



# SHEEP

30TH JULY 2014

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EVENT

NATIONAL SHEEP ASSOCIATION OFFICIAL PREVIEW

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# Welcome to NSA Sheep 2014

By John Geldard, NSA Chairman

It hardly seems two years since our last major sheep event at Malvern and this I am sure, like all other NSA sheep events, will prove to be informative and enjoyable. It's always a great networking opportunity to catch up with friends new and old and learn about the latest technology and everything that is happening in our industry.

I would like to extend the warmest of welcomes to each and every person who has the opportunity to attend the event and wish you all a very enjoyable day, whether you are a visitor, a trade stand holder or however you may be involved.

## Better times

After the 2012 event we entered an awful wet autumn followed by one of the worst winters in living memory, which put enormous pressure on our industry at all levels. It has been a great relief that the last year has probably turned out to be one of the best with good grass growth and a kind spring, and what appears to have been a good lambing for most with a good crop of lambs. The challenge now has got to be to market those lambs to the best advantage, hopefully without too many peaks and troughs.

We all pay our levies and expect our representative organisations to market



and promote our product to the best end, and NSA plays its part in talking to these organisations to try to make sure that they do just that. I feel with lambs coming forward early, grass availability throughout the country and the fact last year's old season lambs got out of the way in good time should put us in a good position to market our lambs without too many fluctuations.

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# Crème de la crème at NSA Sheep 2014

By Phil Stocker, NSA Chief Executive

**The summer show season is upon us and NSA's Sheep 2014 at Malvern, Worcestershire, on Wednesday 30th July is without doubt the sheep event of the year, offering something to all involved in the sheep world, from all corners of the UK and beyond.**

Nestling into the unmistakable Malvern Hills and with a record number of trade and breed stands, seminars and activities, I have no doubt this will be a great event that will be a credit to all those individuals involved in its organisation and delivery, as well as being incredibly useful, both technically and socially for all who attend.

Without wanting to overcook things there is clearly some optimism and confidence evident in the sheep world, and rightly so. But only a fool would suggest there won't be challenges ahead or that profitability is secured. Some of the challenges such as currency rates and exports, the arrival of the next Schmallenberg equivalent (or worse) and even elements of CAP reform, are outside our control. Others we *can* do something about, ideally heading them off well in advance of causing problems.

## Positive image

Promoting our product hard (even more important during the good times), presenting our industry to the public and politicians in a positive and constructive manner, striving for best practice in all

we do, addressing average costs of production, tracking and monitoring disease, and long term planning to overcome CAP changes, are all examples of this. Some are individual activities, some collective industry actions and some Governmental partnership responsibilities, but it's only by understanding the challenges and doing something about them that we will protect sheep farming and not just survive, but thrive.

## Planning ahead

So far this year things are looking good. We had as good a spring as we could have hoped for with good grass growth, good numbers of lambs and ewes in good condition getting those lambs off to a quick start and into a market with good prices. Import pressure has been light and market prices reasonable even while spring lamb numbers have been climbing. Time races by and it won't be long before things are prepared for the next production cycle – and none of us can afford to forget the late summer and early autumn is one of the most important times in the sheep calendar.

Attention to detail is key; getting things right will be the foundation for the following lambing.

There is never just



one angle or answer when it comes to sheep farming, but if there was one message I would like to get out now it would be about the need to know and protect your farm in relation to disease and parasites. If you keep sheep you already have a spectrum of challenges, and hopefully this is known and managed effectively. What you don't need is to bring any new and unwanted guests onto your farm, such as anthelmintic resistant worms, liver fluke or scab, by not properly quarantining (testing, properly treating, and separating) new stock. NSA Sheep 2014 will provide information and advice on all these subjects and many more. I look forward to seeing you there.

## ACT NOW

and buy an adult ticket for just £10 (£6 for members) on the early bird rate at [www.sheepevent.org.uk/tickets.php](http://www.sheepevent.org.uk/tickets.php). Closing date is Friday 11th July.

## EVENT INFORMATION

**Admission: NSA and Three County Agricultural Society Members** £6 on production of a valid membership card (one card, one reduced entry);

**Adults:** £15; **Under 16s:** Free;

**International guests:**

Free on production of passport.

**Date:** Wednesday 30th July.

**Location:** Three Counties Showground, Malvern, Worcestershire, WR13 6NW.

**Opening hours:** 9am-5pm.

**Further information:** Disabled car parking and toilets available on site; qualified first aid staff in attendance; no cash point machine on site; only assistance dogs and dogs entered for the sheepdog sale permitted on the showground; please leave your dog at home.

## SHOW LOCATION

**By road:** Take junction 7 or 8 from the M5 and follow signs to the Three Counties Showground. AA signs will direct you to the correct carpark.

**By rail:** Great Malvern Railway Station is less than three miles away, with a regular service from Birmingham New Street.



**By taxi:** Great Malvern Taxis 01684 561117; Malvern Taxis 01684 522020; AA Taxi 01684 891414.

**By air:** Birmingham International Airport is a 45-minute drive from the showground.

## FURTHER INFORMATION

**Event website:** [www.sheepevent.org.uk](http://www.sheepevent.org.uk).

**Event organiser:** Helen Davies. [helen@nationalsheep.org.uk](mailto:helen@nationalsheep.org.uk). 07976 803066.

**Contact NSA:** 01684 892661. [www.nationalsheep.org.uk](http://www.nationalsheep.org.uk). [enquiries@nationalsheep.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@nationalsheep.org.uk).

**Event organised by:** National Sheep Association, a company limited by guarantee and registered in England (37818). Also a registered charity in England and Wales (249255) and in Scotland (SC042853).

VAT number 273 3469 44.

# Event highlights for an action packed day

NSA has crammed a lot into the day to ensure visitors go home with the latest technical information and news. See the inside back cover for a map of the showground.

## 9am Gates open

- **Drop-in clinics and demonstrations begin** (details on page 6-7)
- Judging of best exhibitor stands
- Public vote for NSA and Farmers Guardian video competition, *sponsored by AgriLloyd* (NSA stand, Wye Hall 3, stand 89)
- Asda Cookery Demonstrations begin, to be held every 45 minutes through the day (Avon Hall, stand 162)
- NSA Young Shepherd of the Year Final begins, *sponsored by MSD/Footvax and Rumenco* (2.30pm finish)
- Texel Society Stockjudging Competition begins (Wye Hall 4, stand 90; 4pm finish)

## 10am

- **Opening Ceremony:** George Eustace MP followed by presentations (NSA stand, Wye Hall 3, stand 89)
- English Shearer of the Year Award and NSA Open Competition, *sponsored by Nettex* (Shearing shed; 3pm finish)
- BWMB Fleece Competition judging (Wye Hall 4, stand 119)
- National Lamb Carcase Selection Competition opens, *sponsored by ABP* (Eblex stand, Avon Hall, 146; 3pm finish)

## 10.30am

- **Seminar programme begins:**  
Seminar 1: Liver fluke (details on page 4)
- **Workshop programme begins:**  
Workshop 1: Lightsource and solar panels (details on page 8)
- *Tornado* Wire Fencer of the Year Competition (1.30pm)
- Working sheepdog sale beings (4pm finish)

