

Ryeland FBS Winter 2023



Winning entry in the Art Section of the recent RFBS Craft Competition. From Jeannie Scott. Well done to Jeannie and all the other winners. Thanks to everyone who took part.

Ryeland FBS Contact - TC & AJ Tyne, Administrator, Ty'n y Mynydd Farm, Boduan, Pwllheli, Gwynedd, LL53 8PZ . Telephone - 01758 721739 Email - admin@ryelandfbs.com

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Editor's Note

Welcome to the winter edition. And also welcome to our Coloured Ryeland Editor Claire. You may find changes to future editions as we swop ideas, i.e. Fleece and Yarn Report will now feature in the Coloured section.



I do hope you've all had successful tupping results and I look forward to seeing many of you in the not too distant future.

Could I please have your next offerings by 15th February.

Eweltime greetings to ewe all. (Groan, there's always one).

Lin Whittall
Ryeland Editor
lin.whittall@gmail.com

From the Chair

Well 2023 has certainly flown in my eyes... with the shows in full swing this year and many activities organised and run by the regional committees, the society has been a hive of activity.

The year began with the AGM held at the Green Dragon Hotel in Hereford and was a very interesting and enjoyable event, many thanks to the Hereford and the Marches region for their support and efforts to make this another successful AGM. In the evening of the AGM the presidents dinner was held at the same hotel, kindly organised by Mr John Reed. Turnout was excellent and the food and company was enjoyed by all in a relaxing environment. Next year the AGM will be held on 27th April in the Mid, South and West Wales region, at the Metropole Hotel Llandrindod Wells, further details to follow.

The two affiliated shows at Worcester and Carlisle were very well attended by vendors and purchases. Special thanks to those who judged, stewarded, inspected and provided general assistance at these events. They would not be as streamline without your help. This year, new vets were organised by the society and they attended both shows to aim for consistency during the inspection process, the feedback overall was very positive with only a couple of suggested modifications approved by council at the last meeting, namely that rejected stock will no longer be spray

marked but will be identified with red labels fitted around their necks, also the vets will be there the night before for the duration of the drop off period in addition to the morning of the sale.

At the most recent council meeting council approved a change to the eligibility for registering stock from outside of the UK. John Donovan very kindly liaised with the Welsh Assembly Government and forwarded changes as agreed by WAG to Council. These were approved and the changes are shown in the notices section of this newsletter. Council also approved a new expenses form for the regional committees, to aid and to make more simplistic the process of purchasing receipted items on behalf of the society and also approved amendments to the current judging policy. Thanks to Stephen Hipps and John Donovan for their work on this policy.

After a successful Young Handler competition in 2022 it was agreed to run the two Young Handler Competitions again this year. Both committees felt it was important to encourage as many of the younger members to enter so qualifying shows were scrapped and the competition has been opened up to all shows as long as the young handler in question is showing either a Coloured Ryeland or Ryeland and their age falls within the three age range brackets. The winners of each age range will be notified in January 2024 and will be invited to receive their prize at the AGM.

The annual craft competition has also just taken place and the results were recently

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

posted on Facebook. Many congratulations to all those who took part. The level of skill displayed in the creations this year was inspiring. Special thanks to Claire Weedall for judging this year and to Ricky Smyth for all the organising around the competition. Finally special congratulations must be given to Rachel Kemp on winning the overall champion craft trophy, with a beautiful knitted cable top.

Just returned from the North Wales and Mercia lamb show which is held at the English Winter Fair in Stafford: There was an excellent turnout of stock again this year. Entries had gently increased within the lamb section of the actual winter fair this year and trade was good which hopefully will encourage more exhibitors each year. Also, there was a very well displayed and promoted Ryeland/coloured Ryeland craft table manned by Judith Waldron and Vicky Chadwick, there was a real buzz around this stall throughout the two days. It was another excellent, smooth run event by the region.

For many the tups are out and their job has been done, scanning appointments booked, showing kit has been put away but there are still those special society events to come before 2023 comes to a close which are the society Xmas regional socials, a time to spruce up ourselves rather than our stock. A time for us to put the worlds to right over good food and good company.

I would like to wish you all a safe and happy Christmas, shared with loved ones, family and friends.

Merry Christmas/Nadolig Llawen

Caz Bateman
Chair

Herefordshire & The Marches Regional Report.

Our regional lamb show, hosted by Kington Show, which was jointly supported by the South and Mid Wales group was a great success, with exhibitors travelling many miles to show at both Kington and the lamb show. Prize winners and results can be found in the showing supplements.

It was great to see a few more novice sheep exhibitors out enjoying the day, also to be told that the bug had bitten them and they would be back, a few lovely lambs in both sections, which was pleasing to see for the future of the breed.

The results are on the facing page.

Judge Mr Steve Rowe**Ram lamb trimmed (any age)**

6 entries

1st - Ifan Lloyd (Glenbryn)

2nd - Donna Morris (Llangyfrwys)

Ewe lamb trimmed (Jan born)

5 entries

1st - J Williams & D Dickson (Bachebrook)

2nd - Donna Morris

Ewe lamb trimmed (Feb/March born)

4 entries

1st - J & S Wright

2nd - I & V Jenkins

Ewe lamb untrimmed (any age)

2 entries

1st - Hilary Deakins (Bishop Wood)

2nd - Hilary Deakins

Pairs trimmed (Jan/Feb born)

3 entries

1st - Donna Morris

2nd - J & S Wright

Pairs trimmed (Feb/March)

1 entry

1st - I & V Jenkins

Pairs untrimmed (any age)

1 entry

1st - Hilary Deakins

Champion Pairs - Hilary Deakins

Reserve Pairs - Donna Morris

Wool on the hoof champion

J & S Wright

Wool on the hoof reserve

J Williams & D Dickson

Overall Champion

J Williams & D Dickson ewe lamb

Reserve Champion

Ifan Lloyd ram lamb

Coloured Ryeland Results**Kington Show 2023**

Judge Mr Tom Evans

Aged ram

1 entry

1st - R Whitticase (Churchstoke)

Shearling ram

1 entry

1st - Mr & Mrs A J McVicar (Montgomery)

Ram lamb

6 entries

1st - A & S Owen (Siandy)

2nd - Mr & Mrs A J McVicar

Breeding ewe

1 entry

1st - A & S Owen

Shearling ewe

8 entries

1st - Efrem & Carol Bateman (Riverside)

2nd - Mr & Mrs A J McVicar

Ewe lamb

4 entries

1st - Mr & Mrs A J McVicar

2nd - J & S Wright (Valkyrie)

Champion

Efrem & Carol Bateman Shearling ewe

Reserve

Mr & Mrs A J McVicar ewe lamb

One of our Autumn events was the excellent 'Butchery Day' kindly held by Sue Quigley at her Michael Church Escley farm. Big thank you to her for hosting us and doing a great deal of the ground work to set the day up, she was ably assisted by Tom from the Small Farms Traditional Butchers from Hay On Wye, who explained the various cutting processes and showed us different cuts to add value to your meat for home use or sale. After lunch we were joined by Jayne & Mike Carter from Ryecroft rare breeds, Jayne, explained their farming ethos and how they go about both promoting and marketing their lamb, hogget and mutton, which was both interesting and informative. A good crowd were in attendance, it was great to see so many new members present.

