

# Ryeland FBS Autumn 2023



*Above: Top priced lot for the Ludlow sale was 1800gns for ram lamb Hawthorns Dynamite. Bred by A Robinson and sired by Hawthorns Zinzan Valentine out of a Cagedale ewe, he sold to E Davies, Llansantffraid.*

*Photo: Agrimarketing*

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## Editor's Note

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Lots of show results in this edition and as we near the end of show time you're probably ready for a rest! And so, on to tugging!



I'd like to take this opportunity of thanking Holly for producing the Coloured Section. Holly has stepped down and I will miss working with her. Claire Weedall has taken up the baton and I wish her well.

Please let me have any reports or articles by 1st November so that the next edition can hopefully come out before Christmas.

*Lin Whittall*

Ryeland Editor

[lin.whittall@gmail.com](mailto:lin.whittall@gmail.com)

## From the Chair

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Well we are nearing the end of August and it's been a very busy year with the majority of shows running, only a couple have dropped off the radar due to lack of funds post covid, hopefully they will return in time.

I had the honour of judging Coloured Ryelands at Pembrokeshire County Show in August, this was the first time that coloured Ryeland classes had been arranged and the support from breeders around the area was brilliant. I hope to venture there as an exhibitor next year.

It has been wonderful to see the show results being posted on Facebook and seeing excellent numbers when I have been attending various shows around the country. Special thanks to all those exhibitors and their families for making the commitment to promote and show their livestock in challenging weather on occasion this year. If you were lucky enough to win rosettes then please do forward your results and pictures to the relevant email addresses as shown below so that the show supplements can be produced in the autumn/winter.

There are two lamb shows being held this year, one by the north Wales and Mercia regional committee at Staffordshire County Show ground in November and one held in conjunction with Kington show jointly organised by the Hereford and marches committee and the mid, south and west Wales committees which will be taking place in September. These shows cater for lambs born over a wide range of

months, and can either be trimmed or left au naturale... it's a lovely opportunity to show for the first time if you are a new member and for you not to have to worry about when they were born or the need to trim....

Tupping season is on the horizon and this weekend saw the RFBS Show and Sale held in Ludlow. online bidding was available and this was used by members across the UK and in Ireland. Many travelled the length and breadth of the UK to either bring stock for sale or to purchase to develop and improve their flocks for the coming year. The quality of stock presented was fantastic, there were a number of rejects and the issues raised ranged from short tails, incorrect tags and teeth. In the Ryelands the top price went to a Ram Lamb from the Hawthorns Flock (Alison Robinson) which sold for 1,800 to the Winllan flock. In the Coloured Ryelands the top price went to a ewe lamb bred by the Moss Rose flock and which was sold for 1,500g to Rachael Dilworth's Otis flock

The winner of the coloured Ryeland Bob Webb points trophy was Joanne fisher and Malcolm Hoggarth and reserve went to the Owens family of Andrew, Sian, Erin and Lia. Both trophies were presented by Nick Webb who is the grandson of Bob Webb and now the proud custodian of the Teme flock.

The winner of the Ryeland Percy Wear points trophy was Alison Robinson and reserve went to Alun and Eleanor Parry. The trophy was presented by Brenda Wear, granddaughter. The winner of the

## **Council Members**

**President** - John Reed

**Vice President** - Alun & Eleanor Parry

**Chairman** - Caz Bateman

**CRC Representative**

Caz Bateman

**Ryeland Committee Representative**

Zoe Unwin

**Councillors: retire 2024**

Joanne Fisher (Northern England)

Stephen Hipps (Yorkshire)

Julie Ellis (Yorkshire)

Pam Bateman (North Wales & Mercia)

Jack Williams- Deputy Vice Chair  
(Hereford' & T. Marches)

Susan Quigley (Hereford' & T. Marches)

John Donovan - Vice Chair,  
(Mid, W. & S. Wales)

Andy McVicar (Mid, W. & S Wales)

Vacant (Eastern England)

Vacant (South East England)

Gillian Dixon (South West England)

David Mitchell (Scotland)

## **Regional Representatives:**

**Retire April 2025**

Philippa Atkins (Northern England)

Jill Gray (Yorkshire)

Jane Pinches (North Wales & Mercia)

Jonathan Webb (Hereford' & T Marches)

Carol Bateman (Mid, W. & S. Wales)

Vacant (Eastern England)

Stephen Ramsden (South West England)

## **RFBS Office Hours:**

Tuesdays - Thursdays

9.30am - 5pm

Richard Wear ram of the year trophy was Alison Robinson and reserve went to Alun and Eleanor Parry and Eddie and Janice Henderson. The trophy was presented by Margaret Wear, Richard's wife.

Congratulations to all those who won trophies or rosettes. Special thanks to those who acted as stewards, inspectors and to Dot, the vet Jonathan Steele and Andrew Owen for giving up their time on Friday and Saturday. I would like to acknowledge the amazing contribution of Rhian Tyne who worked non-stop throughout the day on Saturday, it was noted by many, thank you.

Council thankfully were able to meet at the NSA Barn in Malvern in July in order to discuss many items including the administrators contract. The administrator has offered additional out of office time and this was welcomed by council and this additional support will be used to improve and enhance existing functions undertaken by the administrator. A new expenses form for regions was approved and this will be circulated to aid the process of claiming back for society purchases. Making clear what is required when claiming money back. Society funds have been re-invested in a higher interest rate account, now that the rates are increasing. Julie Ellis was welcomed to her first council meeting and Philippa Atkins was welcomed in April.

Council Members and those on regional committees are there to help and acknowledge suggestions from members, - details of current Council members can be seen on Page 3. The next Council meeting will be held on 21st October 2023. Please contact Dot, myself, John, Jack, council members or your Regional representative if there are matters which you would like to be raised.

As I write this report after a very enjoyable weekend at the Show and Sale in Ludlow, I am planning and looking forward to my trip up north to the Northern Area Sale in Carlisle on the 16th of September and am hoping to see as many of you as I can. Excellent entries have returned to Carlisle with in excess of 200 coloured Ryeland and Ryelands in attendance. Who doesn't like a sale and the buzz of bidding and attempting to make a purchase.

Wishing you all good luck and good fortune with your flocks as we head into autumn. Let's hope your breeding programs will produce either excellent show stock or breeding stock for 2024.

Thanks

*Caz Bateman*  
Chair

## Herefordshire and the Marches Regional Report

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Our Committee has lost a few members over the last few months, but gained new ones. Coming off are Doreen Smillie-Gray and Lin Whittall and we thank them for their valuable input over the years. Incoming are Cathy Whapham and Dominic Dickson. Viv Gumble remains our Meetings Secretary and Cathy Whapham has taken over as Secretary.

With only a few shows left for 2023, we are hoping for a good turnout at the Annual Lamb Show, which we are hosting with South Mid and West Wales Region, as part of Kington Show. As I write, the Flock Competition is taking place across our region, with John Reed kindly judging the flocks and we have a good few for him to see!.

Following this we are holding a Ryeland Butchery Day and Prize Presentation on 1 October at the lovely home of Sue Quigley. Jayne Carter from Ryecroft Rare Breeds and Tom, a recently retired butcher will demonstrate cuts of meat and talk to us about producing the best sheep for butchering. This should be very instructional and during lunch the results and awards for the Regional Points and Flock Competitions will be announced.