**10.45pm** Ready Steady Cook – Heat 1 (Avon Hall, stand 162; details on page 19)

**11am** Presentation of stand competition winners on respective stands

**11.15am Workshop 2:** Woodland Trust and trees on farmland (details on page 8)

**11.30am Seminar 2:** Young blood needed to sustain the future of the sheep industry (details on page 4)

**11.45am** Ready Steady Cook – Heat 2 (Avon Hall, stand 162; details on page 19)

**12 noon Workshop 3:** Sterimatic and vaccination techniques and equipment (details on page 8)

**12.30pm The Big Debate:** Balancing red meat supply with environmental impact (details on page 4)

**1.30pm Workshop 4:** Lightsource and solar panels (details on page 8)

## 2pm

- **Seminar 3:** Reporting and recording sheep movements – how to stay compliant (details on page 4)
- Ready Steady Cook – The Final (Avon Hall, stand 162; details on page 19)
- NSA Open Shearing Competition commences, *sponsored by Nettex* (Shearing shed; 3pm finish)

**2.15pm Workshop 5:** Woodland Trust and trees on farmland (details on page 8)

**2.40pm Seminar 4:** Outlook for the sheep industry (details on page 4)

## 3pm

- **Workshop 6:** Sterimatic and vaccination techniques and equipment (details on page 8)
- *Tornado* Wire Fencer of the Year award presentations (*Tornado* stand 180)
- NSA and Clark Wilmott Legal Helpline Launch (NSA stand, Wye Hall 3, stand 89)

**3.15pm** Presentation of the video competition winner (NSA stand, Wye Hall 3, stand 89)

**3.20pm Seminar 5:** Tackling sheep scab, a collaborative approach (details on page 4)

## 3.30pm

- BWMB Fleece Competition awards presentation (Wye Hall 4, stand 119)
- English Shearer of the Year awards presentation (Shearing Shed)
- National Lamb Carcase Selection awards presentation (Eblex stand, Avon Hall, stand 146)

**4pm** NSA Young Shepherd of the Year award presentations (MSD stand, Avon Hall, stand 153)

**4.30pm** Texel Society Stockjudging award presentation (Wye Hall 4, stand 90; 4pm finish)

## 5pm Event closes

*Information subject to change prior to the event.*

# Thank you to all event supporters

## Major Sponsors:



**Competition Sponsors:** MSD Animal Health and Footvax, Nettex, Rumenco, Tornado.

## Themed Sponsors:



**Mainline Sponsors:** ABP Food Group, AgriLloyd, Bayer Animal Health, Bimeda, Blade Farming, British Wool Marketing Board and Campaign for Wool, Texel Sheep Society.

**National Sponsors:** David Ritchie Farm Implements, Hampton Steel, Innovis Breeding Services, JG Animal Health, Livestock Auctioneers Association, McArthur Group, Mole Valley Farmers, StockTrace, Suzuki GB, Volac, Woodland Trust.

**Local Sponsors:** Fearing, Gallagher Power Fence UK, Norbrook Animal Health.

## Host:



## Media Partner:



**Event Management Team:** Matt Bagley, Jonathan Barber, Bob Blanden, Mike Credland, David Croston, Nick Davies, John Geldard, Dave Gregory, Kevin Harrison, Richard Sparey, and all NSA staff.

**On-site Working Committee:** Assistance generously given by members from all NSA regions. **Chief Steward:** Kevin Harrison.

**Site Manager:** Nick Davies.

**Dinner Sponsor:** Randall Parker Foods.

**Press Relations:** Pinstone Communications.

# Practical and insightful seminar line-up

**NSA is delighted to welcome Tom Heap, well known for his investigative features on BBC Countryfile, to NSA Sheep 2014.**

Tom (pictured) will be chairing the Big Debate at 12.30pm in the seminar marquee, steering a course through the contentious issue of balancing red meat supply and the environment.

The panel will consist of NSA Chief Executive Phil Stocker, Dr Pat Thompson of RSPB, Yorkshire farmer Alan Alderson and Andrew Walker of Yorkshire Water, as well as Phil Walling, who runs a small sheep flock and recently published *Counting Sheep*, a well-received book about the pastoral heritage of Britain.

“With a panel representing all angles of the debate and plenty of time for questions and discussion, I see this session as a unique opportunity for NSA Sheep Event visitors to have their say and promote the necessity of sheep in providing high quality meat, working in tandem with the environment,

maintaining the landscape and sustaining rural communities,” says Phil.

## Highlights

Other highlights in the seminar programme are practical tips for controlling liver fluke (10.30am), an introduction to the NSA Next Generation programme (11.30am) and a look at the hurdles encountered by attempts to tackle and eradicate sheep scab (3.20pm).

NSA and NFU will also be launching a new Sheep Vision Report, a comprehensive analysis of lamb production and the opportunities and threats facing us in the immediate and long-term future. This session at 2.40pm will provide an opportunity to quiz representatives on the work being done to represent the sheep sector and ensure farmers’ voices are heard.



Remember, identification rules change in England on 1st January 2015 for slaughter lambs and older ewes. Check out the seminar at 2pm and don’t forget non-EID slaughter tags for lambs cannot be applied after 31st December. This is also the date after which ewes from the historic flock (born before 2009) must be individually identified on movement documents unless going straight to slaughter or via a red market. Take the time to think about your older ewes now and, if you think double-tagging will aid movement recording in the future, take the opportunity when handling them at weaning or tupping time to put new tags in (and make a note in your flock register).

## Seminar Timetable

### 10.30am **Liver fluke – adapting control according to threat**

*Practical advice on developing a successful fluke control programme, including case studies from farms in Scotland and Wales.*

**Chairman:** Sybil Macpherson, NSA Scottish Region Chairman

**Speakers:** Philip Skuce, Moredun George Milne, NSA Scottish Region Development Officer  
Frances Jones, Veterinary Surgeon  
Margaret Dalton, NSA Welsh Region Trustee

### 11.30am **Young blood needed to sustain the future of the sheep industry**

*An insight into the NSA Next Generation project and its Ambassador Group, demonstrating opportunities the sheep industry holds for young people.*

**Chairman:** Jonathan Barber, NSA Next Generation Steering Group Chairman

**Speakers:** Joanne Briggs, NSA Communications Manager  
Case study 1: Oliver McEntyre, Barclays Bank, and Andrew Prentice, NSA Ambassador  
Case study 2: Robert Addison, Hexham & Northern Marts, and James Hamilton, NSA Ambassador  
Case study 3: Kevin Harrison, NSA Marches Region Chairman, and Kate Robinson, NSA Ambassador

### 12.30pm **The Big Debate: Balancing red meat supply with environmental impact**

*A discussion about the importance of producing red meat, particularly in the uplands, rather than seeing sheep as the enemy of the environment.*

**Chairman:** Tom Heap, BBC Countryfile

**Speakers:** Phil Stocker, NSA Chief Executive  
Philip Walling, author of ‘Counting Sheep’  
Alan Alderson, Yorkshire farmer  
Andrew Walker, Yorkshire Water  
Dr Pat Thompson, RSPB

### 2pm **Reporting and recording sheep movements – how to stay compliant**

*With new electronic sheep movement databases active in England and planned for Wales, plus changes to tagging rules in 2015, industry experts explain the new systems and provide practical tips.*