The results of the Flock and Points Competitions were announced. Sadly it was not possible to present all of the prizes in person,

Ryeland Flock (David Duggan Aymestry Cup) – Erin & David Hall (Higham)
Ryeland Ram (Rhos Ryelands Vase) - Hilary Deakins (Bishops Wood) with Bryn Caffo Zodiac

Coloured Ryeland Flock (Summerfield Cup) - Jack Deakins (Orchard Heights)
Coloured Ryeland Ram (BSR Wickens & Sons Cup) - Jack Deakins with Orchard Heights Abraham

Congratulations to everyone who entered.

Regional Points

The winners of our Regional Points Trophy, for most points accumulated whilst showing at regional shows.

Ryeland Results

1st - Sue Quigley (Michaelchurch)
2nd - Tom Wright (Juggis)

Coloured Ryeland Results

1st - Jack Deakins (Orchard Heights)
2nd - Deb Bradley (Lynhall)

This event will lead onto one of our spring meetings, which we are please to have an 'International Chef' who works closely with various Herefordshire businesses to promote their meat and other products. The 7th April 2024 at Richards Castle Village Hall is the venue, so I do hope to see many of you there. Lamb and Mutton will be on the menu, as Laura will demonstrate a couple of dishes and there will be a tasting session during the day. Tea and cakes to fill up too!.

Our regional Christmas get together will be at the Fountain Inn, Old Wood Common, Tenbury Wells.

Keep your eye on our regional web site for updates and details of up coming events for 2024 - www.hmryelandgroup.co.uk

I would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, and onwards into a good lambing season.

David Duggan.

Regional Chair

South, Mid and West Wales Regional Report

In September, together with Hereford and Marches region, we jointly hosted the Lamb Show at Kington Show. Entries were very good with members from both regions in attendance. Despite the very hot weather we all had a wonderful day followed by food and refreshments. A big thank you for everyone who came along, definitely a date for next year's showing Calendar.

Our Regional Christmas lunch will be on Sunday 10th December at The Plough, Llan-deilo, it will be good to meet with old friends and make new ones. Unfortunately, at the time of writing this report all available places have been taken.

We urgently need additional committee members and volunteers to help with future events, if you are interested, please contact me at the email below. In April 2024 elections will be taking place for regional committee members and it would be good to have new and additional members on the committee.

Andy McVicar

andrewmcvicar245@btinternet.com

Regional Chair

North Wales and Mercia Regional report

Since the last newsletter was published we have held our Annual Lamb show, which went ahead at Stafford show ground in conjunction with the English Winter Fair. Judging by the number of entries and the lovely feedback I have received from exhibitors it was a huge success. Preparing lambs for the show ring at this time of year is never easy, and a lot of credit must go to those who made such a big effort to take part. All results from the show classes can be found on our website www.ryelandnwam.org.

Overall Champion Ryeland Lamb

Exhibitor: Alison Robinson Lamb Name: Hawthorns

Overall Reserve Champion Ryeland Lamb

Exhibitor: Alison Robinson Lamb Name: Hawthorns

Overall Champion Coloured Ryeland Lamb

Exhibitor: Thomas Nash Lamb Name: Windsor Crackerjack

Overall Reserve Coloured Ryeland Lamb

Exhibitor: Jayne Carter Lamb Name: Ryecroft Clare

We were delighted to have a lovely display of woolly crafts on show organised by Judith Waldron and Vicky Chadwick, and Ian Brooksbank who is the head grader at the Wool Board gave up a whole morning to teach us more about wool. The social side of this show is also important and we want to encourage new members and those who may feel showing is not for them to come along and join in or just say hello. Stafford is a great venue with plenty of local accommodation and easy access so plenty of members from outside our region come along too.

Looking ahead to 2024 we have plans for a pre-tupping workshop which will include veterinary advice as well as discussion about ram lamb selection and retention. Hopefully this will be held in May or early June with the venue still to be arranged. We would love to hold more events in North Wales if anyone could suggest a venue?

Please get in touch with any of our committee members if you have ideas for future events in the region.

May I wish everyone a very merry Christmas and a healthy and happy New Year.

Michele Varmen

Regional Chair

Northern England Regional Report

We had a great group visit to the Benridge Wool works near Durham in September. It is fantastic to see a small business championing British wool and working so hard at promoting it. Lucinda is aiming to stock every British breed of wool which she sells to customers wanting wool in its raw form or she washes and cards it and sells it in batches ready to turn into whatever the customer would like.

She has persuaded the saddle industry to go back to traditional methods for flocking saddles and employs around 5 full time members of staff which is really encouraging.

Afterwards we had a buffet lunch of local produce, the pies and sausage rolls from Bamburgh's famous butcher going down particularly well. Cumbria Wool Gathering is taking place on the 22nd and 23rd of June 2024 at J36 rural auction centre, Cumbria. We are in the process of trying book a stand so fingers crossed for this.

As we cover such a large area, we have all of our meetings online through zoom which is set up through Dot. We're looking for some new committee members so if you think it's something you would like to do, please get in touch.

We would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and hope that lambing goes well for you all!

Philip Holmes
Regional Chair

News from Scotland

The summer has seen another growth in entries in classes for our breeds at shows across the country.

Shows at Ayr, Lesmahagow, Stirling (new), Royal Highland, Echt (new), Dumfries, Turriff and Wigtown have been extremely well supported and the quality of animals has been impressive.

This year it was the turn of Dumfries Show, on August 3, to incorporate the Scottish National Show, organised by RFBS members in Scotland. A great entry of 63 Ryelands and 71 Coloured Ryelands were forward on a very warm and sunny day at the Park Farm show field.

The results were:

Ryelands

Judge: Stephen Hipps.

Top 2 shear and Over

- 1 Susan Bryden
- 2 A & D Mitchell
- 3 S Whitaker.

Shearling Ram

- 1 E & J Henderson
- 2 A & D Mitchell
- 3 D Stainton
- 4 E & J Henderson

Tup Lamb

- 1 E & J Henderson
- 2 A & D Mitchell
- 3 Susan Bryden
- 4 A & D Mitchell

Breeding Ewe

- 1 A Hunter Blair
- 2 J Milne
- 3 Susan Bryden
- 4 S Whitaker

Gimmer

- 1 E & J Henderson
- 2 A Hunter Blair
- 3 A Hunter Blair
- 4 J Arthur

Ewe Lamb

- 1 E & J Henderson
- 2 A & D Mitchell
- 3 J Arthur
- 4 Susan Bryden

Champion E & J Henderson

Reserve E & J Henderson

Coloured Ryelands

Judge: John Reed

Tup, 2 shear and over

- 1 J Fisher & M Hoggarth
- 2 J Fisher & M Hoggarth
- 3 S Whitaker
- 4 H Hulland

Shearling Ram

- 1 L White
- 2 C & R Smyth
- 3 J Fisher & M Hoggarth
- 4 J Fisher & M Hoggarth

Tup Lamb

- 1 J Arthur
- 2 S Bryden
- 3 C & R Smyth
- 4 C & R Smyth

Breeding Ewe

- 1 S Bryden
- 2 J Fisher & M Hoggarth
- 3 C & R Smyth
- 4 F & O Clanachan

Gimmer

- 1 J Fisher & M Hoggarth
- 2 S Bryden
- 3 T Dodds
- 4 J Fisher & M Hoggarth

Ewe Lamb

- 1 S Bryden
- 2 J Fisher & M Hoggarth
- 3 C & R Smyth
- 4 H Hulland

Pairs

- 1 J Fisher & M Hoggarth
- 2 S Bryden
- 3 J Fisher & M Hoggarth
- 4 C & R Smyth

Champion J Fisher & M Hoggarth

Reserve J Fisher & M Hoggarth

Scottish Champion S Bryden

Recently, many Scottish members made the long 'pilgrimage' to the RFBS sale at Ludlow, some selling and many more buying. This must have been the biggest numbers of Scots with at least 11 flocks represented.