Wishing you all well with tugging.

*David Duggan*

Regional Chair

## South, Mid & West Wales Regional Report

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### **Kington Lamb Show**

On 9<sup>th</sup> September, we will be jointly hosting with Hereford and the Marches Region, (who have kindly asked us to be involved this year) the Annual Lamb Show to be held at Kington Show, Herefordshire. There will be a large number of classes of Ryeland and Coloured Ryeland lambs, which we hope will be well attended.

### **Regional Christmas Lunch**

We will be having our Annual Regional Christmas Lunch on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December at 1pm at The Plough, Rhosmaen, Llandilo, Carmarthenshire, SA19 6NP. This is a new venue for this year, after a very disappointing venue last year. We hope that you will join us this year and all are welcome. The full comprehensive menu will be available soon.

*Andy McVicar*

Regional Chair

## North Wales and Mercia Regional Report

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By now the show season will be over and many of you will have put the tups in. At least this year in our region there seems to have been no shortage of grass so hopefully all your sheep have thrived!

We still have one event to look forward to – our annual Lamb Show. This will be held over the weekend of November 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> at Stafford show ground in conjunction with The English Winter Fair. The showing of the lambs will take place on the Saturday, with 22 classes for Ryeland & Coloured ewe and ram lambs of different ages, as well as pairs classes. There are also Ryeland (coloured included) classes within the Winter Fair for fatstock, with the lambs judged in pairs. These can be either wethers or ewe lambs and they can either be sold afterwards at the auction or taken home. On the Sunday we have Ian Brookbanks from the Wool Marketing Board to judge Wool on the Hoof classes and there will be an opportunity to have your lambs' fleeces graded by him. There are young handler classes and a charity fancy dress to follow.

Schedules will be available from 15<sup>th</sup> September so please contact me ([michele@snelsoncolouredryelands.co.uk](mailto:michele@snelsoncolouredryelands.co.uk)) if you want one posting out or you will be able to download it from our website [www.ryelandnwam.org](http://www.ryelandnwam.org)

There should be plenty of time for socialising and we are hoping to fill the very large table we have booked on the Saturday evening at the wonderful Golden Orient restaurant where everyone is welcome whether you are taking part in the show or not!

As we think ahead to next year please get in touch if you have any ideas for events in the region, be it help with show preparation, veterinary topics, land management etc. We are already planning a workshop to be held in May or June which will focus on tup selection including ram lamb retention, preparation of ewes pre tupping and fertility issues.

Let's hope all your ewes get safely in lamb this Autumn and that the Winter is kind to us.

Michele Varmen  
Regional Chair

## Northern England Regional Report

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The showing season started off hot and dry and then turned into the wettest July on record. Most of the shows still went ahead and entries have been very strong with a good turnout at the shows. The newly formed Northern Region committee have

reinstated the Points Trophy for the highest points at the following 4 shows - Cumberland, Skelton, Royal Lancashire and Westmoreland. At the time of writing the Westmoreland Show is yet to come so we look forward to being able to tot up the points once all the shows have taken place.

As the Northern Region covers such a huge area all meetings have been held over Zoom which has been much easier for everyone. The last meeting was an open meeting which welcomed everyone in the Northern Region and it was good to get a few more people joining us for the meeting. The brief results from the points shows that have taken place so far are as follows:

### **Cumberland Show**

#### **Ryeland Results**

Breeding ram: Mr A+D Mitchell  
Shearling ram: Mrs Alison & Emma Robinson  
Ram lamb: Mrs Emma Redmayne  
Breeding ewe: Mrs Alison & Emma Robinson  
Shearling ewe: Miss Annabel Burton  
Ewe lamb: Mrs Alison & Emma Robinson  
Group of 3: Mrs Emma Redmayne  
Champion Ryeland - Mrs Emma Redmayne  
Reserve Champion - Miss Annabel Burton

#### **Coloured Ryeland Results**

Breeding ram: Miss Annabel Burton  
Shearling ram: Miss Chloe Holmes  
Ram lamb: Miss Lisa Griffiths  
Breeding ewe: Mr & Mrs Tim Glover  
Shearling ewe: Miss Annabel Burton  
Ewe lamb: Mr & Mrs Tim Glover  
Group of 3: Messrs Fisher & Hoggarth  
Champion Ryeland - Miss Annabel Burton  
Reserve Champion - Miss Chloe Holmes

Thank you to the Judges Stephen Hipps and Jim Arthur

### **Skelton Show**

#### **Ryeland results**

Breeding ram: T Harrington  
Shearling ram: T Harrington  
Ram lamb: T & E Redmayne  
Breeding ewe: T & E Redmayne  
Shearling ewe: T Harrington  
Ewe lamb: T & E Redmayne

Group of 3: T & E Redmayne  
Champion Ryeland - T & E Redmayne  
Reserve Champion - T & E Redmayne

### **Coloured Ryeland Results**

Breeding ram: Philippa Atkins  
Shearling ram: Chloe Holmes  
Ram lamb: J Fisher  
Breeding ewe: J Fisher  
Shearling ewe: Chloe Holmes  
Ewe lamb: Chloe Holmes  
Group of 3: Chloe Holmes  
Champion Ryeland - Chloe Holmes Reserve Champion - Philippa Atkins

Thank you to the Judges Philippa Gray & David Mitchell

### **Royal Lancashire Show**

[See the Ryeland full results elsewhere in the newsletter]

### **Coloured Ryelands**

Breeding ram: Fisher & Hoggarth  
Shearling ram: Tim & Gill Glover  
Ram lamb: Michelle Varmen  
Breeding ewe: Rebecca Bate  
Shearling ewe: Fisher & Hoggarth  
Ewe lamb: Fisher & Hoggarth  
Group of 3: Ella Wilson  
Champion Ryeland - Fisher & Hoggarth Reserve Champion - Fisher & Hoggarth

Thank you for the Judges Doreen Smillie Gray and Steve Gray

One of the largest shows in the Northern Region is the Northumberland County show, however it does not have Ryeland/Coloured Ryeland classes. We are hopeful that if we could gather more support we could approach the committee and see if we can change this as we do lack shows in our region.

We hope to plan a visit to the Benkridge Woolworks in the coming months and a winter social evening dates and more details to follow.

### **Philip Holmes**

Regional Chair



## News From the South East

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A small group of South East members planned a show preparation afternoon in July aimed at encouraging those new to showing to enter Findon Sheep Fair on 9th September. Unfortunately however there was very little interest in the event and so it did not go ahead.

Please contact [laura@swaynesfarm.net](mailto:laura@swaynesfarm.net) for any sheep-related help or advice (registration queries are an old chestnut as the autumn deadline looms!), or to advertise stock for sale or wanted in the regional marketplace email.

**Laura Goldsmith**

## Scottish News

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The summer show season has all but come to an end in Scotland and once again shows across the country have seen well-supported Ryeland classes.

Championship awards have gone to Eilidh Garrett (three wins); Andrew Hunter Blair (two wins); Eddie and Janice Henderson (two wins), Janice Milne and Susan Bryden. Our National Show winners were the Hendersons who also lifted the reserve championship at the Turriff event, a feat they repeated again a few days later at the other end of the country at Dumfries.