**Chairman:** Bob Payne, NSA Central Region Chairman

**Speakers:** Terry Gurnhill, Defra  
John Carroll, SouthWestern  
Spencer Conlon, Welsh Government

### 2.40pm **Outlook for the sheep industry – visions for the future**

*The official launch of the inaugural NSA and NFU Sheep Vision Report, followed by an extended Q&A session covering all elements of the sheep sector.*

**Chairman:** Adam Watson, NSA Northern Region Chairman

**Speakers:** Charles Sercombe, NFU Livestock Board Chairman  
Phil Stocker, NSA Chief Executive  
Nick Allen, Eblex Sector Director

### 3.20pm **Tackling sheep scab, a collaborative approach**

*Following the English ‘Stamp Out Scab’ project and attempts in Wales to start an eradication programme, we look at the challenge of tackling sheep scab.*

**Chairman:** Bryan Griffiths, NSA South West Regional Chairman

**Speakers:** Kate Philips, ADAS  
Andy Offer, Whyte House Lamb  
Sion Aron Jones, HCC



*Information subject to change prior to the event.*

# DO SOLAR THE RIGHT WAY

## DEVON FARMER SHEDS LIGHT ON DIVERSIFYING INTO SOLAR POWER SUCCESSFULLY

**D**evonshire farmer Mr Gilbert Churchill, of Newlands Farm in Axminster, has nothing but praise for the large scale solar farm that has now diversified the income of his farm.

Mr Churchill shares his experience with us so that other land owners can benefit from the valuable lessons he learned. He explains exactly how to ensure you get the best offer for your land and what to look for in a responsible solar developer.



Firstly, we asked Mr Churchill what made him opt for installing a solar farm rather than other renewable energy technologies. He tells us, "It's environmentally friendly and it suits the farm industry very much because it gives a secure regular income. That's very important to me and to other farmers as the industry is struggling at the moment to make ends meet. It's a lifeline."

"Then with solar panels you can run sheep, as I do. It's very quiet, you don't know it's there, and it's generating power for the local community. People don't realise that these solar farms they put in here, they're generating energy for people in the area. A lot of people think, "Oh, they're generating power and it's going up the country", but it's not. It keeps local businesses going, and keeps our homes powered. And it's clean energy and it's lowering our carbon footprint."

**“ The solar farm supports wildlife because it can work alongside Mother Nature. ”**

Mr Churchill continues, "You need to find out at the start where the money or investment is coming from and who is going to own and operate the solar farm for its lifetime. This will determine how many companies are in the contractual chain and how quickly your solar farm can be developed. The lesser number of people involved, the better for you and the quicker the solar farm will be done."

**“ You can then get a feel for which company has the most experience ”**

Lightsource Renewable Energy has leapt to the forefront of solar farm development because they have their funding secured. This means that contractual negotiations can be swift and quarterly rental payments can begin immediately. This has allowed Lightsource to become the largest operator of solar farms in the United Kingdom, managing over 4000 acres of farmland that has been diversified with solar power.

"Another thing you need to ask about is planning. The developer should tell you their process in obtaining planning permission. Make sure you ask them how many planning applications they have made and how many were successful. This will give you an idea of how the planning will go."

It is important for farmers to ask plenty of questions and to learn about the track record of any developer they're considering entering into an agreement with. One of the best ways to ensure success is for farmers to go directly to a reputable company that have built many sites before in the UK and are able to manage the whole process from initial meeting with the land owners to reinstating the site back to its original condition in 25-30 years' time.

Mr Churchill highlights the importance of land use and making the best use of the solar farm. A typical solar farm only takes up 30 per cent of the leased area, leaving the rest of the land open for various types of diversification. This includes the grazing of small livestock such as sheep or chickens, along with a number of other practices. Fortunately, there is now best practice guidance issued by the National Solar Centre to ensure responsible and sustainable land management practices are carried out on land that has been allocated to solar farming.



Lightsource works closely with the land owner early on in the process, agreeing a land management plan with them to put the land to best use. For example, biodiversity enhancements like sowing wildflower seeds around the field boundaries can be



implemented according to the stocking density requirements. We asked Mr Churchill if biodiversity had improved at Newlands Farm since the solar panels went in: "Yes, they've put in lots of hedges to hide it all away, which is brilliant, and the people [Lightsource] who came in to do it were very good. I've got hollies, beeches, and some hawthorn. That was done straight after and is growing nicely."

"I've got wild bees under the panels, this past year we've had masses of butterflies I haven't seen for years, ladybirds, grasshoppers, lots of insects all coming back and enjoying the shelter. And the birds love it! The birds are absolutely enjoying it because it's a place where they can live and be happy and there's lots of food!

"The solar farm supports wildlife because it can work alongside Mother Nature. Plants and animals can live peacefully underneath it and you can run stock under it... which is great. As I said, the solar farm has worked with the community very well, and the wildlife."

Mr Churchill finishes by offering these two tips to any farmer who is considering leasing out land to a solar farm developer, "I would advise farmers to research solar companies that operate solar farms locally and regionally. You should request to view their projects and speak with some of their clients. You can then get a feel for which company has the most experience and can make you the best offer. This is a long term agreement, you need to be sure the company operating and looking after the solar farm is going to be around for at least 25 years."

For more information on  
Lightsource Renewable Energy, visit:  
[www.lightsource-re.co.uk](http://www.lightsource-re.co.uk)  
or phone **0333 200 0755**

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# What not to miss at NSA Sheep 2014

From competitions to legal advice, new public health work to buying a sheepdog, there's something for everyone at the action-packed event.



The pre-event dinner is a popular evening for farmers, industry representatives and trade stand holders.

## Celebrate sheep sector at industry dinner

It's not too late to book a ticket for the NSA pre-event dinner, held on the evening of Tuesday 29th July and hosted on the event site in the Three Counties' Severn Hall. This is a wonderful celebration of the industry with a three-course meal and entertainment. This year's guest speaker is Robin Page, author, broadcaster (know for his time presenting BBC's One Man and His Dog) and founder of the Countryside Restoration Trust. Lamb kindly supplied by Randal Parker and wine provided by ABP/Blade.

Tickets £30+VAT with tables of 10 available.

Download an application form at

[www.sheepevent.org.uk](http://www.sheepevent.org.uk)

or call 01684 892661.



## Live and dead stockjudging challenges



Test your skills in the Texel Sheep Society stockjudging challenge, organised by the Texel Youth Development team. A £1 donation to RABI will get you into the competition, with a Ritchie Farm Implements lamb weigher on offer to the first correct entry drawn out of a hat. Master judge will be Henry Gamble, Texel Society Chairman and President. 9am-4pm on the Texel stand (Wye Hall 4, stand 90).

Also have a go at judging carcase classifications in the National Lamb Carcase Selection Competition on the Eblex stand (Avon Hall 148, 10am-3pm), kindly sponsored by ABP.

Four lamb carcasses that fit the spec for different markets will be selected and identified with a label, weight and one half of its classification – £200 is on offer to the first selected entry that correctly gives the missing classification and identifies which lamb suits each market.

