to lambs with lower birth weights. As the disease progresses, the bacteria causes massive thickening of the gut wall and, in sheep, leads to generalised ill-thrift in older ewes, often without any scour.

Control of Johne's can be through various methods. Culling of older, thin ewes on suspicion of Johne's (or another 'iceberg' disease such as OPA) is a starting point. On top of this, we can utilise blood tests, and though they may not be the most sensitive tests, positive results should always be trusted. Management plays a massive role in the control of Johne's in sheep flocks, by minimising exposure e.g. cleaning lambing pens well, ensuring dry standing areas around clean water troughs etc. We now have access to a vaccination, which could be used in flocks with a known problem to reduce the issues caused.

### Ovine Pulmonary Adenocarcinoma (OPA)

This disease, also called "Jaagsiekte", affects the lungs of sheep causing tumour growth, with symptoms including coughing, loss of condition and sometimes sudden death due to secondary *Pasteuralla pneumonia*. Infected sheep can pine away and have clear discharges from the nose. The disease eventually causes death. The nasal fluid contains the infective virus that will spread the infection to other sheep in the flock.

This disease can best be diagnosed by ultrasound examination of the lungs which can detect early-stage cases. Routine post-mortem examination of some thin cull ewes might also detect the presence of the disease in a flock. Farmers should consider scanning sheep to take out carriers or infected animals. The so called 'wheelbarrow test' will only detect late-stage cases. It is important to note that sheep can show symptoms from around six months of age onwards.

### Maedi Visna (MV)

Maedi Visna (MV) is a highly infectious viral disease affecting goats and sheep. It is mainly transmitted through the ingestion of milk from a virus infected sheep, although disease can be spread within flocks through direct contact or contamination. The virus does not affect people and therefore there is no impact on human health.

MV is an infectious, incurable and very slow developing condition which causes wasting and failing. The main clinical signs are progressive paralysis, wasting, arthritis and chronic mastitis. MV has a long incubation period and cannot be detected early in an animal's life. The signs are not normally visible until adulthood.

# SHEEP HEALTH

## RECOMMENDATIONS

### The Animal Health and Welfare Pathway

There is a grant to cover general health and welfare through the [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk) website - You will get £436 for a sheep review.

#### How to Apply

- Register an interest on the [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk) website
- You will receive an email with a link
- Apply through the link
- 6 months to arrange the vet visit and get the results
- You pay your Vet
- You send in a summary of your finding and get the grant.

### Monitoring Schemes

We recommend that NEMSA members start looking to monitor their flocks for these diseases and that they can do so as follows:

MV and Johne's monitoring schemes are offered by Scottish Rural College (SRUC) and testing can be arranged through your vet. Sampling involving blood for MV and/or individual faecal samples for Johne's Disease should be submitted from:

- Flocks of less than 500 breeding ewes: 12 ewes.
- Flocks of 500 or more breeding ewes: 20 ewes
- Five stock tups (or all if fewer than 5).

SRUC Tel : 01835 822456

There is no blood test for OPA currently. Monitoring involves ultrasound scanning or post-mortem analysis of fallen stock. Whilst neither of these techniques offer 100% assurance both are increasing in popularity and will serve to reduce the spread of OPA.

Nemsa will make sure that any vendor wishing to declare monitored status in the sales catalogues will be able to do so.

There is a wealth of information online if you wish to look into any of these diseases further. The information on these pages was taken from:

[www.ahdb.org.uk](http://www.ahdb.org.uk) : [www.msdevetmanual.com](http://www.msdevetmanual.com)  
[www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk)

### The Animal Health and Welfare Pathway

The details have just been confirmed in February 2023. All the information is available on the [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk) website under "Animal Health and Welfare Pathway". The following is taken from this resource:

'The Pathway will push forward and support the gradual and continual improvement in farm animal health and welfare. The Pathway is a partnership, the government will work together on each step with farmers, vets, the wider industry and the supply chain.

For sheep, our priorities are to:

Provide a tailored health screening to address a range of endemic diseases, estimated to cost the sector around £85 million per year - Initially this will focus on internal and external parasites (and associated anthelmintic efficacy), mastitis, 'iceberg' diseases and those inducing abortion.