Scottish members got together at an open day in September, kindly hosted by Eddie and Janice Henderson, Landriggs where the focus was on stock-judging and show preparation.

In October, it is hoped to put on a breed promotion at the Scottish Smallholders event in Forfar and then in November, RFBS members will join together for a winter lunch and catch-up.

Yorkshire Regional Report

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 an Emley interbreed won by C Ellis with a Ryeland shearling ewe, and Ripley interbreed won by M Varmen with a Coloured Ram.

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.

Julie Ellis

Regional Secretary

Blue Tongue Virus Update

At the time of writing (12 Nov 2023), a single case of Blue Tongue Virus Strain 3 (BTV-3), has been identified in a single cow in Kent. A major BTV outbreak occurred in 2007/08 in the UK, mainly in the East but sadly this was a different strain and no cross protection between the two strains is expected. This article will recap the clinical signs and spread of BTV-3 as well as discussing the potential of an outbreak in 2023/2024.

Endemic in African countries such as South Africa, BTV is spread by biting midge (the intermediate host) and causes signs in a range of species including sheep, cattle, other ruminants and camelids. This BTV-3 strain has not been recorded in the UK previously but has been circulating in Northern Europe since September 2023.

Clinical signs are more obvious in sheep than in cattle and typically includes ulcers or sores in the mouth and nose, a discharge from the eyes/nose and drooling. Symptoms also include swelling of the tongue, head and neck, as well as the skin where the leg meets the horn of the foot. Less common signs include fever, lameness, breathing difficulties, abortion and even death.

Whilst there are some other diseases that have similar clinical signs in sheep, the single most important alternative disease with these combined symptoms is foot and mouth disease. Should you see any signs listed above a call to your vet so be taken immediately, especially for those in the South and East.

Midge activity is usually at its highest from April to November before winter, however mild winter weather can increase the duration of activity and infectiousness. The main route of entry into the UK of the disease is by infected Midges travelling across the channel on wind vents. It is theorised that the disease can overwinter in the midge population if the ambient winter temperatures are mild as well as in wildlife hosts such as deer. New infections may start to appear in April or May 2024 based on previous disease outbreak modelling.

BTV poses a national threat to the agricultural economy and as such BTV is a notifiable disease meaning that symptomatic cases will be reported to DEFRA. Once identified, an exclusion zone will be enforced local to the infection meaning that animal movements will not be accepted. Already after just one case the UK has seen restrictions for exports from countries such as Ireland to mitigate the risk of moving the disease further.

Unfortunately there is not currently a vaccine available for BTV-3 unlike strain 8 (which commonly circulates in France) and isolation of individual affected animals

may not prevent spread to others due to the spread by midge intermediary hosts. There is not a specific treatment to BTV-3-available but antibiotics are often used to treat any subsequent secondary bacterial infections, alongside anti inflammatory pain killers should animals show signs of pain.

James Wright MRCVS

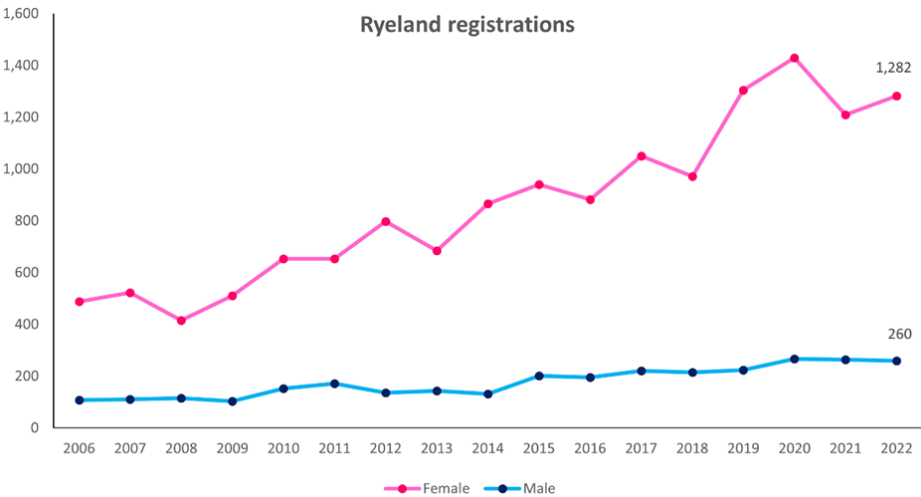
The National Ryeland Female Population 2006 – 2022

The RFBS has more members than ever before which is fantastic news for the Society and hopefully the security of the Ryeland and Coloured Ryeland breed moving forward.

Each year, the UK Farm Animal Genetic Resource (FAnGR) inventory results statistics are published by Defra and provides invaluable insight into the native sheep populations, their increases, and decreases. Currently Ryeland and Coloured Ryelands are classed as one population in the results. The Ryeland Committee were keen to see what has been happening to the Ryeland population and where possible, draw comparison to other native breeds.

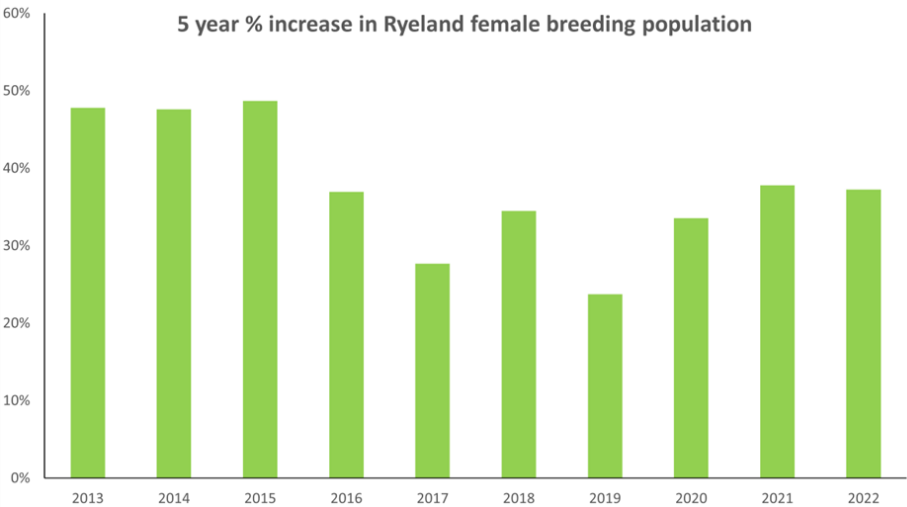
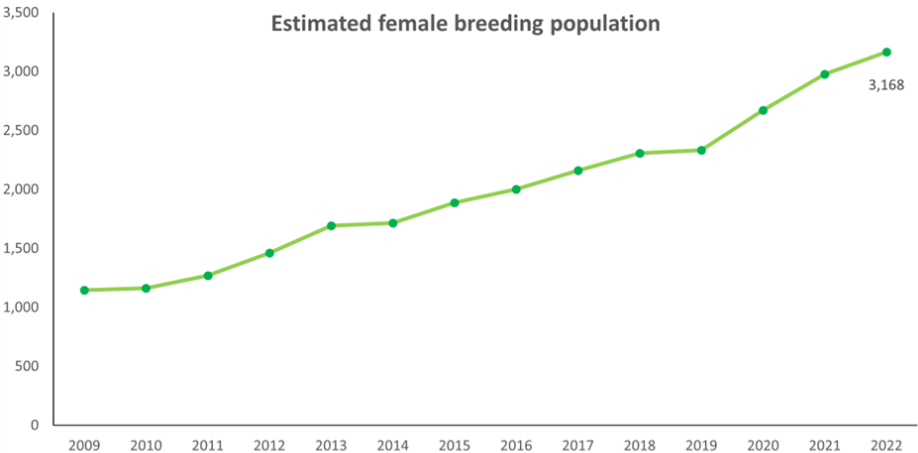
So out came our calculators, there was a lot of head scratching as we tried to remember how to make friends with Excel who at times (many times), rebelled against our perceived illogical instructions.