## Sheepdogs on sale



Searching for a new dog? Then where better to consider purchasing than at NSA Sheep 2014, which will be hosting its 15th biennial sale of working sheepdogs. An entry of more than 40 Border Collies is expected from novice to trial dogs, including those registered with the International Sheep Dog Society. Each dog will be put through its working paces on the sale site before

coming under the hammer between 10.30am and 4pm in the main show ring.

The sheepdog sale is supported by Bayer, which is supporting the Sheep Event through its Farm Animal Products, Crop Science and Environmental Science departments.

If you buy a sheepdog, don't forget to worm it when you get home. Worming advice on page 24.

## Vote for your favourite

The grand final of the NSA Sheep Event Video Competition will conclude at NSA Sheep 2014, so don't miss your chance to vote for your favourite. Each video features a sheep farmer explaining what they love about their job and will be used by NSA to promote the sector as a positive career option for young people.

An online vote is being held in the run-up to the event by competition partner Farmers Guardian (vote at [www.farmersguardian.com/NSASheep2014](http://www.farmersguardian.com/NSASheep2014)) and the most popular three will be screened throughout the day at the NSA stand (9am-2.45pm). The video with the most votes will be announced at 3.15pm and, thanks to generous sponsorship by AgriLloyd, there is a £700 prize fund up for grabs by the three top-placed video productions.

The NSA stand will also be hosting Clarke Willmott solicitors throughout the day, the company that has just started offering free legal advice to NSA members\*. Find out more about the service by chatting to Clarke Willmott, and call past the stand at 3pm for an informal reception and afternoon tea to officially launch the new service.



Members and non-members are welcome to the stand throughout the day for a cup of tea and can enter the prize draw for a 3in1 feeder – see page 10 for details.

Don't forget, event entry is just £6 for NSA members (£15 otherwise). Sign up on the gate for discounted entry or sign up on the stand to receive a refund.

\*Conditions apply; see [www.nationalsheep.org.uk](http://www.nationalsheep.org.uk)

## Serum Archive for Emerging Zoonoses

A new study launched by Public Health England is asked visitors to the NSA Sheep Event to anonymously donate a small blood sample to help create a blood archive of people who work with livestock that can be tested when a new animal infection appears to see if there is any evidence of the infection in humans. A Public England spokesperson says: "The study is to look at the risks of new or emerging animal infections spreading to humans. Results will allow us to understand the infection better and develop public health advice for those in contact with animals. Scientists in Europe tested samples in this way to show that Schmallenberg virus was not a risk to farmers." Public Health England has already taken 150 samples from pig and poultry workers and will ask volunteers at the Sheep Event to fill in a short questionnaire and donate 10ml of blood, all anonymously and confidentially. Find Public Health England in Avon Hall, stand 146.



# Sheep industry structure revealed

Among a wide range of information and tools available on the Eblex stand at NSA Sheep 2014, a fascinating snapshot of the structure of the sheep sector will also be on display for the first time.

Poppy Frater, Eblex Livestock Scientist, explains: "Over the past 40 years the never-ending quest to develop the perfect sheep breed has resulted in a very dynamic industry. Changes have been documented through regular sheep breed surveys, first conducted in 1971 and repeated five times since, and results of the latest survey in 2012 (coordinated and funded by EBLEX with support from HCC) have now been analysed and made available.

"The results are a testament to the resilience of the UK sheep industry as it continually evolves to adapt to external change while producing what the market wants."

Some of the findings include:-

- More UK breeds – 106 now compared to 60 in 1971
- A continual increase in some breeds since 1971 (Texel, Lleyn, Bluefaced Leicester and Easycare)



*The rise and decline of different breeds is revealed by the survey.*

- A decline in purebred sheep resulting in a greater proportion of crossbred ewes – 56% crossbred now compared to 50% in 2003
- A decline in other breeds (including the main hill breeds, Scottish Blackface, Welsh Mountain and Swaledale) and several previously-recorded breeds not found by the 2012 survey
- Less dependence on the stratified system as more ad hoc crossbreds produced instead of traditional hill x lowland crosses.

*Find out more on the Eblex stand – Avon Hall, stand 148.*

## Help the sector take stock

Eblex has been collecting costings information from 400 commercial enterprises for 10 years for its Business Pointers benchmarking report, a physical and financial performance reference point used by many English beef and sheep producers. Last year, Stocktake became the new face of Business Pointers, with Eblex itself collecting data from a range of farms, making it possible to offer more detailed benchmarking figures and additional data on physical performance.

A good number of sheep farmers are already taking part in Stocktake but Eblex is keen to recruit more, particularly in West and South West England and in LFAs.

Farmers who take part typically spend no more than half a day assembling basic farm cost information with an Eblex regional benchmarking officers. In return they receive a detailed financial report.

Visit the Eblex stand, email [wendy.walker@ahdb.org.uk](mailto:wendy.walker@ahdb.org.uk) or call 02476 478885.



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# Kawasaki

# Workshops, demos and drop-in clinics

**Drop by the Sustainable Control of Parasites (SCOPS) stand at NSA Sheep 2014 (Avon Hall, stand 142) to find out more about worm control and how you can test if the wormers you use are fully effective**

“Poor lamb growth rates are a common complaint among sheep farmers,” says Lesley Stubbings, independent sheep consultant. “Using a wormer that is less than fully effective is a major factor for many of them. While resistance to wormers is one very important reason why a treatment does not kill all of the worms in a sheep, failure to get the dose rate right and administer the wormer in the correct way are equally to blame, so we will be demonstrating this over the course of the day.”

SCOPS will also be working closely with Novartis and Ritchey to demonstrate EID equipment and auto-drafting facilities to help show how these can be used as a part of flock management and effective parasite control in particular. There will be several demonstrations during the day and for the first time SCOPS will also host part of the Young Shepherd of the Year competition, putting the competitors through their paces for accurate drenching, injecting and pour-on applications.

## Moredun research

Within this area in Avon Hall visitors will also have the opportunity to discuss other reasons for reduced performance with a number of industry experts, including Moredun and Eblix.

“Moredun is delighted to have a stand at the event at Malvern and will be discussing fluke and worm control, along with current research into combatting other production diseases in sheep,” says Professor Lee Innes of the Moredun Research Institute.

“Moredun scientists are working very closely with farmers to develop new strategies for targeted anthelmintic use on farms based on liveweight gain, which has reduced anthelmintic usage, improved animal production performance and maintained the efficacy of the drugs for longer periods.”

## XLVets on hands

More expert advice will be available from XLVets in Wye Hall 3 (stand 87), where they'll be encouraging visitors to 'make your farm your fortress' as part of national campaign to get farmers to think seriously about improving biosecurity on their own farm

## Free information on offer

**Workshops** (Situated at the back of the Avon Hall, behind the cookery demonstration area.) No booking required.

- **10.30am and 1.30pm:** Generating solar power without sacrificing grazing ground – with Lightsource
- **11.15am and 2.15pm:** Integrating trees onto the farm without losing productive areas of farmland – with The Woodland Trust
- **12 noon and 3pm:** Sheep vaccination techniques and equipment – with Sterimatic

**Demonstrations and drop-in clinics** (Running through the day)

- Correct administration of fly strike products, worm control programmes and complete sheep handling systems – with Novartis Animal Health and Ritchey (stands 195/196, between the Avon and Wye halls)
- Auto drafting with EID tags – with Shearwell Data (Wye Hall 4, stand 123)
- Worm control and how visitors can test if their wormers are fully effective – with SCOPS (Avon Hall, stand 142)
- Balancing home-grown forage with bought-in products – with Rumenco (Wye Hall 2, stand 60)
- Getting to grips with farm assurance – with SAI Global (Avon Hall, stand 154)
- Stamp Out Lameness clinic – with MSD Animal Health (Avon Hall, stand 153)
- Maximising value from fleeces – with British Wool Marketing Board (Wye Hall 4, stand 119)



Workshops and clinics are open to all with no prior booking required.

with simple measures to prevent the introduction and spread of disease.