Reduce lameness as it is one of the most common signs of ill health and discomfort among sheep, affecting animals' mobility, productivity and longevity.

Improve ewe sustainability, optimising body condition so that ewes are less susceptible to disease, produce better quality milk and can rear a greater number of healthier lambs.

Improve pain management during castration and tail docking - we want to support the licensing and uptake of pain relief to reduce the impact of these procedures.

Livestock keepers can get funding for a vet or team chosen by a vet to visit their farm and carry out a health and welfare review of eligible livestock. This funding will be available for three years, after which we will review the situation. You'll be paid £436 for a sheep review

The review sits alongside the environmental land management standards. You do not need to have an SFI standards agreement to be eligible to apply for the annual health and welfare review.

This review is designed to:

Reduce endemic diseases such as bovine viral diarrhoea (BVD) in cattle, porcine reproductive and respiratory disease (PRRS) in pigs and the effectiveness of worming treatments in sheep

Improve the welfare of your animals

Increase productivity

Ensure your use of veterinary medicines and vaccines is appropriate

Be primarily for the farmer, and not used for inspections or compliance

Eligible to farmers who claim BPS in England'

# FULL MEMBERSHIP

£20

PER YEAR

## ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- You must breed NE Mule Lambs (bred from the Swaledale or NE Blackie crossed with the Blue Faced Leicester)
- You must live in the North of England

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- A Mule News posted every year
- Discounted Tags \*from Shearwell to include double tags, slaughter tags and a 5% discount on Cattle tags

\*Discount triggered when 20 Nemsia Grey Double tags are ordered.



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- Kept up to date on offers and other publications

£10

PER YEAR

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Data

Livestock Systems

# ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP



# NORTH OF ENGLAND MULE SHEEP ASSOCIATION

Membership Number

office use only



## NEW MEMBER APPLICATION FORM

Secretary: Mrs L Allan  
Beck House Farm  
Killington  
Kirkby Lonsdale, Cumbria  
LA6 2EX

Tel: 07896992598

e-mail: [nemsa@btinternet.com](mailto:nemsa@btinternet.com)

Name.....

Trading as..... (if appropriate)

Address.....

Telephone..... Email.....

Mobile ..... Flock Number UK.....

I/We hereby make application to join the above named Association. I/We agree to abide by the rules and conditions now in force (as listed below) or any amendments thereto which the Association may approve in the future.

1. Lambs presented at Association Sales must be the bona fide property of the members.
2. They must be sired by a pure Bluefaced Leicester ram, out of either a Swaledale or Northumberland Blackface ewe.
3. At Association Sales all lambs put forward will be subject to the scrutiny of inspectors.
4. Any member whose stock is deemed to be of incorrect parentage will be warned in writing the first year, then if there is no improvement the following year, their membership will be terminated.
5. There shall be no black lambs.
6. The use of coloured yarns to mark pens is banned.
7. Lambs sold at Association Sales will be subject to whatever levy is in force at the time.
8. At Association Sales all lambs forward must be tagged with a matching pair of NEMSA tags.
9. Any disputes arising as a result of these rules will be settled with the council of management of the Association.

These rules do not invalidate existing Auction Mart Company rules.

(The Secretary will accept no Bankers Standing Order Form unless this form has also been completed.)

Signature of Applicant..... Date.....

Approved by Branch Chairman..... Branch.....

ASSOCIATE MEMBER (£10 Annually)

FULL MEMBER ( £20 Annually)

# THE NORTH OF ENGLAND MULE SHEEP ASSOCIATION



## STANDING ORDER FORM

To (Name of your Bank) .....

Address of your Bank .....

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.....

Please make standing order payments as shown below

**To : The North of England Mule Sheep Association**  
**Bank: Barclays Bank PLC**  
**Sort Code:20-78-42**  
**Account Number:20675032**  
**SWIFTBIC : BUKBGB22**  
**IBAN : GB07 BUKB 2078 4220 6750 32**

Amounts:    **An immediate payment of:**(delete as appropriate)  
                  £10.00 - Associate Member    £20.00 - Full Member

**Followed by annual payment of:** (delete as appropriate)  
                  £10.00 - Associate Member    £20.00 - Full Member

**And then on the 4<sup>th</sup> Jan of each year until further notice**

Name:  
.....