Some of the highlights of the data are shown in graph format below. For this edition of the newsletter, we have concentrated on the estimated female breeding population, giving a key data characteristic which can be used as a comparative figure to other native breeds. The actual number of individuals within a population is inaccurate.

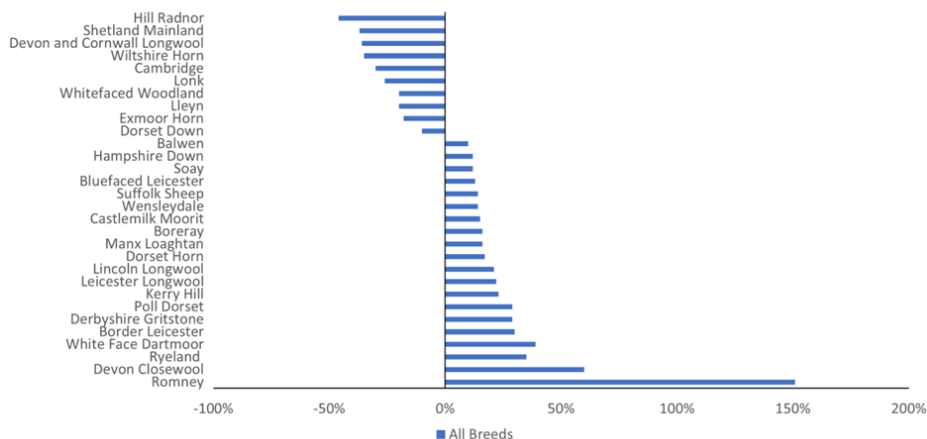


rate to calculate, as it relies on member updates to Grassroots. It is for this reason an estimate is considered the most appropriate measure.

The Ryeland female population, when compared to other native breeds, is performing well with a five-year percentage increase of 35%. This suggests there is a strong pool of Ryeland breeding females within Great Britain and one which with positive promotion will hopefully continue.



5 year % increase in female breeding population of British native breeds



NB The estimated female breeding population for sheep breeds is calculated taking the 3-year average female registrations x 2.41 (multiplier calculated based on historic data on the ratio of adult females in a breed to the number of female registrations in a year. A defined multiplier used across all sheep breeds)

In the next edition of the newsletter, we hope to report further on the male population and how this has an impact on the genetic diversity of the Ryeland breed.

If you would like any more information on the data collected, please contact one of the Ryeland Committee.

Judges Training & Mentoring Scheme

Throughout late 2022 and 2023 the Ryeland Committee have been working with the RFBS council on the development of Judges for the Society's official list. It started with the re-introduction of a judging workshop that was held at the home of Jill and Philippa Gray in October 2022.

This was an immersive workshop that members could attend if they wished to learn more about judging or to be considered for nomination to Council for inclusion on the list of B judges. There was lots of interest on the day and the feedback was positive from all involved, resulting in some members being put forward to council for approval onto the Judges List, and others being given the opportunity to further their knowledge and practical experience through the newly developed mentoring scheme, developed and led by Jill Gray on the Ryeland Committee.

From those involved in the Judges Workshop & Mentoring scheme in 2023 the following feedback was given.

"I was down to judge Coloured Ryelands alongside the society judge, after not being involved in coloured classes before my nerves were getting the better of me but being alongside the official judge and being shown the stewards tent and what to do, I really settled into myself. I would highly recommend the mentoring scheme as you can go to training days, but they don't suit everyone, and this really suited my learning needs".

"I found the judges workshop extremely informative and enjoyed having time to practise what we were learning; I thought the day would also be helpful to those who wanted to learn more about what a judge looks for if they aren't ready just yet".

"I would say, that if you are unsure if you would like to become a judge, go along to a workshop and have a go, if you decide that judging isn't for you then you've still gained valuable knowledge which will help you in the show ring".

If you are someone who thinks they may like to learn more about the judging process, there will be another Judges Workshop held on the 12th of May 2024 kindly hosted by Jack & Dominic of the Bachebrook and Billbo Flocks, at Bachebrook Farm, Herefordshire. It will be a fully informative day with lots to learn and plenty of opportunity to be hands on, more details will be put out before the event.

Ryeland Committee

Please note this is a training and educational workshop, attendance does not lead to automatic nomination to the judges B list or the mentoring scheme. Attendance at these workshops is not compulsory for those wishing to be considered for nomination to Council for inclusion on the B list judging panel.

New Award

The Ryeland Committee are pleased to announce that they have been working hard on the introduction of a new award.

'The Shepherd's Crook award for the Ryeland Shearling Ewe of the year' is a hand-made unique Burl Elm crook that has been made by one of our Society members who owns, Tillberry Sticks.

The RC asked the regions to nominate two shows where points can be accumulated and tallied at the end of the season. Points will be awarded for the following;

- 1st – 3 Points
- 2nd – 2 Points
- 3rd – 1 Point

Breed Champion – 3 Points
Reserve Breed Champion – 2 Points
Interbreed Champion – 5 Points
Reserve Interbreed Champion - 3 Points

If there is a tie in accumulated points at the end of the season, the shearling ewe with the most championships or 1st places will be awarded the 'Shepherd's Crook' The Crook will be awarded at the annual show and sale and will come fully engraved with the tag details and the registration number of the winning animal.
Shows for your diaries include:

Skelton Show	Stafford
Penrith Show	Royal Three Counties
Royal Welsh	Tenbury
Aberystwyth	Royal Cornwall
Scottish National	Mid Somerset (TBC)
Royal Highland	Great Yorkshire
Derby County	Ryedale

f you would like further information about the award, please do get in touch with the Ryeland Committee. We really hope that you will bring that special shearling ewe out to the shows next year for your chance to win!