Veterinary advice and literature will be available, plus competitions to win a free place at a FarmSkills workshop of your choice and information on the new FarmSkills Farmer Portal, which provides a practical, innovative tool for farmers to access training and book onto workshops online (see [www.farmskills.co.uk](http://www.farmskills.co.uk)).

Vaccination use is a topic for one of the workshops (see panel) and you can find more top vaccination tips on page 25).



THE CAMPAIGN FOR WOOL  
PATRON HRH THE PRINCE OF WALES

Advice on maximising the value from fleeces will be available all day on the BMWW stand (Wye Hall 4,

stand 119) with a Wool Clinic providing advice on wool clip presentation and quality.

Other activity will include Stephen Spencer, BWMB's Wool Marketing Manager, judging the fleece competition, information on the latest wool prices and examples of BWMB activity to market and promote wool and train the next generation of shearers.

A key element to BWMB's promotional work is its involvement in the Campaign for Wool and visitors to the event will see how the versatility and creativity of wool is promoted around the world in a modern and thought provoking way.



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**POM-VPS** VM00006/4142 and VM0006/4143

<sup>1</sup> Percentage kill: Adults 97%-100%, immature 6-8 weeks 91%-95%, immatures 5 weeks - 91%; 3-4 week immatures 23%-73%. Product SPC.

<sup>2</sup> Maes L, Vanparijs O, Lauwers H. (1990) Activité douvicide du closantel contre Fasciola hepatica: approche pharmacodynamique. Revue Méd. Vet., 141, 12, 991-995.

<sup>3</sup> Res Vet Sci. 1988 Mar;44(2):229-32. Flukicidal action of closantel against immature and mature Fasciola hepatica in experimentally infected rats and sheep. Maes L, Lauwers H, Deckers W, Vanparijs O

<sup>4</sup> Coles, G. C., Rhodes, A. C., Stafford, K. A. (2000) Activity of closantel against adult triclabendazole-resistant Fasciola hepatica. Veterinary Record 146, 504.

**Elanco**

# Sheep dairy farmer wins 3in1 feeder

**The third of six 3in1 Advantage Feeders given away in the NSA 2014 membership recruitment campaign is going to a sheep unit with a difference – winner Thomas Garland is a dairy farmer!**

Mr Garland from Langport, Somerset, set up a sheep milking flock four years ago and is currently milking 500 Friesland and Friesland cross Poll Dorset ewes. Having kept sheep for many years in different systems, alongside a herd of milking cows for some time, he says the new set-up definitely suits his way of farming. He is also delighted to have a brand new 3in1 feeder to add to his business.

“I have looked at the feeders in the past and thought they looked good, so it was great to win something that looks like it will be really useful,” Mr Garland says. “I think the feeder will be handy to feed our replacement ewe lambs, as we supplement feed them at turnout right through the summer. Currently we just trough feed but this could save a lot of time and backache! It will also be interesting to see how the lambs respond to it with a view of supplementary feeding our ewes at tugging.”

There are 100 replacement ewe lambs in Mr Garland's flock, homebred from his March and April-lambing ewes. Two other blocks of ewes are lambing in November and January but these are sponged and put to terminal sires. All lambs are artificially reared from two days of age and anything not identified as a suitable replacement sold as young stores. Milk from the ewes is sold to five customers in the south of England.

“I farm in partnership with my girlfriend Helen and we're tenant farmers with an FBT and various grazing agreements at Burton dairy farm in Langport, a private estate. Much of the ground is in HLS with a small proportion of new leys in rotation with the estates arable land. I used to be an NSA member years ago but rejoined to keep up to date with sheep related issues and new ideas in the industry.”

Envious of Mr Garland's luck in the NSA prize draw? We have three more feeders to give away this year so the sooner you get your name in the hat the more chance there is of winning (see panel). People like Mr Garland, who have been an NSA members in the past, are not eligible if they terminated their membership within the last 12 months. Terms and condition at [www.nationalsheep.org.uk/draw](http://www.nationalsheep.org.uk/draw).



*Thomas Garland and girlfriend Helen (right) with NSA South West Chairman Bryan Griffiths and NSA Membership Recruitment Officer Charlotte Underwood (left).*

## Ways to win a 3in1 Feeder

NSA is giving away six 3in1 feeders during 2014 and there are still three chances to get your hands on one. All new members are eligible for the draw, plus existing members who recommend someone to sign up. The more people you recommend the more entries you get into the draw, and the sooner you enter the more chance there is of winning!

There are lots of ways to qualify:-

1. Sign up as a new member at [www.nationalsheep.org.uk/membership](http://www.nationalsheep.org.uk/membership).
2. Sign up using the application form opposite.
3. Come to NSA Sheep 2014, sign up on the gate with one of our friendly volunteers and pay just £6 entry instead of £15. Save time by bringing a completed application form with you.
4. Already a member? Simply write your membership number on the form opposite and pass it to a friend or neighbour to recommend they sign up as a new member.

3in1 feeders from Advantage Feeders give you control to limit the amount of supplement stock consume. It can save your time and money, reduce the health risks of feeding high corn-based diets and prevent mis-mothering at lambing time. Find out more at [www.3in1feeders.co.uk](http://www.3in1feeders.co.uk) or call UK distributor Robert Ball on the free phone number 08000 786030.

NSA is very grateful to Advantage Feeders for their support of this membership recruitment campaign. Advantage Feeders is also a Gold Sponsor of NSA and we apologise for missing them from our list of sponsors in the last edition of Sheep Farmer. Check out all our Gold and Corporate Sponsors at [www.nationalsheep.org.uk/](http://www.nationalsheep.org.uk/) supporters.



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

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# NSA membership

Pass this form to a friend or neighbour to be in with the chance of winning a 3in1 Feeder.



NSA membership subscriptions are vital to us, as they fund our work providing a voice for sheep farmers and enable us to offer a wide range of benefits to members, including this magazine. Help us to help you by encouraging friends and neighbours to become NSA members too – and get entered into the free prize draw to win a 3in1 Feeder 800 from Advantage Feeders with the ability to offer creep, rationing and ad lib feeding with no waste and a capacity of 500kg of feed. We are giving away six feeders in 2014 and the more people you recommend to become NSA members the more chances you have to win. Just make sure your details are in the referral box below.

Individual Subscription **£50**  
Under 27's Subscription **£25**

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Please supply copy of photo ID e.g. passport, driving licence, YFC/student card.

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Name(s) of account holder(s)

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Reference

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## Free prize draw to WIN a 3IN1FEEDER

By signing up as a new NSA member you will be automatically entered into a free prize draw.  
If an existing NSA member recommended you, they can also be entered in the draw.