Address:  
.....  
.....  
.....

### From: Your Bank Account Details

- Name on the account:.....
- Sort Code: .....
- Account No:.....

Signed ..... Date .....

REFERENCE / MEMBERSHIP NUMBER .....(To be allocated by the Society)

**This Standing Order cancels any previous order payable to  
The North of England Mule Sheep Association**

# REMEMBERED

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## ROLY HAYTON



**Past President, Roly Hayton from Asby Grange near Kirkby Stephen, passed away in November 2022. We look back on a life well lived.**

Born at Bank House Farm, Selside on 11th August 1934, he farmed here for the first 56 years of his life, farming with his Parents and then wife Dorothy. Dorothy only came from the next Parish- Roly always said:

**'You should never travel so for a bull or a wife just so you know the breeding behind them!'**

He spent his teenage years and early twenties competing with the Cumberland and Westmorland wrestling and was the 9 and ½ stone champion at the time. Fox hunting was another of his interests and he followed the Lunesdale and Ullswater Fox Hounds, they both stayed at Bank House when hunting in the district. He was on the Lunesdale committee for many years and enjoyed the hot pot suppers and singalongs. In the early 1970's and 80's Roly enjoyed harness racing, as an owner /trainer with Robert driving at the old

Kendal showground and other local racetracks, he continued to follow the harness racing throughout his life and could be often seen at the Appleby races. Robert was born in 1963 and in 1977 they began to breed Mule Gimmer Lambs which became Roly's big passion in life. One breeder recently described Roly as 'Mr Mule' himself. The family moved to Asby Grange in 1989, soon after he bought his first British Blue Bull from late Alan Barnes, Cowden and the families cattle breeding never looked back - it was 'blues' all the way.

After serving a term as Kirkby Stephen Nemsas Branch Chairman he was appointed President of the society in 2012, which 'he was very proud and honoured to do'. Marion Hope, Nemsas Secretary at the time, said that he was:

**"One of the best Chairmen of the Association, he had a mind full of knowledge, never missed a meeting, NSA sheep event or show. A gentleman and great ambassador for NEMSA."**

*Jonathan Hodgson, Nemsas Vice Chairman, described Roly as a "True gentleman, always polite, enthusiastic, passionate and a pleasure to be in his company".*

Roly, along with his wife Dorothy, travelled far and wide following the mule sheep - whether it to be shows, sales or branch meetings. In 1988 Roly became a member of the Bluefaced Leicester Association and was on the North West BFL Committee for some 18 years.

Roly and Dorothy filled their free time with Dancing and Holidays abroad. After 55 years of marriage sadly Dorothy died and left Roly broken hearted, in true 'Roly' style, with the help from family and friends he was able to bounce back and since Covid he has been a regular onlooker at the Auction Marts and shows where he will be missed by many. Roly was able to see both his granddaughters, Alison & Rachel wed in last few years and was lucky enough to share both special days with them. A staunch supporter on the local Auction Mart, he was fitting that his last days were taken up at Auction Marts, quietly in his own way taking it all in action. Condolences to his family.



## Cartmel Show 2022

L/R  
Heather & Bertie  
Hodgson,  
Jonathan & Cathy  
Hodgson, Shane  
Magill and Eliza  
Hodgson

Photograph by  
Julie Blacow

## New Chairman at NESMA AGM

The second generation Mule breeder, Jonathan Hodgson, who farms with his family at High Borrans, Windermere, was unanimously elected at the Association's annual general meeting at The Rheged Centre, Penrith, taking over as chairman from Chris Harrison, Coatlith Hill, Alston.

Jonathan, his wife Cathy and three grown-up children, Bertie, Rory and Eliza, farm 1,250 Swaledale ewes, with 300 kept pure, the rest crossed with the Blue Faced Leicester to produce the all-purpose NE Mule. Their annual production of gimmer lambs are sold at the J36 sale in September, with the wethers following at an October store sale.