Ryeland Committee

Brecon County Show Results 2023

Judge: David Evans

Ram 2 years and over

(5 entries):

1 Ann Davies (Catherton)

2 Vicky Jenkins (Strata)

3 William Pugh

Shearling Ram

(2 entries):

1 Ann Davies

2 Paul Dyke

Ram lamb

(4 entries):

1 J & S Wright (Valhalla)

2 J & S Wright

3 J Low & J Chorlton

Ewe 2 years and over

(5 entries):

1 M & R Bevan

2 Ann Davies

3 William Pugh

Shearling Ewe

(5 entries):

1 Ann Davies

2 Vicky Jenkins

3 Ann Davies

Ewe lamb

(7 entries):

1 Ann Davies

2 Vicky Jenkins

3 J & S Wright

Group of Three

(3 entries):

1 Ann Davies

2 Vicky Jenkins

3 Jay Chorlton

Champion: Ann Davies - Shearling Ewe

Reserve Champion: J & S Wright - Ram

Lamb

Many thanks to David Evans for doing a tremendous job judging for the first time.



Left to right, Brecon County Champion, shearling ewe bred and Exhibited by Ann Davies, Judge David Evans and Reserve Champion, ram lamb bred and exhibited by James and Sophie Wright.

Dorset County Show

Hot weekend at Dorset County Show. Many thanks to Ifan Lloyd for judging both Ryeland and Coloured Ryeland classes.

Coloured Ryeland results

Ram (Shearling or over)

- 1 T Nash
- 2 S Rowe
- 3 W Rochford
- 4 T Nash

Ram Lamb

- 1 T Nash
- 2 T Nash
- 3 J Stone
- 4 S Rowe

Ewe (Shearling or over)

- 1 J Stone
- 2 T Nash
- 3 S Smith
- 4 T Nash

Ewe Lamb

- 1 T Nash
- 2 T Nash
- 3 J Stone
- 4 S Rowe

Group of Three

- 1 T Nash
- 2 S Rowe
- 3 W Rochford
- 4 S Smith

Breed Champion

T Nash - Ram Windsor
Crunchie

Reserve

J Stone - Scoulton Shearling
Ewe

Wool on the Hoof

- 1 T Nash (on to Reserve Inter-breed Champion)
- 2 S Rowe
- 3 W Rochford

A fantastically talented group of Ryeland and Coloured Ryeland Young Handlers did the Society proud across the age groups.



Ryeland Champion at Dorset County, Jordan Stone's homebred Scoulton ram , with judge Ifan Lloyd MRCVS, and reserve, Thomas Nash with home bred ram lamb Cap-

RFBS Carlisle Sale Report

Solid sale for Record Entry of Ryelands and Coloured Ryelands.

The RFBS Northern Sale took place at Borderway Mart, Carlisle on Saturday 16th September with a good number of quality animals for buyers to choose from.

The Coloured Ryelands kicked off the sale at 10.30am. The top price went to a shearling ram from T & G Glover, Sproxton, Night Star Comet, sired by Ryeside Coloured Antonio out of a Sproxton ewe, was placed third by the judge, Mr Russell Howell, Gower. The tup sold for £800 to S & P Barnes' Glen Cairn flock, Dumfries. The Champion male was awarded to A & E Robinson's shearling ram, Allerdale Cognac. Sired by Riverside Ryelands Ybba, out of a Hawthorns ewe, he sold to RH Bruce, Hawick, for £500. The reserve male was a ram lamb from the Harrington Family. Rosa Dizzy Rascal, sired by Greenlea Xanti out of a Rosa ewe, did not meet his reserve. The top priced ram lamb, Sproxton Diesel, was also from T & G Glover. Sired by Broomwell Uther Pendragon, out of a Hardgate ewe, he joined the Damson Brae flock of Susan Bryden, Lockerbie.



Night Star Comet - Top priced Coloured male at the Carlisle sale. Sold for £800 to the Glen Cairn flock of Philippa Barnes.



Top Price and Coloured Female Champion - shearling ewe from the Snelson flock of Michele Varmen. Sold for £500 to J Wood's Nene Flock.

will join their Tranwell flock in Morpeth. The Coloured Ryeland Female champion was a shearling ewe from the Norfolk flock of Jordan Stone. Sired by Mansel Zaki, and out of an All New ewe, she did not meet her reserve. The Reserve Champion was the winner of the ewe lamb class and another offering from the Snelson flock. This lamb, Snelson Davina Galicia, sired by Stardust Zippy out of a homebred ewe, was sold for £400 to the Coxwold flock of K & S Atkinson-Shaw, Thirsk.

The Ryelands followed the conclusion of the Coloured Ryeland section, with the joint top price for a Ryeland going to a shearling ewe from the Anglesey based flock of A & E Parry. Awarded the Female Championship by judge

Joint Top Priced Ryeland and Female Champion - shearling ewe from A & E Parry's Bryn Caffo Flock. Sold to P Kettle's Appleby flock.

The top priced Coloured female was a shearling ewe from the Snelson flock of Michele Varmen, Macclesfield. Sired by Snelson Boom Bang a Bang out of an Appletree ewe, she was sold for £500 and joins the Nene's flock of Janine Wood, Bacup. Also bred by Mrs Varmen, the top priced ewe lamb, Snelson Domino was placed fourth in the morning's show. Sired by Stardust Zippy out of a home bred ewe, she sold for £450 the Holmes Family and



Ann Davies, Brecon, the Bryn Caffo female was sired by Mansel Yeoman and out of a home bred ewe. She was sold for £700 to P Kettle, Houghton le Spring. The second highest price went to the Reserve Champion, the winning ewe lamb from the Hawthorns flock of A Robinson, Wigton. Sired by Hawthorns Zinzan Valentine out of a home bred ewe, she sold for £600 to N Walker & J Dodds, Coupar. The next highest price for a female went to another offering from A Robinson. This time, bred by S Purdy, the Shabby Shepherds ewe was sired by Wellhill Archie, out of a Red Sewell ewe and she was sold for £400 to G Gettings, Arbroath.

Matching the top price of £700, was the Reserve Champion male, a ram lamb from the Maybole based flock of K, R & T Burns. The lamb, Spallander Disco Dave, sired by Pembroke Apollo, out of a home bred Spallender ewe, joined the Millfield flock of M Pink, York for £700. The Champion male sold for £620 to the Charlesground flock of E Jenkinson, Millom. Sired by Ronscliffe Applejack, out of a Teejay ewe, the tup Teejay Captain Morgan was bred by the Harrington Family. The third placed ram

lamb, Hawthorns Dermot, bred by A Robinson, was sired by Hawthorns Zinzan Valentine and out of a Gaddesby ewe. He sold for £600 to J Adams, Watford Village. The fourth placed shearling ram from the Hardgate flock of S Hipps, Bishop Thornton sold for £480. Sired by Cagedale ZZ Top out of a home bred ewe, he went to Croc Mhor Farms, Glenburnie.



Joint Top Price and Reserve Champion Male, Spallander Dave, bred and exhibited by the Burns family. Sold to Matthew Pink's Millfield flock for £700.

Coloured Ryeland News

Welcome to the Winter edition of Coloured Ryeland News.

Tis the dark season of wet sheep and mud and bits of hay in the kitchen... baa hum-bug!

But lambing time is almost here, and I would like to wish you all the best of luck with your new arrivals. Unfortunately, I will not be having any lambs next year as I will still be having chemotherapy until February, but I am really looking forward to seeing all your little lamb photos.

This is my first attempt at putting this section of the newsletter together so please do bear with me. Taking up the baton from the very wonderful Holly is no easy task! And I would like to take this opportunity to thank Holly and wish her and her family all the very best.

So, what would you like to see in your newsletter? Ideas and feedback would be much appreciated please and if you would like to feature in the next edition, please do contact me claireweedall095@btinternet.com the deadline for submissions for the next edition is 20th February.