**Existing NSA Members name, membership number and postcode - required for a valid entry:**

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I do not want my contact details passed to Advantage Feeders   
The referring NSA members does not want their contact details passed to Advantage Feeders   
Full terms and conditions at [www.nationalsheep.org.uk/draw](http://www.nationalsheep.org.uk/draw).



**Return this form to**  
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**Tel: 01684 892 661**  
Fax: 01684 892 663 Email: [membership@nationalsheep.org.uk](mailto:membership@nationalsheep.org.uk)

**your business your future**

# Product news for NSA Sheep Event

## High-tech welly boots

A grass monitor that can be mounted on a wellie boot to automatically measure grass height via ultrasound sensors has been launched by Mole Valley Farmers.

The compact and rugged Grassometer can be fitted to a wellie boot or pole and paired with a smartphone app to take thousands of grass height measurements across a field as you walk, calculating kgDM/ha as it goes. Information can then be downloaded to a computer for further analysis, planning and comparison between fields.

Developers of the technology say they hope to add a quad bike and tractor mount to the monitor in the near future, but longer term plans include additional sensors to



measure soil compaction and nutrient levels, and even attachment to a drone so grass can be measured without even having to walk the field! Visit Mole Valley at outside trade stand 234.

## Easy health planning

Sheep farmers can take advantage of a highly practical, visually-based flock health planning tool that is simple to customise for every farm situation – the EasiPlanner.

This quality wall chart system gives producers a step-by-step means of seeing their whole plan at a glance, with simple-to-follow content offered by a practical, sticker-based system. It makes it easy to follow and implement vaccination regimes and other crucial measures to optimise profitability.

EasiPlanner is there as a highly visible 'check list' cum aide memoire, promoting forward planning and key performance data. Along with medicine and movement records, it can help producers remain compliant in terms of written health plans and provide a full flock health record for farm assurance inspections. The wall chart also includes best practice guidelines on in-coming stock quarantine procedures, lameness control measures and worming protocols. Visit Healthy Hooves at outside trade stand 231 or got to [www.sheephealthplanner.co.uk](http://www.sheephealthplanner.co.uk).



## Tag and read together

Hot on the heels of winning a Royal Highland Show Silver Award for Innovation, Roxan will be bringing its new TagFaster-Pro to NSA Sheep 2014. TagFaster-Pro is a battery powered, motorised sheep tag applicator that relieves the task of tagging, automatically medicates the ear/wound and counts and records (in its on-board memory) the electronic tag numbers as they are fitted. It can also be used as a 'stick' reader to record pre-tagged animals.

A free mobile application uploads, stores and prints tag lists simply and wirelessly for further use in your own spreadsheet systems, proprietary software or (in the future) national databases.

The system, which can be used to insert all types of TagFaster tags, is available at an introductory price around £300. Visit Roxan at Wye Hall 2, stand 58A.

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# Sponsors offer key practical advice

Meet three of our Major Sponsors for NSA Sheep 2014.

## Take stock of your flock

By Chris Lloyd, Eblex Industry Development Manager



It has been said many times before, but the producers making the best returns at any point in history, or at any market price, are those who manage the detail of their enterprise.

Eblex is committed to helping producers manage such details through technical innovation. Our Better Returns Programme (BRP) focuses on improving returns through the application of better breeding, health management, optimum use of forage, good nutrition and better lamb selection to supply what the market requires in a cost-effective way.

A wide range of Eblex tools will be available at NSA Sheep 2014 – and a

key message will be an initiative to encourage all flock masters to take stock of their flock this August and ensure they are not carrying ewes likely to cause problems or take up time and money over the next 12 months.

We will consider the numerous reasons for culling and how to use year-round records and body condition scoring (BCS) to identify problem ewes. The target for ewes at weaning is generally 0.5-1.0 BCS below the target for tugging. It is worth noting that it takes six to eight weeks of unrestricted grazing (at a sward height of 4-6cm) for ewes to regain this condition. Some



producers will have proactively weaned ewes earlier than usual this season to ensure condition didn't drop too much.

*Find out more about culling ewes and other flock management tools in the Eblex area, Avon Hall 148.*

## Advice on protecting sheep from worms and flies



Novartis Animal Health, a leader in developing new and better ways to prevent and treat diseases in farm animals, will be joining with Ritchey at the event to run practical demonstrations and offer information and advice about best practice on farm.

The first demonstration will focus on the correct application method for CLiK and CLiKZiN, trusted insect growth regulators (IGRs) with FleeceBind technology to prevent blowfly strike. IGRs work by halting blowfly larval development and prevent the development of the damaging second and third stage maggots which are responsible for causing flystrike.

FleeceBind ensures the product spreads from tip to base of fleece, around the animal and onto new wool growth, providing practical cover and full

fleece protection. It spreads to all areas covered by the fleece, so other areas (such as the feet) may not be protected. Fleecebind binds the formulation strongly in place and sticks to the wool even if applied to damp fleeces.

The second demonstration will show how to use Zolvix and the innovative Optiline drenching system as part of a worm management plan developed for your farm. With a unique mode of action, Zolvix kills all significant gut worms, even resistant strains, and can be used in every flock, every year to manage roundworm burdens, help slow down the development of drench resistance and boost productivity.

As part of the live demonstrations, Ritchey will showcase a complete flock management solution to show how using EID technology in conjunction with

a Prattley system, electronic weighing and reliable data collection can make handling a flock easier and save valuable time, while closely monitoring weight gain can also lead to several advantages.

There are animal husbandry benefits to be had as well, as by weighing accurately and dosing accordingly you can make sure you get value for money by drenching effectively and maximising lamb growth. It will also help slow down the development of resistance.

The demonstration will include a Prattley handling system, Prattley five-way autodrafter, Tru-Test electronic weighing system and Tru-Test EID reader.

*Visit Novartis and Ritchey on stands 195 and 196, between the Avon and Wye halls, near the seminar marquee.*

## Supporting efficiency and development

By Oliver McEntyre, Barclays National Agricultural Specialist



Barclays Agriculture is proud to be sponsoring the NSA Sheep Event at Malvern in 2014. Quality industry events are vital to promote best practice and knowledge transfer within all sectors of UK agriculture, therefore Barclays are pleased to be supporting efficiency and development within the sheep sector.

Sheep numbers increased in the last year by 2% meaning there is real confidence from the industry after some testing times with flooding, Schmallenberg and of course the snow storms of Easter 2013. Barclays Agriculture shares that confidence and

is pleased to confirm it through the sponsorship of the event.

The focus of any business in a price-taking sector should be on margin and inputs rather than end price. With a good spring and anecdotal confirmation of a good lambing for most, the industry must focus on producing quality lambs for home and abroad, with input costs firmly managed to ensure the business is viable in the long term. Businesses with a proven track record and an outlook of long term viability are key to the success of the industry.

Barclays has over 250 years of

agricultural banking experience and can offer the industry knowledge, understanding and support to help your business develop. We have a national team of over 100 locally based agricultural managers, experienced to understand your business needs and challenges, helping you succeed in meeting the demands for your farm in 2014 and beyond, and helping us to support the future of farming for the generations to come.