Rising to 1,500 feet and extending to 1,020 acres, the farm is in an HLS Environmental Stewardship which includes the Dubbs Beck and Kent Tributary SSSI. Jonathan is in partnership with his brothers, Christopher and Jimmy, who farm at Rydal Farm and Hartsop Hall respectively. They aim to have a closed flock of Swaledale sheep on all their farms, the two hill farms supplying the draft ewes for both High Borrans and Fellside Farm, the other upland farm.

A former NEMSA Kendal Branch chairman and currently a director at North West Auctions J36, Jonathan has a keen interest in rugby, having played at and still keenly following Windermere RUFC, where he also served as president.

He said: "I have been producing North of England Mules all my working life. I am supremely honoured to be Chairman of NEMSA, the greatest sheep breed in the world, and intend to do the job to the best of my ability. Thank you for this opportunity and your support."

It was another Cumbrian farmer, Geoff Walker, from Beechcroft Farm, near Cockermouth, who took the

office of Vice-Chairman. He farms with his wife, Janet, daughter Jessica, 16, who is training to be a dental nurse, and 15-year-old son, Freddie, who is in his last year of school.

They have 840 mainly Swaledale sheep, running some 250 pure, the rest crossed with the Blue Faced Leicester to produce the 400 gimmer lambs sold annually through Cockermouth Auction Mart, where Geoff also works as a field officer and part-time auctioneer. The flock also comprises 50 Texel-x-Mules, while son Freddie has his own flock of 50 Herdwick ewes.

Geoff, honoured to be invited to be Vice-Chairman and asked why the North of England Mule has endured so long, commented: "I've been brought up breeding Mules. It's because of their great mothering ability, they are so hard wearing and great converters from grass to milk."

Northumberland's Peter Lee, of Morley Hill, Whitfield, begins his second year in his three-year Presidential reign, while Jeff Burrow, Thursgill, was re-elected Treasurer. Other officials were re-elected en-bloc.

The meeting welcomed main sponsor, Richard Webber, CEO and founder of Shearwell Data, who handed over the main sponsorship cheque and conducted the 'Shearwell Prize draw,' which gives a £250 voucher to a member from all nine NEMSA branches - Hawes, Kendal, Kirkby Stephen, Lazonby, Northumberland, Skipton, Teesdale, Weardale and West Cumbria.

Local sponsors Eden Farm Supplies were also represented, with NFU Northwest kindly donating refreshments for the evening. Secretary Linda Alan screened a video of 2022 show and sale highlights from 14 of the auction centres across the North of England.



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Kirkby Stephen,

Cumbria,

CA17 4HL

# MERCHANDISE

A new website is in the pipeline where will be able to buy a wide selection of Nemsa Merchandise online. In the mean time and you would like to order some clothing or hats please ring, email, or text me with your order.

Linda : nemsa@btinternet.com 0789 699 2598



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Price: £35



# NEMSA CONTACT DETAILS

## OFFICERS OF THE ASSOCIATION



### PREVIOUS CHAIRMAN

Chris Harrison

07759 294212

### CHAIRMAN

Jonathan Hodgson  
jwhborrans@gmail.com

015394 43313

### PRESIDENT

Peter Lee

01434 345231

### TREASURER

Jeff Burrow

jean-burrow@btconnect.com

### VICE CHAIRMAN

Geoff Walker

07393 012264

## NEMSA BRANCH CHAIRMEN

Lazonby	Thomas Carrick	thomascarrick83@gmail.com	07748 017636
Hawes	Neil Allan	theallanhome@btinternet.com	07792 905175
West Cumbria	Ken Pears	mandypears66@gmail.com	01697 478525
Kirkby Stephen	Ian Cousin	iancousin@btinternet.com	07966 462756
Kendal	Brian Knowles	brianknowles311@gmail.com	07766 145345
Skipton	Michael Burnop	michaelburnop@hotmail.com	07816 780798
Weardale	Andrew Reed	landsfarm@btconnect.com	07729 075094
Teesdale	Clive Metcalf	parkhouse.metcalf@btinternet.com	07718 743692
Northumberland	Willie Weatherson	willieweatherson@hotmail.com	07778 855841
Secretary	Linda Allan	nemsa@btinternet.com	07896 992598

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