Claire Weedall

**For all Coloured Ryeland show results please send to
colouredryelandresults@gmail.com**

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			
Claire Weedall	07539 195580	claireweedall095@btinternet.com	

From the Vet

Veterinary Attestation Rules

From 13 December 2023 all food producers will require a 'Veterinary Attestation Number' or VAN in order to comply with EU rules on export health certificates. Where animals are sold for slaughter, either live or dead some part of the animal may eventually find a way to Europe, including animal by products. The new VAN will comply with EU regulations and allow trade with the EU to continue without change.

What does this mean for me?

In theory there should be very little change to farmers. Those under any form of farm assurance scheme such as Red Tractor, can combine the annual assurance scheme vet visit with their attestation inspection removing any requirement for additional visits.

For farms that are not part of an assurance scheme a VAN can in theory be generated by the attending vet during any veterinary visit as long as biosecurity is discussed. In theory only farms that have been visited within 12 months can be prescribed routine medicines such as antibiotics and thus this visit can be combined.

For non farm assured farms in England there is funding available for holdings with over 21 sheep (£436) which will include a vet visit and testing towards disease and health. A VAN can also be generated during this visit, as well as an providing a great opportunity to screen for diseases such as such as Maedi Visna or Johnes. Sadly no similar scheme currently exists for Wales or Scotland.

How often will I need visits?

Food producers will require a VAN within 12 months of selling livestock destined for slaughter but there is no restriction to how many VANs can be generated so you can request a VAN each time you have a vet visit.

What does a VAN look like?

A VAN will compose of the visiting Vets RCVS number, the CPH of the holding that has been visited and a date to which the VAN is valid. An example is shown below. 1234567 (RCVS Number) – 12/345/6789 (CPH) – 1124 (Valid to end of November 2024)

When is a VAN required?

Your VAN will be required foreach movement licensed where animals are destined for slaughter including live markets. It will be recorded in the FCI consignment portion of the movement certificate of which each devolved region (England/Wales/Scotland) has a slightly different form.

James Wright MRCVS

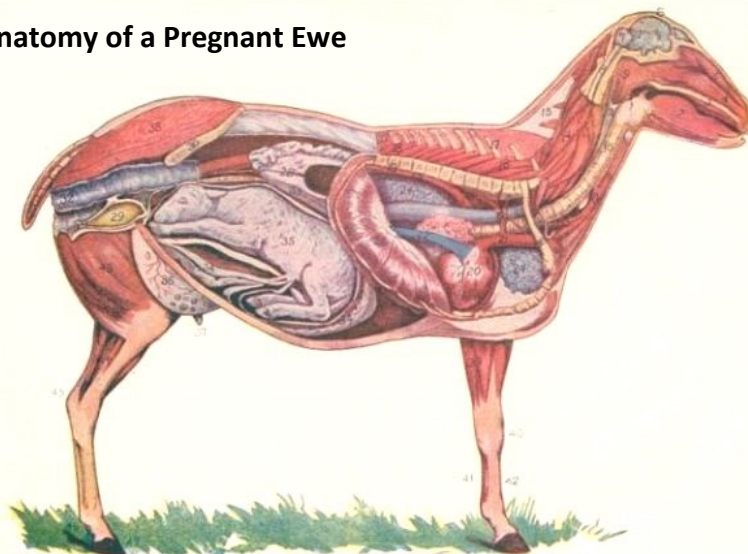
As lambing time will soon be here, I have included an equipment check list from the Smallholders series just to use as a little reminder of things you may need. It is a rather extensive list yet no mention of chocolate for the poor shepherd!

MUST HAVE	
	Ear tags for lambs and applicator
Mobile phone with vet's number pre programmed	Antiseptic spray
Paper and pens	Colostrum
Hay racks and feed troughs	Ewe milk replacer
Small water buckets	Milk bottles and teats
Hay and concentrate feed for ewes	Stomach tubes and large syringe
Straw for bedding	Syringes (large and small) and needles: pink (ewes) green (lambs)
Electric kettle	
General disinfectant (e.g. savlon)	Thermometer
Surgical hand wash / hibiscrub	Infrared heat lamp and spare bulb
Lubricant	Spring weigh scales and sling
Gloves long and short	Tail/castration rings and applicator
Ewe vaginal truss	Stock marker, various colours
Plastic bags	Builders lime or stalosan
Lambing ropes	Torch
Lambing snare/ Y shaped aid	Halter
Iodine and wide neck pot for dipping navels	Cardboard boxes

NICE TO HAVE
Hot running water soap and towels
Whiteboard
Automatic wall drinkers
Lamb warming box
Lamb resurrector
Lamb jackets

ON VET'S ADVICE
Calciject (magnesium fortified calcium borogluconate)
ketol
Twin lamb drench
Glucose
Antibiotic - injectable
Antibiotic - ointment
Splints
Fleece bandages
Cohesive bandages
Electrolyte solution
Vaccine (clostridial diseases and Pasteurella)
Coccidiostat
Small drench gun for lambs
Wormer
Antibiotic foot spray

Anatomy of a Pregnant Ewe



Copyright, Physicians Publishing Co., Boston, Mass.

(EWE) SHEEP
SHOWING INTERNAL ORGANS

Members profile

Coxwold Coloured Ryelands - Katie and Mark Atkinson-Shaw



Coxwold Coloured Ryelands was established in 2019. I didn't have a background in sheep, but my husband Mark had, he had been a commercial sheep farmer in a previous life on the family farm before he joined the police force in 2006. The farm still has 125 acres of mainly arable land which is contract farmed by a neighboring farmer, but we are lucky that our home is based on the farm and we have several acres of permanent grassland available to us for the sheep. My background and main career for 21 years was as a Police Officer in both South and North Yorkshire Police Forces. I thoroughly enjoyed my job, albeit a busy and stressful one. I worked in several departments in both city and rural locations and for the last 7 years of my career I worked as a Roads Policing Officer covering the vast road network of North Yorkshire. I was medically retired from the police in 2021 after I became ill with Glandular fever and then subsequently developed ME/Chronic Fatigue Syndrome which led to me being unable to continue in the role that I loved. However, the introduction of the sheep into my life and the start of the flock helped me to deal with my illness and recovery and the transition from having a busy full-time career to a completely different lifestyle, which at times I found extremely difficult to manage. So why Coloured Ryeland's - A chance meeting with a Ryeland enthusiast at a country show sold the breed to me with their calm and friendly nature and of course their good looks. I made contact with local Ryeland breeders Gill and Tim Glover who were invaluable with their advice at the time and still are today. They helped us to decide on the breed and assisted us in obtaining our starter flock and the Night star/Sproxtton breeding lines are still the basis of the flock today. We then added

some Wells Cross, Normanby, Gracewood, Holtby and Colorful lines to the flock from attending the Ryeland Show and Sale at York Auction Mart in 2019. My selection process was simple at that time as I bought what I liked the look off, now all we needed was a Tup. In October 2019 Sproxton Zodiac arrived as a lamb and was put to work on our 11 ewes that autumn with our first lambs hitting the ground in late March 2020. I had attended a practical lambing course at the vets, but it was still a baptism of fire and a huge learning curve. Luckily Mark was on hand though for when the wheel came off and as I've learnt with sheep it frequently does.

