Ludlow & Brecon 2025 Sales Reports

RFBS Main Sales – Ludlow/Brecon 2025.

Dry Weather and BTV restrictions impact trade at the Annual Ryeland Sale.

This year's RFBS main sale took place in Ludlow Livestock Market on Saturday 16th August. Last year's sales broke records left, right and centre but the impact of extreme dry weather on grazing combined with Bluetongue movement restrictions resulted in a significant downturn in both clearance rates and averages.

It was the turn of the Coloured Ryelands to open the sale this year. The top price of the day was 1300gns for shearling ewe, Night Star Electra bred by Tim & Gill Glover, York. Sired by Ryeside Coloured Antonio out of a Womble ewe, she was placed second in the show that took place before the sale by judge, John Donovan. She will join the Fusion flock of David Drake. Achieving the second highest price of the day was a ewe lamb bred by K & M Atkinson-Shaw. Coxwold Fanny Craddock was sired by Ryeside Coloured Brigadier out of a ewe from the Colourful flock of C Broughton. She sold for 1100gns and joins the Lane Head flock of S Sweeting-Dawson, Huddersfield. Another Coxwold bred female, Coxwold Ermintrude, sold for 800gns to the same buyer. The Female champion was a ewe lamb from the Valkyrie flock of S & J Wright, Llandovery. Sired by Starlight Sewell Caradoc out of a home bred ewe, she sold for 600gns.

Taking the top price for the males was a shearling ram from the Gower based flock of R & A Howell. Mansel Eclipse, sired by Mansel Yolo, out of a home bred ewe and placed second in the show by judge, A McVicar, Newtown, he sold for 500gns to J Stone, Norwich. Two ram lambs made 400gns. The first was Allerdale Fabian bred by A & E Robinson, Wigton. He joins the Peakview flock of C Leason, Ashbourne. The other was placed second in the show. Hallwood Fury was bred by R & S Shaw, Ledsham and was purchased by V Jenkins, Ystrad Meurig. The male champion was Coxwold Fahrenheit. Sired by Ryeside Coloured Brigadier out of a home bred ewe, he did not make his reserve.

The Ryeland female classes were dominated by the Lodgeway flock of S Briggs and M Whitehurst, Leigh, who won all three classes and the female championship. The judge, Mrs A Watson, Abberley awarded the ewe lamb class to Lodgeway Ferrero Rocher, a February born single. Sired by Cagedale Bollinger out of an Ashgrove ewe, she sold for the joint top Ryeland price of 850gns and will join the Na Then flock of R Dilworth, Thornton. Mr Briggs also won the shearling ewe class with Chase Eva who was also awarded the Female Championship, she was bred by A & G Anslow. She also made 850gns and was purchased by P Wills, Truro. The second placed ewe lamb from the Hawthorns flock of A Robinson was sired by the home bred Hawthorns Brown 15, also out of a home bred ewe, so sold for 620gns to J Williams, Packington.

Top priced Ryeland male was a ram lamb Ryeside Fennec Fox. Awarded the male championship by judge J Arthur, Lanark, being the final lot in the sale did not present a barrier to this lamb. Sired by Juggis Concussion out of a homebred ewe, he sold for 600gns to P Wills. Topping the shearling ram prices was Mansel Emperor from R & A Howell. Sired by Pembroke Zander out of a homebred ewe, he sold for 500gns to S Archer, Hexham. His twin, Mansel Emblem made 400gns and joins the Evangriff flock of R Bunyan, Neath. Male Champion was Little Ash Eric, sired by Hardgate Caleb out of a Lodgeway ewe. Bred by L Bone, he failed to make his reserve.

A Secondary sale for Welsh breeders was held the following day at Brecon Livestock market and was a decent entry of 70 sheep. There were no show classes but there were plenty of buyers leading to a good clearance rate. The top price was a Ryeland shearling ewe from A Davies Catherton flock. Sired by Red Sewell Commander out of a home bred ewe, she sold to G Price, Brecon for 600gns. Top priced Coloured Ryeland was Bramble Emrys, a shearling ram from A Williams, Holywell. Bred by E Parker, sired by Siandy Zachariah out of a Bramble ewe, he sold for 500gns to B Baker Abergavenny. Top priced Coloured female was a Pigscot shearling ewe from S & A Tilling. She joined the Carreg flock of A Williams for 450gns. Another Pigscot ewe went to the same purchaser for 400gns.

Averages: Ludlow (gns)

CR Shearling Ewe: 372 CR Breeding Ewe: 165 CR Ewe Lamb: 395 CR Shearling Ram: 275 CR Ram Lamb: 279

Ryeland Shearling Ewe: 272 Ryeland Breeding Ewe: 145 Ryeland Ewe Lamb: 354 Ryeland Shearling Ram: 297 Ryeland Breeding Ram: 180 Ryeland Ram Lamb: 275

Averages: Brecon (gns)

CR Shearling Ewe: 311 CR Ewe Lamb: 264 CR Shearling Ram: 287 CR Ram Lamb: 230

Ryeland Shearling Ewe: 600 Ryeland Breeding Ewe: 280 Ryeland Shearling Ram: 257 Ryeland Ram Lamb: 250

Auctioneers: McCartneys