It's also been a great summer for one of our younger members, equine studies student Eilidh Garrett who had taken three titles at northern shows with her aged tup Gormack Aragon (below)

Special congratulations to Tom Wright from Worcestershire who made the long trip north to compete at the Highland Show for the first time and took the top title with his homebred gimmer.



### **Scottish Smallholders Festival**

This year, the Scottish Smallholders Festival on October 14 is moving to a new venue at the Highland Showground at Ingliston following the closure of the Forfar market where it was previously held. Members in Scotland will be staging a self-funded promotional stand at this event and one of the festival's speakers will be our very own Janice Milne, Keirhead Ryelands. Janice (pictured below) started out with two Ryelands back in 2010 and has built up a small successful flock and has recently started judging. Her talk is entitled 'Starting with Sheep' and she will share her learning experiences, both good and bad.



As part of the festival, there will be a lamb show and we are hoping for a good turn-out of our breed at this venue which is more accessible for many people. More information on [www.festival.scot](http://www.festival.scot).

Scottish members will also be getting together for the annual winter lunch to be held in November at Stirling where the points competition winners will be announced.

*Susan Bryden*

### **Yorkshire Regional Report**

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We have had a good summer of shows this year in the region, with most going ahead as normal. The weather has at times been wet, but this has not deterred exhibitors with excellent entries across the board especially the Coloureds. The standard has been excellent, with a Emley interbreed won by C Ellis with a

Ryeland shearling ewe, and Ripley interbreed won by M Varmen with a Coloured Ram (aged I think).

The Great Yorkshire Show was a huge success; M Cook taking the Ryeland championship and M Varmen the Coloured championship. The hospitality was amazing and enjoyed by all, thanks to Gill and Tim Glover for a fab spread of food.

Regards

*Julie Ellis*

Regional Secretary

## Fleece & Yarn Committee

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This summer newsletter comes after sheep have been sheared. Some of us have started processing our fleeces, others put them in a sack and sent them to the BWMB, some will sell them privately. But it is a time to get ready for those dark winter afternoons when there is nothing better than to sit with a bit of Ryeland fleece and make something. Don't leave it too late though – remember that the deadline for the Annual Online Craft Competition is 28<sup>th</sup> October.



To this end, this report contains an extract from Jack Smellie of Celebrating Wool and Fibre UK about how they prepare their fleeces for spinning and weaving. They make some lovely rugs!

It was such a shame that Tenbury Show was wet. It meant that there were far fewer members of the non sheep keeping public visiting our tent, although it was an attraction to get out of the downpours. Lin took her peg loom, and Judith her spinning wheel and spent a lot of time talking to people about how wonderful wool is, explaining how spinning works and generally talking things woolly, supported by the display of a wide variety of crafts – all Ryeland of course!

It was also pleasing that there was an increase in Fleece Competition entries this year. Congratulations to Justine Williams for getting the first prize in the Ryeland Fleece; to Joanne Fisher who took first and second, and Thomas Nash with third in the Coloured Ryeland Fleece. Thank you as well to Dave Duggan for Judging.

So next year – before you sling your fleeces into that wool bag, just pick out a couple of the ones you like best and put them to one side to show – both at Stafford and Tenbury.

If you only have a few sheep, and think it is not worth the fuel taking your fleeces to the nearest pick up point for the Wool Board, you are able to sell them privately. A

very good place to do this is a website called 'The Fleece Shop'. (<https://www.thefleeceshop.co.uk/>) It is easy to list and it is a site that is frequented by spinners and weavers looking for British good quality wool. As the Ryeland was bred for the quality of its fleece, we should be getting it out there to those spinners!

The next Fleece and Yarn event will be the Bakewell Wool Gathering on 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> October. If you are in the area and fancy spending a few hours with us on the stand, then please email Judith on [judithann1366@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:judithann1366@hotmail.co.uk). It is a cheeky way to get into the show for free, and it is always full of inspiring ideas and creative crafters.

Sadly (very sadly as far as the rest of us in the F&Y group are concerned) Lin has decided not to carry on in her role leading us. She has done an amazing job, often not appreciated by the wider Ryeland community, her drive and enthusiasm and ability to organise will be very much missed, although we hope that her physical presence will still be there at events such as Wonderwool Wales and Tenbury Show.

This means that we are a dwindling group, much in need of some fresh input. If you do stuff with your wool (even just selling it to crafters, then get in touch ([judithann1366@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:judithann1366@hotmail.co.uk)). There is not a big demand on time, and it is always good to have fresh ideas and creativity.

And if you fancy having a go with your own – this is one approach you could take:

*Courtesy of Jack Smellie from Celebrating Wool and Fibre UK.*

### **Washing and removing VM (vegetable matter)**

We don't heavily skirt our fleeces for rug making as we like to use as much of the fleece as we can and the thick, chunky yarn we make can cope with most types of wool. We do remove poo-ey bits and obvious VM, and if some sections of the fibre has loads of VM in it, we may throw it completely.

We pretty much always cold-water wash unless we feel there is a LOT of lanolin or really dirty tips/locks. We have old cow lick buckets that are big enough for most fleeces (2-3kgs) which we fill with water, a good dollop of Ecover wool wash and Indian Soap nuts. This gets left for around 24 hours during which time we do a few gentle agitations (just when we happen to be passing). We will also carry on picking out VM at this stage too.

Next we rinse - we decamp the wool into an old bread basket so that the mucky water drains away before squeezing out any left and then popping back into the buckets and refilling with clean water. We usually only need to rinse a couple of times with Ecover wool conditioner being added on the last rinse. As we rinse, we pull the fibre apart and keep removing bits of VM.

The wool is now turned back out onto our skirting table - a meshed frame through which water, muck and small bits of unusable wool will fall through. From here it is once again pulled apart a bit, checked for VM and then put onto laundry bags all ready for a spin in our White Knight spin dryer.

After spinning, the wool is now virtually dry and is almost ready to go into our herb drying racks and, on good weather days, be hung outside. This next stage is the most timely because before we put the wool in the racks we tease it apart, handful by handful so it becomes a 'cloud' of wool (similar to putting it through a picker). There are two reasons we do this: firstly it helps it dry quicker and secondly because it also helps to expose and dislodge yet more VM that has so far evaded detection. As the wool then dries, because it is so fluffed up, yet more bits of VM will fall out! In addition, when we come to spin the wool, it is nicely fluffed up and doesn't require much more prep.

Once dry, we transfer the wool to paper sacks and store until we are ready to spin.

We should say: there will still be VM in the wool even at this stage. BUT as we spin and weave, yet more gets exposed and either falls out or can be picked out!! We always say that a bit of VM left in our rugs shows they are the genuine article.