We chose the best few ram lambs to retain, and the rest were put into our own lamb meat boxes that were initially sold mainly to friends and family. The meat part of the business has subsequently grown, and we now sell a range of Ryeland meat products from home including burgers, sausages and kofta's to cater for the summer BBQ market as well as our lamb boxes in the autumn/wintertime. We have also started selling our lamb to the local village pub and of course we keep one for our own freezer.

It was always my intention to show the flock but covid put a stop to that for a while. I did enter the online flock book competition during covid in 2021 where we were fortunate enough to obtain reserve breed champion with our shearling ram Coxwold Arthur. It was later that year that we entered some lambs into our first show which was the Masham Sheep Fair, slightly daunted and not knowing what to expect and with little halter training and a You Tube sheep trim, we were over the moon to obtain some high placings. The flock has continued to grow with several homebred shearlings being retained. We subsequently added a second tup Ryeside Brigadier in 2021 and this year Cynin Dafydd has joined us. We are now also beginning to use our own homebred rams with Coxwold Colin being retained into the flock, all the rams have been chosen to give us something different to add.

We have changed some of our management practices from when we first started and began to use CIDR'S in 2021 to bring the lambing season forward and to try to condense it. We have it must be said used these with mixed success and I am considering using a teaser ram next year for the first time. We scan pre lambing so that we can feed accordingly and know what to expect and this was particularly important last year as we were scanned, having 1 quad and 4 triplets. We have 23 ewes lambing in early 2024 and thankfully only 1 set of triplets is expected this time. We have a shed that we use as the main lambing area and some outbuildings/stables that are all utilized as maternity pens. During lambing I do prefer the sheep to graze outside in the day and ideally lamb out as they are in a field near the house so they can be kept an eye on, then they are brought in on an evening or if the weathers bad where they can continue to be monitored on the cctv camera and checked throughout the night. I now routinely fec count the flock, and particularly the lambs throughout the year, worming when necessary and with advice from the vets and we also have introduced a rotational grazing system by creating smaller more manageable paddocks, which has assisted greatly with managing any worm

burden. At present a purchased fertilizer is used on the grassland, but improving the quality our grassland is the next aim with us looking to sow a herbal ley mix to improve the nutritional value and reduce the requirement for fertilizer. The flock is predominantly grass -fed, with only hard feed given to the ewes pre lambing and creep fed to the lambs for a short period post lambing. The lambs during the show season are given a small amount of feed to get them use to coming to the bucket to make our lives easier when trying to halter train them. Lick blocks are always readily available and are chosen depending on the seasonal/nutritional requirements. In winter we supplement feed the flock on our own haylage that is harvested in June/ July time and any excess bales are then sold to assist with covering the contractor costs. Another addition is a foot bath which the flock run through several times in the year which helps us to manage any foot issues.

The flock's greatest achievements to date are obtaining Reserve Breed Champion at The Great Yorkshire Show this year with our Female Champion ewe lamb Coxwold Dior and Reserve Female Champion in 2022 with our ewe lamb Coxwold Cherub, both from our own homebred ewes. We have also won the Yorkshire Region Novice Flock competition for the last 2 years and have also been successful in obtaining several breed and reserve breed championships at local shows including Ryedale, Malton, Tockwith, Huby and Sutton, North Yorkshire County and Masham.

I would say that I spend far too much time with my sheep, but choosing this breed has helped me massively with the life transition that I experienced and most importantly improving my health. The Ryeland community have been so very welcoming and supportive to Mark and I and we have made many friends. With the help and sound guidance that we were given when we first started, we have been able to grow to become a successful flock, developing our own style whilst re-



maining true to the breed standard and its characteristics. Although initially daunted by the showing scene it is now a highlight of our summer calendar going to meet everyone at the shows and talk all things sheep. Let's see what 2024 brings when we start all over again with lambing due to commence in late January.

Fleece and Yarn Report

Think back to October 2013. Can you remember what you were doing? Of course, I can't remember the whole month, but the second weekend was the weekend that my first Duke of Edinburgh group completed their qualifying expedition. The start point was the showground carpark in Bakewell. What a buzz of activity! A Wool Gathering! Well, that sounded interesting, so when parents had collected every one of my tired and weary teenagers from Matlock on Sunday afternoon, I went back to have a look.

There were stands with yarn, felted items (a new thing for me) fleeces, spinning wheels, dyes; so much stuff!! I loved it, came home with a longwool fleece, and lots of ideas.

Then, I didn't have any sheep, had only just started spinning again and never for a minute thought that in 10 years' time would be hosting a stand demonstrating the wonderful versatility of Ryeland wool!

Bakewell Wool Gathering has grown and grown. It now occupies not only the main hall, but two other rooms as well. The bigger companies have shown their presence, not just smaller local producers, and crafters, and the Wool Gathering model has spread to Buxton and Cumbria as well.

Vicky and I set up our stall on Friday night, fighting for space, as they had oversubscribed and had to squeeze everybody together. Michelle



brought the Ryeland banner for us on Saturday morning, half an hour before we started and the queue to get in already stretched around the building.

10 am and the show opened. We did manage to get a drink at some point. Eating our sandwiches took place a bite at a time. We spent two days talking and demonstrating as well as selling our wares. Over 1500 people came through the show over the weekend, some of them returning to see us from last year, others new to Ryeland wool. The whole fleeces were all gone by Saturday lunchtime. Lots of people took leaflets and talked to us about our sheep and their sheep – we were visited by many who already kept Ryelands!

We are the only breed society there, and as such give a very different experience for

the people attending – demonstrating finished products as well as offering raw materials and advice. Many said how nice it was to talk directly to the producer. Sadly, we have not been successful with our application to Buxton next year – it is a much smaller venue and obviously will be as popular as Bakewell. It would be really nice if Ricky and Joanne can do the Cumbrian one – and I am sure that anyone wanting to help would be very welcome.

Judith Gray.

Handicraft show results

This year the handicraft show had a new class for art-work, and we had lovely entries. A big thank to all that entered and to our wonderful judge Claire Weedall who spent time going through them all.

Results class 1 knitting

1st Rachel Kemp
Overall Champion

2nd Ricky Smyth
3rd Annette Mitchell
4th Judith Waldron
5th Louise Ayton



Results class 2

needle felting

1st B Addington Smith

2nd Ricky Smyth



Results class 3 crochet

1st Ricky Smyth

2nd Rachel Kemp

3rd Liz

Mason



Results class 4 woven

1st Lin Whittall

2nd Judith Wal-
dron

3rd Liz Mason



Results Class 5 Another woolly Item
1 Natalie Walker



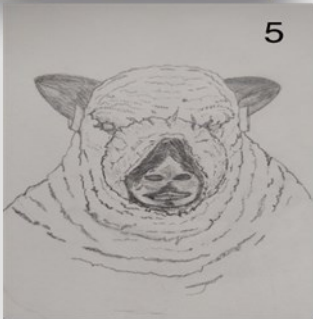
Results Class 6 Under 16
1 Logan Corne



Results Class 7 DIY
1 James Dodds
2 Sarah Read



Results Class 8
Any Artwork
1st Jeannie Scott
2nd Natalie Walker
3rd Jeannie Scott
4th Val Grainger
5th Joanne Fisher



Young members profile

My name is Logan and I chose coloured Ryeland sheep because they are friendly and easy to tame. My friendliest sheep is called Rodger. Rodger is my breeding ram, I take him to shows in the summer and we got a few rosettes and



prize money, including 4th 3rd 2nd 1st and special.