*Visit Barclays in the Avon Hall, stand 156.*



# Your new lambing shed?

Exposure to cold is one of the biggest causes of neonatal loss of lambs. Sheltered, well drained fields provide the best conditions for lambing. With free planting and planning advice available from the Woodland Trust, more farmers are turning to trees to protect livestock, young and old.

To find out more search  
**Woodland Trust farming**  
to read the Benefits of trees on livestock farms report.

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# Eclectic mix of event sponsors includes

Meet three more Major Sponsors of NSA Sheep 2014.

## Solar panels work for Devon farmer

At a time of increasing financial pressure, many farmers are looking for ways to diversify without losing the agricultural use of their land. A typical solar farm only takes up 30% of the allocated land, leaving the rest open for the grazing of small livestock, along with a number of other diversifications.

Gilbert Churchill of Newlands Farm, Axminster, Devon (pictured) chose to install solar panels by Lightsource Renewable Energy. He says: "It suits the farming industry very much because it gives a secure regular income. With solar panels you can run sheep, as I do. It's very quiet, you don't know it's there, and it's generating power for the local community. It's clean energy and it's lowering our carbon footprint."

It is important to ask plenty of questions about the track record of a developer before entering into any agreement. A reputable company will have built many sites in the UK and will be able to manage the



whole process from initially meeting with the landowners to reinstating the site back to its original condition in 25-30 years' time.

Mr Churchill says: "You need to find out at the start where the money or investment is coming from and who is going to own and operate the solar farm for its lifetime. This will determine how many companies are in the contractual chain and how quickly your solar farm can be developed. The fewer people involved the better for you and the quicker the solar farm will be done."

Lightsource already has funding secured, which means that contractual negotiations can be swift and quarterly

rental payments can begin immediately. This has allowed Lightsource to become the leading operator of solar farms in the UK, managing over 4,000 acres of farmland.

Mr Churchill continues: "Another thing you need to ask about is planning. The developer should tell you their process in obtaining planning permission. Make sure you ask them how many planning applications they have made and how many were successful. This will give you an idea of how the planning will go.

"I would advise farmers to research solar companies that operate solar farms locally and regionally. You should request to view their projects and speak with some of their clients. You can then get a feel for which company has the most experience and can make you the best offer. This is a long term agreement, you need to be sure the company operating and looking after the solar farm is going to be around for at least 25 years."

Visit Lightsource in the renewable energy area, outside near the shearing shed (stand 177).



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# renewables, eartags and farm assurance

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worldwide including to New Zealand, Canada, USA, Brazil and many other countries.

The quality of Shearwell tags and their excellent retention rate allows the company to provide free replacement set sheep tags for the life of the animal and free replacement cattle tags (contact Shearwell for full offer details). Shearwell is also supplying TST/BVD Tags & Test from £4.95.

Shearwell supplies a full EID solution with a comprehensive software package (FarmWorks by SDL for beef and sheep) that is a valuable asset for both pedigree and commercial farmers. Shearwell also provides a range of readers, recording equipment and software. The easy-to-use basic stick reader stores lists of animals to download to your PC/mobile printer for printing and attaching to movement documentation. It can also be linked to the Shearwell Stock Move Express mobile phone application to populate a secure online holding register / herd register on the National Livestock Management Database (NLMD) over which you have total control and can forward movement information to ARAMS (sheep) or BCMS (cattle).

Our comprehensive data-logger – the Handheld Stock Recorder (with FarmWorks provided free of charge) – is an invaluable tool if you wish to use individual recording to improve flock and herd performance. This can also be linked to a mobile printer to provide lists of animals in the field or linked to race readers and weighing equipment providing a hands free and accurate means of capturing data. Individual animal information can be viewed and comments recorded.

Shearwell has launched an online store offering a range of products for the livestock farmer, so while ordering your tags you can also order other products online. Look out for seasonal offers!

Visit Shearwell at the back of Wye Hall 4 (stand 123).



## Expert farm assurance

SAI Global is the premier assurance company in agriculture and food supply chains, providing farmers, retailers, manufacturers and allied industries throughout the world with expert farm assurance to ensure the highest standards are maintained. Membership of farm assurance schemes inspected and certified by SAI Global /FABBL enables farmers to assure customers, retailers and consumers of the high quality of agriculture production. It will help secure markets, as the standards are designed to meet retailer requirements.

The Beef and Lamb Scheme allows farmers to demonstrate that standards of animal husbandry and welfare on their farm meet nationally agreed levels of best practice, and gives an assurance to the consumers that the product is safe and

traceable. Abattoirs and retailers are increasingly specifying beef and lamb must be from an assured farm. The standard also covers environmental protection, medicine use and feed.

The benefits of SAI Global Farm Assurance include:-

- Our portfolio of Red Tractor assurance schemes enable farmers to consolidate all their farm assurance needs in a single visit, reducing time and overall costs.
- Our farm inspectors understand farmers' circumstances, through experience and training, to help the audit run smoothly.
- Expert agriculture scheme managers work closely with industry stakeholders to answer your technical questions.
- Our client services team are available to help with any of your membership queries.
- Our farm focus and feedback groups ensure your opinion is listened to.

Our customers chose us because they know we're a partner they can depend on and trust. Registration is more than a certificate; it's an opportunity to make your business improve for the better.

SAI Global work with stakeholders like the NSA, which represents sheep producers, and it is partnerships like this that provide us with invaluable industry information, giving us the opportunity to react or respond to industry specific needs.

Visit SAI in the Avon Hall, stand 154.

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# Judges have a tough job ahead

With around 60 sheep breed stands and more than 200 trade organisations, we find out more about the people facing the challenges of awarding prizes for best exhibitors.



## Breed society stand judges

Susie and Hamish Dykes might look familiar – they and their family hosted this year's BBC Lambing Live on their upland farm at South Slipperfield in the Scottish Borders.

Susie and Hamish (pictured here with Kate Humble) run 1,000 ewes and 75 beef cows, buying in Scottish Blackface ewes to cross with their Blueface Leicester tups to produce Scotch Mules. The Scotch Mule flock are put to a Texel and some of the daughters crossed with a Beltex to give fat lambs for the table. So what will the breed society stands need to do to impress the Dykes'? Susie says: "We will be looking for an attractive, welcoming stand which is also informative and original."



## Outdoor trade stand judges

Mary and Michael Snell farm with their family at Moortown Barton, Knowstone, high on the edge of Exmoor. The 300-acre grassland farm has been home to the family since 1982. The Snells lamb 1,000 ewes, running 500 homebred Suffolk cross Mules and 500 bought-in North Country Mules alongside 100 store cattle.

NSA Sheep South West 2013 was held at Moortown Barton, so having hosted 140 exhibitors on their farm for the event, the Snells know what they are looking for in an outdoor trade stand. Mary says: "We'll be looking for an eye-catching display and a thorough knowledge of their product."

## Indoor trade stand judges

Euan and Sally Kershaw run 600 Hartline breeding ewes over their 2,470-acre farm near Hungerford, Berkshire. Although the sheep are a commercial enterprise they also serve another purpose as a management tool in a Natural England scheme to restore chalkland plantlife. The sheep are put onto pasture after it has flowered to spread the seeds and encourage regrowth. The Kershaws hosted NSA South Sheep in 2012.

"I'll be looking for a trade stand that's accessible and interesting with friendly and competent staff. I want it to be informative without being overwhelming," Euan says.