## From the Vet

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### **Vaccine Shortages and Preventative Measures Against Orf**

Orf (Contagious Pustular Dermatitis – CPD) is a contagious pox-virus in sheep and lambs that causes crusty skin scabs, usually around the nose and mouth. This year the condition has been prevalent. In the summer Orf often occurs when sheep graze upon rougher pastures (e.g. thistles and gorse), which cause scratches and abrasions to the sheep's lips. This allows circulating virus to enter the skin. Although it is very contagious, Orf is usually more of a nuisance than of grave concern in healthy adult sheep. The condition is normally self-resolving unless skin lesions are made worse by secondary bacterial infections. Orf is more of a concern if it occurs at lambing time. The stress of housing and lambing may be a trigger for virus shedding/spread at this time. The virus can also survive inside buildings from the previous lambing season. Lesions in young lambs are often very painful and will reduce the desire to feed. Lambs who have suffered infection are reported to be on average 2.2kg lighter at weaning. There is also up to an 83% chance that infected lambs will transfer lesions to their mother's udder, increasing the risk of mastitis. Orf is a zoonosis, so lesions can spread to humans.

## **RFBS Annual Handicraft Show**

4 November 2023

Entries Close 28 October 2023

Judge Claire Weedall

Voucher prizes for classes 1 to 5 – 1<sup>st</sup> £20, 2<sup>nd</sup> £15, 3<sup>rd</sup> £10 and 4<sup>th</sup> £5

Entries open to all members of the RFBS. One entry per class per person. Two good photographs to be emailed to Ricky at [chris.rsmyth@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:chris.rsmyth@yahoo.co.uk) before 28<sup>th</sup> October.

### **Classes:**

1. Any knitted item
2. Any needle felted item
3. Any crocheted item
4. Any woven item
5. Any other woolly item not mentioned above

Overall winner to receive the Handicraft Champion Trophy

6. Any item made by a person under the age of 16 (please state age, rosettes and prizes to be awarded to all under 16 entrants).
7. Any Sheep related DIY item
8. Any artwork of Ryeland or Coloured Ryeland sheep.

**ALL HANDICRAFT ITEMS TO BE MADE FROM RYELAND OR COLOURED RYELAND WOOL ONLY.**

**ALL EXHIBITS MUST BE EXHIBITORS OWN WORK AND NOT PREVIOUSLY ENTERED IN COMPETITION.**

There is currently a nationwide shortage of vaccines for protection against Orf. For many years 'Scabivax Forte' has been licenced vaccine in the UK. This vaccine has recently been rebranded and is now called 'Scabiguard'. A statement from the National Sheep Association (NSA) on 28<sup>th</sup> July called on vaccine manufacturers and the government for action, expressing concern for animal health and welfare if vaccine supply continues to be disrupted. The plea extends to the difficulty in obtaining vaccines against Clostridial diseases, Pasteurella, toxoplasmosis, enzootic abortion, foot rot and Orf.

### **Steps to help prevention:**

- Quarantine and carefully examine the mouth, nose, and lips of all newly purchased sheep before mixing them with your flock. Scabs may initially be subtle and often start in the very corners of the mouth. The incubation period is short (3 -7days) so active infection should quickly become apparent. Unfortunately, even with the absence of lesions, some sheep will carry the virus in their system and can become infectious to others at times of stress.
- Top/strim or spray thistles on your pastures to help prevent skin scratches.
- Take steps to prevent nose-to-nose contact with neighbouring flocks. For example, double fencing farm boundaries.
- Thoroughly disinfect lambing sheds, especially if you have had cases of Orf in previous years. This includes equipment such as feed troughs, hurdles, and hay racks. The virus can survive for more than 12 months (some sources claim 'for multiple years') inside buildings, and up to 6 weeks in scabs on the pasture. The Orf virus is susceptible to most disinfectants, but the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) recommends solutions containing Hypochlorite.
- When available, vaccination tends to be the most robust protective measure against Orf, providing immunity for over 12 months. Vaccination should not be undertaken in flocks that have never had any cases of Orf. Scabiguard can be administered to ewes (in attempt to suppress circulating virus at lambing time) and/or lambs from 1 day old. Immunity is not passed from ewes to their lambs. Scabiguard is a live vaccine that is administered by scratching the ewe or lamb's skin with an applicator. A small scab will form at the vaccine site. Ewes should be vaccinated at least 7 weeks prior to housing/lambing to prevent scabs from contaminating the lambing environment. Correct vaccine protocol should be followed as per the product datasheet. Wear gloves when handling the vaccine, it can cause Orf in humans.

If there continues to be a shortage of Scabiguard, high risk flocks may consider using an injectable Orf vaccine licenced in Europe, but not in the UK: 'Ecthybel'. Vets may be able to obtain this via special import licence. I cannot vouch for the efficacy or safety data of this vaccine (to be discussed with your vet) but studies so far look to be encouraging. The manufacturers claim that vaccinating pregnant ewes 3-4 weeks prior to lambing will also provide their newborn lambs with some initial immunity.

#### **Steps in the face of an outbreak:**

- Isolate any sheep or lambs with scabs (plus its dam if un-weaned) from the rest of the flock immediately.
- Keep lambing sheds clean and dry. Regularly top up bedding to help reduce the risk of sheep coming into contact with infectious scabs.
- Where possible, avoid situations that encourage sheep to make close nose-to-nose contact with each other, for example at feeding troughs and crowded hay racks. Regularly disinfect feeding equipment.
- Young lambs may become too painful to drink and may require milk supplementation until scabs heal. Sterilise all bottles and tubing equipment thoroughly between use.
- Regularly check the udder of ewes with infected lambs. Lesions could lead to mastitis, requiring prompt medical treatment. Ewes may not allow lambs to drink if the udder is painful.
- Pain relief should be administered for anything more than very mild cases.

Lesions are normally self-curing, although full resolution can take up to 28 days. Severe cases may be exacerbated by opportunistic secondary bacterial infections. These cases will require topical antibiotic spray and possibly injectable antibiotic treatment.

There are always various anecdotal suggestions of ointments/sprays/oils (and more unusual substances) that some claim will cure Orf in the blink of an eye! It is likely that the self-resolving nature of this virus is why all manner of potions have been perceived to be curative. Salt licks and Orf mineral buckets that are designed to dry up skin scabs are likely to be beneficial, provided they do not act as a source of contamination. Sprays and solutions (such as dilute iodine or Alu-spray) with drying and antibacterial action may help to prevent secondary bacterial infection.



In the face of an outbreak some sources advocate vaccinating all in-contact stock (if vaccine is obtainable). However, this may be of limited gain because Scabiguard takes 4-8 weeks to provide active immunity after vaccination.

*Sophie Wright*  
MRCVS

## **News from Ryecroft - How fast has this year gone?**

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The showing season has almost come to an end and I can't believe tupping time is upon us once again. I think it's one of my favourite times of the year! The excitement of choosing tups and ewe combinations; the anticipation of what they will produce, I just love it!! Whilst writing this I am still making final decisions on which ewes will go with which tup. Our teaser is being prepared to go in first to do his job at getting all the girls to cycle with the hopes that lambing will be fast and furious and over in 17 days. Wouldn't that be lovely? Many of you will have already had the tups in and indeed out already, but we aim to lamb mid-February onwards in the hopes that the weather is kinder and the ewes and lambs won't have to wait as long for fresh grass.