At the shows Rodger was very well behaved and he was a good boy.

Their nice brown fleece is good for needle felting. I make needle felted sheep out of my wool and I was so pleased to win in the competition. Now it is tuppung time, and I can't wait till next year's lambing time!

RBST Young Shepherd Competition 2023

Huge congratulations to Thomas Nash! This competition is about recognising the tremendous work undertaken by the young shepherds across the country, competitors will be judged on their handling ability, knowledge and presentation of themselves and their animal.

To be eligible to enter the RBST YOUNG SHEPHERD OF THE YEAR competition that was held at The Stafford Winter Fair this weekend, young handlers had to have won their Young Handler class at one of the qualifying county shows during the year. Thomas

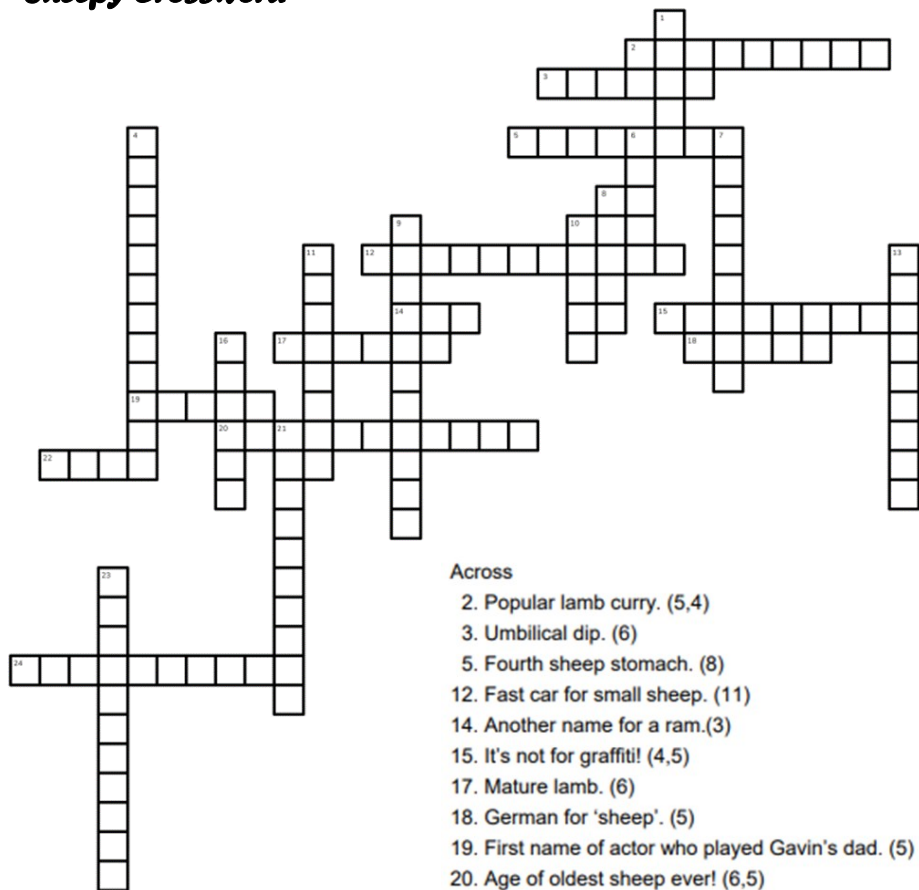


was lucky enough to have qualified at The Royal Cornwall Show, The Royal Bath & West Show, The Three Counties Rare Breeds Show and The Dorset County Show. The best young competitors came from across the country and classes were large with approx. 40 young handlers taking part.

Thomas (14) was very happy to win the Senior Young Shepherd of the Year (13 – 16 years) and then go on to win RBST Young Shepherd Champion 2023

**Wishing you all a very
merry Christmas and a
successful New Year!**

Sheepy Crossword



Across

2. Popular lamb curry. (5,4)
3. Umbilical dip. (6)
5. Fourth sheep stomach. (8)
12. Fast car for small sheep. (11)
14. Another name for a ram.(3)
15. It's not for graffiti! (4,5)
17. Mature lamb. (6)
18. German for 'sheep'. (5)
19. First name of actor who played Gavin's dad. (5)
20. Age of oldest sheep ever! (6,5)
22. What part of a lamb is used for a crown roast? (4)
24. Correct Coloured Ryeland lip markings. (5,5)

Down

1. Some of the first keepers of Ryelands. (5)
4. Where you would find the national show. (7,5)
6. First name of Lamb, 1980s cricket legend. (5)
7. Mmm. Goes nicely with roast lamb. (4,5)
8. Measurement of wool quality. (5)
9. Put the 'P' in 'Heptavac P'. (11)
10. Give that sheep a haircut! (5)
11. Italian sheep cheese. (8)
13. Summer infestation. (3,5)
16. Don't lose this in a hedge! (3,3)
21. Queen who loved Ryeland wool. (9,1)
23. How your flock might help keep your feet warm. (6,5)

RFBS Notices

- **2024 Subscriptions:** Annual fees for 2024 fall due on the 1st January.
- **Year Letters:** Please note that the year letter for lambs born in 2024 will be E. This needs to be included on pedigree ear tags and must also form the first letter of ram's names. The letter for 2023 born animals was D.
- **2024 Sheep Survey:** The 2024 Sheep Survey can be completed online and will be available until the 30th April 2024. Please take the time to complete the survey, especially if you did not do so last year as the whole process of online registrations is much easier if your flock lists are reasonably up to date.
- **Annual Flock Books:** Work on compiling the next volume of the RFBS flock books will begin in the new year. If you have a good image of a show winner or sale top-per, please send it in to the office for consideration. Images must be in full colour, and a minimum file size of 1Mb. Please include the registration details of the animal in the picture together with a full list of any winnings in 2023.
- **Flock Books by Email:** With significant increase in postage and printing costs, RFBS has agreed to give members the option to choose to receive their Annual Flock Books by email. These would be sent as PDF documents. This is entirely voluntary so if you want to carry on receiving hard copies, that's absolutely fine. If you want an electronic copy, please let us know by contacting the office.
- **Changes to rules for offspring of sheep registered outside the UK.** As mentioned in the Chair's Report, RFBS has updated rules relating to sheep bred outside the UK. The new rules are as follows:

2.6.8.2 With specific written authority from council - the offspring of a ram or ewe registered in the Flock Book of another Country outside the UK with a 3-generation pedigree lodged at the Society Office. The 3-generation pedigree must be registered with a Society of another Country outside the UK that has UK-approved listed third country status and the animals be accompanied by zootech certificates. Copies of 3 generation pedigree and zootech certificates must be lodged at the Society Office.

2.6.8.3 With specific written authority from council - the donor of semen, eggs or embryo imported from another Country outside the UK and is compliant with 2.6.8.2 above. The 3-generation pedigree of the donor of the semen and or eggs or embryo must be registered with a Society of another Country outside the UK that has third country status in the UK and the germinal products be accompanied by zootech certificates. Copies of 3 generation pedigree and zootech certificates must be lodged at the Society Office. This does not apply to semen previously imported and currently stored in the UK and that the offspring resulting from the use of the semen, having been previously approved for use by Council, appears in the flock books of the Ryeland Flock Book Society.

If you have any questions relating to this, please contact the office for further information.