Our grazing rotation has been carefully planned for autumn and into the beginning of winter but we have to adapt to the conditions so my spreadsheet may very well end up on the fire! We have, however, chosen our lamb turnout field so that we can save it as best we can. We rotate which field the lambs get turned out on each year to try and prevent to build up of cocci and other parasites that can affect the newborns until they build up resistance. This is something I've learned to do with the help of my vets whom I use a lot in the health care plan for my flock. And this year it's even easier to get help from your vets as the government have launched the Animal Health and Welfare pathway. Have you heard of it? Unfortunately at the moment it is only available if you are in receipt of BPS but it's a grant you can get from the government to go towards your vet bills. The aim is to lower your parasitic burden through faecal egg counts, however once you qualify you can use it for anything that will help the health of your flock; from blood tests to check the health of your ewes pre lambing, through to consultation costs with your vet. If you need more information go to [www.apply-for-an-annual-health-and-welfare-review.defra.gov.uk/apply/guidance-for-farmers](http://www.apply-for-an-annual-health-and-welfare-review.defra.gov.uk/apply/guidance-for-farmers) or speak to your vet who will be happy to help.

This year's crop of lambs are starting to come through our butchery now, much to the delight of our customers who have been eagerly awaiting their lamb boxes, and of course it means this year's payday has finally arrived. We have, of course, select-

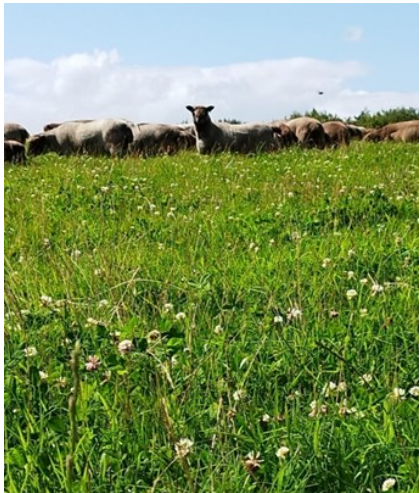


ed our replacements to join our breeding ewes next year, and we have a selection of lambs that we will take through the winter to become hogget next spring.

Our fields have done a wonderful job this year producing delicious food for the flock and the herbal ley has protected the soil from erosion and poaching in all this rain. The fields I over-seeded back in June are coming on nicely and I will be using them in the autumn rotation to

see how they fare. We've also been busy fencing in preparation for more hedgerows and hedgerow trees to be planted this winter (best get some new wellies for that, my current ones have sprung a leak); a job we carried out several years ago and one that I am not really looking forward to but it will be so worth it once completed.

Last but not least, our woodland is thriving thanks to the conservation work done by our pigs and the wildlife it brings to the farm is ever increasing. We are now up to three species of owl and last night I had the shock of my life coming face to face with a deer!!! I was not expecting that and despite my best efforts I couldn't get my phone out fast enough!!



Anyhow, back to the pedigree certificates and grazing spreadsheets I go. I hope tupping time goes well for everyone and you get your wishes for your lambing schedule.

All the best  
*Team Ryecroft*

## Royal Three Counties

### Results

Judge - Doreen Smillie-Gray

#### Aged Ram

- 1 - Ann Davies

#### Shearling Ram

- 1 - Tom Wright  
2 - Michele Varmen  
3 - Ann Davies  
4 - Steph Burton

#### Ram Lamb

- 1 - Sue Quigley  
2 - James & Sophie Wright  
3 - Thomas Nash  
4 - Steph Burton

#### Shearling Ewe

- 1 - Ann Davies  
2 - Sue Quigley  
3 - Michele Varmen  
4 - Tom Wright

#### Ewe Lamb

- 1 - Matthew Bevan  
2 - James & Sophie Wright  
3 - Hilary Deakins  
4 - Sue Quigley

#### Breeding Ewe

- 1 - Thomas Nash  
2 - Ann Davies  
3 - Sue Quigley  
4 - Dinedor Cross Farm

#### Group of Three

- 1 - Ann Davies

#### Best Lamb

Sue Quigley - Ram Lamb

#### Novice Exhibitor

Dinedor Cross Farm

#### Best pair of lambs

- 1 - James and Sophie Wright  
2 - Sue Quigley

#### Female Champion

Ann Davies - Shearling Ewe

#### Male Champion

Tom Wright - Shearling Ram

#### Breed Champion

Ann Davies - Shearling Ewe

#### Res Breed Champion

Tom Wright - Shearling Ram



*Above Left to Right: Royal Three Counties Breed Champion, shearling ewe exhibited by Ann Davies, Judge Doreen Smillie-Gray and Right, Reserve Champion, Shearling ram exhibited by Tom Wright.*

## Royal Cheshire show Ryeland Results

We were very glad of a big marquee as the rain was torrential at times! Thank you to Pam Bateman for judging & congratulations to all the winners.

### Shearling ram & older

1 E Davies

2 E Davies

### Shearling ewe & older

1 - A & S Owens

2 - M. Varmen

3 - J. Ellis

4 - A & S Owens

### Ram lamb:

1 - M. Varmen

2 - C. Fleet

3 - P Gray

4 - J. Ellis

### Ewe lamb:

1 - P.Gray

2 - J. Ellis

3 - M. Varmen

4 - P.Gray

### Group of 3

1 - P.Gray

2 - J. Ellis

3 - M. Varmen



### Breed Champion

A & S Owen's shearling ewe (above left)

### Reserve

M. Varmen's ram lamb (above right)

Judge Pam Bateman in the centre



**Royal Highland Champion**  
**Tom Wright's shearling ewe.**



## **Royal Highland Show Results 2023**

**Judge Mr Brian Davies**

### **Aged Ram**

- 1 - Andrew Hunter Blair (Carsfad)
- 2 - Susan Bryden (Broomwell)
- 3 - A & D Mitchell (Wellhill)

### **Shearling ram**

- 1 - E & J Henderson (Landriggs)
- 2 - E & J Henderson
- 3 - A & D Mitchell
- 4 - A & W Frazier (Cellardyke)

### **Ram lamb**

- 1 - E & J Henderson
- 2 - J Williams & D Dickson
- 3 - Douglas Stainton (Ochiltree)
- 4 - Richrose Ryelands

### **Breeding ewe**

- 1 - Andrew Hunter Blair
- 2 - Susan Bryden
- 3 - J Williams & D Dickson
- 4 - A & D Mitchell

### **Shearling ewe**

- 1 - T Wright
- 2 - E & J Henderson
- 3 - Douglas Stainton
- 4 - Susan Bryden

### **Ewe lamb**

- 1 - Annabel Burton (Ryeside)
- 2 - E & J Henderson
- 3 - Susan Bryden
- 4 - A & D Mitchell

### **Group of Three**

- 1 - Annabel Burton

### **Best bred by exhibitor**

T Wright - Shearling ewe

### **Best lamb**

Annabel Burton - ewe lamb

### **Male Champion**

E & J Henderson - Shearling Ram

### **Female Champion**

T Wright - Shearling ewe

### **Champion**

T Wright - Shearling ewe

### **Reserve**

E & J Henderson - Shearling ram

## **Great Yorkshire Results 2023**

**Judge Mr Julian Wright**

### **Aged ram**

- 1 - Molly Cook
- 2 - AJ Robinson
- 3 - S Briggs & M Whitehurst
- 4 - Will Laurie

### **Shearling ram**

- 1 - AJ Robinson
- 2 - Annabel Burton
- 3 - A & W Frazier
- 4 - A & D Mitchell

### **Ram lamb**

- 1 - T & E Redmayne
- 2 - AJ Robinson
- 3 - Michele Varmen
- 4 - Will Laurie

### **Breeding ewe**

- 1 - AJ Robinson
- 2 - T & E Redmayne
- 3 - A & D Mitchell
- 4 - Maddie Welford

### **Shearling ewe**

- 1 - AJ Robinson
- 2 - S Briggs & M Whitehurst
- 3 - Michele Varmen
- 4 - A & W Frazier

### **Ewe lamb**

- 1 - Annabel Burton
- 2 - AJ Robinson
- 3 - T & E Redmayne
- 4 - A & D Mitchell

### **Pairs**

- 1 - AJ Robinson

### **Group of Three**

- 1 - AJ Robinson

### **Champion Male**

Molly Cook - aged ram

### **Champion Female**

AJ Robinson - shearling ewe

### **Champion**

Molly Cook - aged ram (Hawthorns Beno)

### **Reserve**

AJ Robinson - shearling ewe (00943 C3)



*Above Left to Right: Great Yorkshire Breed Champion, Hawthorns Beno, bred by Alison Robinson and exhibited by Molly Cook, judge, Julian Wright and Reserve Champion, shearling ewe bred and exhibited by Alison Robinson.*



**Great Yorkshire Show Wool on the Hoof** The wool on the hoof result at the Great Yorkshire show was wonderful, Joanne Fisher taking the Supreme Championship with her coloured Ryeland, and Michelle Varmen with Moss Rose Cor Blimey as Reserve Supreme for the Ryelands. Ryelands had a clean sweep out of all the breeds who were there!



*Above Right to Left: Royal Welsh Breed Champion, Aged Ram bred and exhibited by Alun & Eleanor Parry, Judge, Matthew Pink and Reserve, shearling ewe bred and exhibited by Alison Robinson,*



## **Royal Welsh Ryeland Results**

**Judge : Matthew Pink**

### **Aged Ram**

- 1: A & EC Parry - Bryn Caffo
- 2: Ann Davies - Catherton
- 3: Alison Robinson - Hawthorns
- 4: Izzy Hammond - Garddwr

### **Shearling Ram**

- 1: Alison Robinson - Hawthorns
- 2: A & EC Parry - Bryn Caffo
- 3: R A & A M Howell - Mansel
- 4: Andy & Wendy Frazier - Bryn Caffo

### **Ram Lamb**

- 1: A & EC Parry - Bryn Caffo
- 2: J Williams & D Dickson - Bachebrook
- 3: Alison Robinson - Hawthorns
- 4: Donna Morris - Llangyfrwys

### **Aged Ewe**

- 1 : Ann Davies - Catherton
- 2: J Williams & D Dickson - Cagedale
- 3: A & EC Parry - Bryn Caffo
- 4: R A & A M Howell - Mansel

### **Shearling Ewe**

- 1: Alison Robinson - Hawthorns
- 2: Ann Davies - Catherton
- 3 A & EC Parry - Bryn Caffo
- 4: Andy & Wendy Frazier - Cagedale

### **Ewe Lamb**

- 1: J Williams & D Dickson - Bachebrook
- 2: A & EC Parry - Bryn Caffo
- 3 Rhiannon Bevan -
- 4: Alison Robinson - Hawthorns

### **Group of Three**

- 1: A & EC Parry - Bryn Caffo
- 2: Ann Davies - Catherton

### **Male Champion**

Aged Ram - A & EC Parry

### **Reserve Male Champion**

Shearling Ram - Alison Robinson

### **Female Champion**

Shearling Ewe - Alison Robinson

### **Reserve Female Champion**

Aged Ewe - Ann Davies

### **Overall Champion**

Aged Ram 00823 B9- A & EC Parry

### **Reserve Overall Champion**

Shearling Ewe 00943 C3- Alison Robinson

## **National Ryeland Show**

**2023,Tenbury**

**Judge Mr Jonathan Webb**

### **Aged Ram**

- 1 - A J Robinson (Hawthorns)
- 2 - A & EC Parry (Bryn Caffo)

### **Shearling ram**

- 1 - A & EC Parry
- 2 - A J Robinson
- 3 - T Wright (Juggis)
- 4 - RA & AM Howell (Mansel)
- 5 - Justine Williams (Redburrow)
- 6 - T Wright

### **Ram lamb**

- 1 - Susan Quigley (Michaelchurch)
- 2 - A J Robinson
- 3 - J Williams & D Dickson (Bachebrook)
- 4 - A & EC Parry
- 5 - Thomas Nash (Capland)
- 6 - Donna Morris (Llangyfrwys)

### **Breeding ewe**

- 1 - A & EC Parry
- 2 - Susan Quigley
- 3 - A J Robinson
- 4 - Justine Williams
- 5 - RA & AM Howell
- 6 - Donna Morris

### **Shearling ewe**

- 1 - T Wright
- 2 - Susan Quigley
- 3 - RA & AM Howell
- 4 - A J Robinson
- 5 - A & EC Parry
- 6 - J Williams & D Dickson

### **Ewe lamb**

- 1 - J Williams & D Dickson
- 2 - A J Robinson
- 3 - Hilary Deakins (Bishops Wood)
- 4 - A & EC Parry
- 5 - RA & AM Howell
- 6 - Donna Morris

### **Group of Three**

- 1- RA & AM Howell
- 2 - A J Robinson
- 3 - A & EC Parry
- 4 - T Wright
- 5 - J Williams & D Dickson



Pair of shearling ewes

1 - RA & AM Howell

2 - Justine Williams

3 - T Wright

4 - J Williams & D Dickson

Pair of lambs

1 - A & EC Parry

2 - A J Robison

3 - Margaret Bedford (Shraden)

Wool on the hoof

1 - A & EC Parry

2 - Justine Williams

3 - Margaret Beddows

### **Champion Ryeland Lamb**

Susan Quigley Ram Lamb

### **Reserve Ryeland Lamb**

J Williams & D Dickson Ewe Lamb

### **Male Champion**

Susan Quigley Ram Lamb

### **Male Reserve**

A J Robinson Aged Ram

### **Female Champion**

T Wright Shearling Ewe

### **Female Reserve**

A & EC Parry Breeding Ewe

### **Champion**

Susan Quigley Ram Lamb

### **Reserve Champion**

T Wright Shearling Ewe

Congratulations to all exhibitors braving the weather today to show some wonderful sheep.

## **Ludlow Sale Report**

### **Strong Trade and a New Coloured Ryeland Record at the RFBS 2023 Sale**

A record entry of 376 sheep at the 2023 Ryeland Flock Book Society Main Sale at Ludlow Livestock Market drew a good crowd of potential buyers and good averages.

A new Coloured Ryeland record for a Coloured Ryeland Female was set when the female champion went through the ring. The ewe lamb, bred by M Varmen, Macclesfield, was placed a champion by the judge L Howell. Moss Rose Dora, a home bred lamb, sired by Moss Rose Bingo, was sold for 1500gns to the Otis flock of R Dilworth, Bradford. The reserve champion, a shearling ewe from the Landriggs flock of E & J Henderson, Milnathort, Kinross, sold for 600gns to M Varmen. Top priced shearling ewe from the Scoulton flock of J Stone, Melsop, was also the first prize winner. Sired by Mansel Zaki, she sold for 750gns to D Evans, Pontarddulais.

The Coloured Ryeland males were judge by S Hipps, Bishop Thornton, and the chosen champion was Allderale Cassanova, a shearling ram from A & E Robinson, Wigton. Sired by Riverside Ybba and out of a Hawthorns ewe, he sold for 600gns to J Stone. The top price for the day was achieved by the reserve champion, ram lamb Churchstoke Dafydd. Bred by R Whitticase, Churchstoke, he sold

for 1000gns and will join the Roman Castle flock of O Reade, Thirsk. Also joining Mr Reade's flock will be the second highest priced ram lamb, Snelson Duke Ellington. Bred by M Varmen and sired by Snelson Vineapola, he was knocked down for



*Top price Coloured Ryeland and Coloured Ryeland Champion, bred by M Varmen, Macclesfield, sold for 1500gns to the Otis flock of R Dilworth, Bradford.*

900gns.

There was a good entry of Ryeland females so there was plenty of choice and something to suit most budgets. Females were judged by A Hunter-Blair, Castle Douglas and he chose a shearling ewe from the Lodgeway flock of S Briggs & M Whitehurst as his champion. Sired by Ebor Ayoze and out of a Redburrow ewe, she achieved the top price for a Ryeland female of 1250gns and will join P Wills' Coast flock based near Penzance. The reserve champion was a ewe lamb, Lodgeway Daenerys, also from S Briggs & M Whitehurst, sold for 600gns to R Dilworth.

There were three Ryeland males that made over 1000gns. The top price for the whole sale was 1800gns for ram lamb Hawthorns Dynamite. Bred by A Robinson and sired by Hawthorns Zinzan Valentine out of a Cagedale ewe, he sold for E Davies, Llansantffraid. Top priced shearling ram was Juggis Cyclone, bred by T & K Wright, Leominster. Sired by the homebred ram Juggis Asteroid, he sold to H Coulson, Melrose for 1750gns. Ryeland males were judged by S Bryden, Lockerbie and her top placed breeding ram and reserve champion was Bryn Caffo Bill, who made 1700gns. Bred by A & E Parry, Gaerwen, sired by Ashgrove Widget, he joins the Valhalla flock of J & S Wright, Llandovery. The judge's choice as Champion was the winning shearling ram Pembroke Champ from N Morgan, Eglwysrwrw, sold for 700gns to E Brazier, Radford.

*Female Champion and top priced female , bred and exhibited by S Briggs and M Whitehurst. Sold for 1250gns to P Wills, Penzance.*



Auctioneers: McCartneys

Averages: Top Price gns (average £)

*Coloured Ryeland Shearling Ewe: 750 (386.06)*

*Coloured Ryeland Breeding Ewe: 320 (220.50)*

*Coloured Ryeland Ewe Lamb: 1500 (310.80)*

*Coloured Ryeland Shearling Ram: 620 (332.18)*

*Coloured Ryeland Aged Rams: 180 (147.00)*

*Coloured Ryeland Ram Lambs: 1000 (370.66)*

*Ryeland Shearling Ewe: 1250 (314.83)*

*Ryeland Breeding Ewe: 320 (255.50)*

*Ryeland Ewe Lamb: 600 (306.25)*

## **Ludlow Show Results**

### **Ryeland Females:**

**Judge: A Hunter Blair**

#### **Shearling Ewe**

- 1 S Briggs
- 2 W Laurie
- 3 N Morgan
- 4 R & A Howell

#### **Breeding Ewe**

- 1 J Nugent
- 2 J & L Whittall
- 3 J Nugent
- 4 P Bateman

#### **Ewe Lamb**

- 1 S Briggs
- 2 J & S Donovan
- 3 A & E Parry
- 4 A Wright

#### **Female Champion**

S Briggs - Shearling Ewe

#### **Reserve**

S Briggs - Ewe Lamb

### **Ryeland Males**

**Judge S Bryden**

#### **Shearling Ram**

- 1 N Morgan
- 2 K & T Wright
- 3 N Morgan
- 4 J Reed

#### **Breeding Ram**

- 1 A & E Parry
- 2 T & V Jenkins
- 3 F Liddiard

#### **Ram Lamb**

- 1 A & E Parry
- 2 A Robinson
- 3 S Burton
- 4 A Anslow

#### **Champion**

N Morgan - shearling ram

#### **Reserve**

A & E Parry - breeding ram

## **Ryeland Wool on the Hoof**

I & C Lloyd

### **Coloured Ryeland Males**

**Judge Stephen Hipps**

#### **Shearling Rams**

- 1 A & E Robinson
- 2 M Varmen
- 3 M Varmen
- 4 J Deakins

#### **Breeding Rams**

- 1 B Summerfield
- 2 J & R Ellis

#### **Ram Lambs**

- 1 R Whitticase
- 2 M Varmen
- 3 M Varmen
- 4 J Williams & D Dickson

#### **Male Champion**

A & E Robinson - shearling ram

#### **Reserve**

R Whitticase

### **Coloured Ryeland Females**

**Judge Laura Howell**

#### **Shearling Ewes**

- 1 J Stone
- 2 M Varmen
- 3 M Varmen
- 4 A & E Robinson

#### **Ewe Lambs**

- 1 M Varmen
- 2 E & J Henderson
- 3 M Varmen
- 4 A & E Robinson

#### **Female Champion**

M Varmen

#### **Reserve**

E & J Henderson

### **Coloured Ryeland Champion**

M Varmen Ewe Lamb

#### **Reserve**

A & E Robinson shearling Ram

### **Wool on the Hoof**

E & J Henderson

# Coloured Ryeland News

Welcome to the Autumn edition of Coloured Ryeland News.

You will notice that this edition is smaller than the normal editions and that is due to the sad departure of Holly Price. The Coloured Ryeland Committee have been very appreciative of the wonderful work and commitment Holly has made to the production of the CR newsletter and show supplement over several years. Holly has sadly stepped down from the position in order to focus on other life commitments. We wish her all the best for the future and hope to continue to see regular updates from Holly and her family going forward.

The Coloured Ryeland committee were wondering how we would fill this challenging and demanding position and we were delighted when Claire Weedall volunteered to take on the position. Claire will take up the position with the writing of the Autumn newsletter and the creation of the show supplement for 2023.

For this newsletter only I am acting as Editor, so I apologise for the lack of content..

I would like to put out another plea to members for articles for inclusion in the newsletter. If you would like to feature in one in the future, please let Claire or other members of the CR committee know.

*Caz Bateman*  
**CRC Chair**

Coloured Ryeland Sub Committee			
Chairperson		Vice Chairman	
Carol Bateman	01874 636549	Andy McVicar	01686 621977
Committee Members			
Steve Bradbury	01437 563312	Sue McVicar	01686 621977
Joanne Fisher	07899 076651	Jordan Stone	01953 851943
Val Howells	01268 961260	Claire Weedall	07539 195580
Jenny Hughes	01245 223288	Paula Wills	01736 786173
Coloured Ryeland Newsletter Editor			
Holly Price	07543424805	hollyprice127@gmail.com	

## **Show Results and Pictures for 2023 Please Email!**

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The Coloured Ryeland and Ryeland committees have created a helpful means of channelling show results to be included in their respective Show Supplements.

There are two dedicated email addresses to send the details to:

**For all coloured Ryeland results please send to**

**[colouredryelandresults@gmail.com](mailto:colouredryelandresults@gmail.com)**

- There is no predefined format, but ideally the results should include placings for rosettes in each class, and if possible, a count of the number entered in each class.
- Champions and Reserves for male, female, and overall, where possible.
- A photograph of at least the champions and reserve if possible, along with the name of the breeder and the judge.
- Any significant CR results in the interbreed classes, Wool on the Hoof, Fleece competitions, or Young Handlers would also be appreciated.

**All photos and results are appreciated, better to have duplications than no results for a particular show.**

## News from Scotland

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The summer show season has all but come to an end in Scotland and this year has seen five shows with Coloured Ryeland classes scheduled from Turriff in the north-east to Wigtown in the south-west.

Championship awards at these shows were won by Joanne Fisher, Natalie Walker, Callum Thomson (Scottish National), Caitlin McCaig and Ted Harrington.

### Smallholders

This year, the Scottish Smallholders Festival on October 14 is moving to a new venue at the Highland Showground at Ingliston following the closure of the Forfar market where it was previously held.

As part of the festival, there will be a lamb show and we are hoping for a good turnout of our breed at this venue which is more accessible for many people. More information on [www.festival.scot](http://www.festival.scot)

Scottish members will also be getting together for the annual winter lunch to be held in November at Stirling where the points competition winners will be announced.

### 2023 RFBS CRAFT COMPETITION



When: 4<sup>th</sup> November 2023



Closing Date for Entries: 28<sup>th</sup> October 2023



Judge: Claire Weedall



Organiser: Ricky Smyth

# Coloured Ryeland Breeder Profile

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## Montgomery Flock Sue & Andy McVicar

Our flock was established about 20 years ago, when we purchased our first Coloured Ryeland Ewe Lambs for £40 each, from our dear friend the late Jo Walsh (Aytoe Flock) based in Bettws, Newtown, Powys. It was never our intention to breed from them they were just lawn mowers to keep the grass down for our horses at that time.

It was about 12 months later that we met Marian Thornett the secretary of the Coloured Ryeland Group, from whom we purchased our first ram. At this time there were no classes for Coloured Ryelands anywhere in the country, so we decided to show two shearling ewes in full fleece in the any other breed class at the Spring Festival at Builth Wells. We were placed 2<sup>nd</sup> and 5<sup>rd</sup> in the class and from then on we were hooked! It was at this show that we first met Caz and Ef Bateman who eventually purchased their first Coloured Ryelands from us.

It took some years for us to get our own classes for the Coloured Ryelands having to show in Any Other Breed to prove to the shows that we had sufficient numbers to be able to have our own specific classes. The first show was Burwarton and over the years we were able to establish shows at Tenbury Wells, Llyswen, Sennybridge, Kington, Spring Festival Builth Wells and eventually The Royal Welsh. These shows resulted in the Bob Webb points trophy.

We have two flocks one being Montgomery Coloured Ryelands and the other Blackwell Ryelands. We have been fortunate to have won many championships over the years including male champion and overall re-





serve champion at the Royal Welsh with our Shearling Ryeland Ram. We have also won the championship with our Coloured Ryeland Ram (Mansel Pharoah) at the same show.

Mansel Pharoah was a ram lamb that we purchased from Russell Howell, who went on to win over thirty championships for us over several years, including overall Reserve Supreme Champion in the inter-breed at Stafford County Show.



For many years we have both been on the Coloured Ryeland Committee and on Council. In addition, Andy was a past Chairman and President of the society.

We now have two new flocks to our name - Montgomery Greyface Dartmoor's and Montgomery Valais Blacknose Sheep



## Derwen Trophy

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Pictured here with the Derwen Trophy is Marian Thornett. (The Derwen Flock) The trophy is in recognition of her hard work over many years as the secretary for the Coloured Ryeland Group. Marian's flock was 75C which was established around 1998. She was for many years the point of contact for all Coloured Ryeland Breeders.



## Young Handler Competition 2023 - UPDATE

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Building on the great success of last year's young handler competition, we were pleased to announce earlier in the year that the RFBS National Young Handlers Competition was back for 2023!

Both the Coloured Ryeland and Ryeland committees have carefully reviewed the competition and we are pleased to announce that rather than limiting the Young Handler competition to qualifying shows only we are opening it up to all shows run in 2023 where the Young Handler has either shown a Coloured Ryeland or Ryeland.

Please do email the appropriate email addresses as per the advert below, if you or a junior family member did well this year, we want to hear about it. The winners will be notified, and prizes awarded at the AGM in 2024.



The poster has a teal background. In the top left, a red starburst contains the text: 'Junior Shepherd Now age groups are 3-6 years, 7-11 years and 12-16 years'. The main headline in large white letters reads 'All Shows now Qualify!'. Below this, the title '2023 RFBS National Young Handlers Competition' is written in white. There are two photographs: one on the left shows a young person in a white shirt standing next to a white sheep, and one on the right shows three young people in white shirts and hats standing next to a black sheep. At the bottom, white text provides registration details: 'To register email entrants name and age to Justine Williams for Ryelands (justinewilliams16@gmail.com) and Joanne Fisher for Coloured Ryelands (je.fisher@aol.com) adding the subject heading 'RFBS 2023 YH Entrant''.

Junior Shepherd  
Now age groups are  
3-6 years,  
7-11 years  
and  
12-16 years

# All Shows now Qualify!

## 2023 RFBS National Young Handlers Competition

To register email entrants name and age to  
Justine Williams for Ryelands (justinewilliams16@gmail.com)  
and Joanne Fisher for Coloured Ryelands (je.fisher@aol.com)  
adding the subject heading 'RFBS 2023 YH Entrant'

## RFBS Notices

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- **Registrations:** Registration applications for 2022 born animals must be submitted via Grassroots by 31st October in order to avoid late registration penalties. **Lambs** registered before the 31st of October will appear in the 2023 flock book but those submitted afterwards will appear in the 2024 edition,.
- **Show Results:** you have haven't already sent in show results and photos, please send them to the designated results emails detailed within this edition.
- **Ownership Transfers:** Remember if you sell sheep, it's your responsibility to log in to Grassroots to submit the transfer of ownership online. This allows the changes to be processed quickly and easily. It also makes it a lot easier to new breeders to get their flock details up to date.
- **Website Member's Area:** A new member only area to the website will be set up in the next few days. This will be password protected and that will be changed from time to time. To obtain the current password, please log in to your Grassroots account and look at the "News" section in the centre of the your welcome screen. You should be able to see the password there.
- **Council Meeting:** The next Council meeting will take place on the 21st October. If you have any issues that you wish to raise, please contact your local representative or your regional committee - details of Council members can be found on page 3 of this newsletter.