*With an informative and interactive stand, Moredun won the prize for best indoor trade stand at NSA Sheep 2012.*



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## A new prize for 2014

There will be a new prize up for grabs for sheep breed societies at NSA Sheep 2014. Event Organiser Helen Davies says: "This is a very new idea and we hope societies will embrace it in this first year. It will focus on how best a society shows its breed characteristics when sheep are crossed for commercial lamb production. The judges are Andrew Walton, a commercial and pedigree farmer from Northumberland, and Robert Addison, Chairman of the Livestock Auctioneers Association (LAA). They will be looking for first, second and third with the top placed society receiving a presentation gavel from LAA for the best pen of sheep that is both true to type and provides the best commercial representation of its breed."

# Ready, Steady, Cook – NSA style!

NSA's popular version of the famous culinary TV show will return to the event again this year, with all four competitors creating dishes using top quality British lamb.



The 2012 Ready Steady Cook final saw NFYFC's Helen Evans (left) narrowly beat NSA Central Region representative Charles Sercombe (right) for the top spot.

## Ready Steady Cook – Heat One

The terminal sires will go head-to-head in the first heat, with Michal Weaver (soon to be Suffolk Sheep Society President) and Aubrey Andrews (Texel Sheep Society Director) cooking up a storm.

Michael runs 150 pedigree Suffolks and 100 commercial Suffolk Mule ewes over 500 acres in South Gloucestershire, supplying local butchers in Bristol with lambs and beef from his small suckler herd. As well as representing the Suffolks, Michael holds many roles with

the NSA Sheep 2015 host, the Three Counties Show Society. Can Michael take the Ready Steady Cook title? "I can follow a recipe decently enough and would say beef wellington is my signature dish – although I've only made it once! I'll just be glad if I don't burn anything," he says.

Aubrey and his wife Sue live on top of the Cotswolds, where they run 100

pedigree Texels, a small flock of Blue Texels and commercial Texel cross Lleyns. Sue has high hopes for her husband in the competition, saying his cooking talents are 'fairly good' and his egg and chips 'top rate'. "If he is successful on the day he may spend more time in the kitchen!" she says. Aubrey is also sounding confident: "When I have time I actually enjoy cooking and sometimes, when left on my own, it becomes essential. I look forward to the challenge."

Heat One in the Avon Hall at 10.45am, with the winner qualifying for the final at 2pm.

## Ready Stead Cook – Heat Two

It's the uplands breeds in heat two, with Alison Brodie (North Country Cheviot Sheep Society Secretary) donning her chef's hat and John Stephenson (Swaledale Sheep Breeders Association Secretary) looking forward to stepping out in a pinny!

Alison lives near Lockerbie with sons Joe (11) and Thomas (7) and describes herself as the 'general labourer' on her parents' 600-acre hill farm, helping with the 550 Cheviot ewes and 40 Galloway cattle. So what are Alison's chances in Ready Steady Cook? "I consider myself to be an enthusiastic cook and will have a go at most things," she says. "My hopes for the competition will be to produce a dish that will do the ingredients justice and hopefully be edible!"

John, who lives near Barnard Castle and is married with two grown up children, works at Middleton-in-Teesdale auction market as well as keeping the Swaledale breed in order. John has some experience in the kitchen. "As my wife works away from home during the week I cater for myself, cooking simple wholesome food rather than fancy fare", he says.

Heat Two in the Avon Hall at 11.45am, with the winner qualifying for the final at 2pm.

# NSA guide to top sheep competitions

Several important competitions are held at the NSA Sheep Event, but what exactly are the judges looking for? Here is an exclusive NSA guide to three of the contests.



## Skill and speed in the fencing contest

TORNADO

Celebrating 30 years of the popular Tornado Wire Fencing competition, two expert judges will be carefully awarding a total of up to 100 points to each competitor putting their fencing skills to the test against the clock.

The judges will be present throughout the competition to observe all aspects of the work, above and below ground, awarding the majority of points for quality and using the time element used as a final decider. The total of 100 points is split between categories with a potential 25 points going to underground work, 55 for the fence line above ground, 10 for time and 10 for overall impression.

Kenny Campbell, Tornado Wire's Managing Director, says getting the judging criteria right has been an essential element of creating a competitive spectacle that demonstrates best practise and the benefits of using professional contractors.

As part of today's judging criteria, underground points are awarded for the erection and depth of strainers and anchoring of struts. However, Kenny explains that although the underground work is vital to the fence's efficiency, it is the work above ground that will be visible and therefore attracts the majority of points. "The ground conditions at Malvern make it difficult to achieve a perfectly straight line, but this should be the objective of any professionally erected fence," he says.

"Cutting tops off posts is not allowed and a lot of work is required to get all stakes to an even height and firm. Morticing of struts should be neat and done without nails. The net, line and barbed wire should all be tight, tied off neatly and without staples driven fully in to the post."

The first team to finish receive 10 time points with 0.25 points deducted for each minute which then elapses.



## Time isn't everything in shearing

NETTEX

With the English Finals and an Open Competition being held at NSA Sheep 2014, there will be plenty of sheep shearers wanting to pick up a rosette at the event – but it's not just speed that will get them the top spots.

There is a time element to all shearing competitions, usually a point for every 20 seconds spent shearing, but judges also award penalty points for a long list of reasons. A crucial one is 'double cuts', as it is important fleeces are removed with the maximum staple length and not cut twice. After the sheep are shorn, judges also look for wool left on the body and skin grazes. The winner is the competitor with the lowest score, obtained by a combination of a fast time, minimal double cuts and a clean finish.

Competitors are graded into four classes:-

- Junior: Just starting into competitions; able to shear up to 150 sheep per day.
- Intermediate: Can shear 150-250 sheep per day and/or had two wins as a junior.
- Senior: Shears 250-350; had four wins as an intermediate.
- Open: Shears more than 350; had six wins as a senior.

The number of sheep shorn in a competition varies, with four sheep being normal for junior finals, five for intermediate, 10 for senior and 20 for open.

Sheep shearing competitions are run according to international rules with all UK events affiliated to and governed by BISCA (British Isles Shearing Competitions Association). BISCA maintains the rules and sets exams and annual refresher events for judges.

## Seven tasks face Young Shepherds

Footvax  
First for footrot

RUMENCO

The grand final of the NSA Young Shepherd of the Year competition will see 20 young hopefuls, all of whom qualified at regional heats around the UK, go head to head.

The contestants will complete seven tasks, including a mystery challenge to be revealed on the day. They will be asked to sort finished lambs, show sheep handling skills, demonstrate vaccinating and dosing techniques, shear sheep, answer questions on health and management, and put an ATV through its paces. The national champion receives a trophy and also the lion's share of a £2,000 prize fund.

Eblex National Selection Specialist Steve Powdrill will judge the lamb selection phase of the competition, which will require the Young Shepherds to classify four lambs using the Europ grid, with points given for correct conformation and fat grades and half points awarded where an answer is out by one class.

The finalists will also have to impress British Wool Marketing Board Shearing Manager and former Scottish Shearing Champion Colin Macgregor in the shearing phase of the contest. Mr Macgregor will be looking for a good clean clip which leaves behind neither wool nor grazes, and wants to see the wool cut only once to maximise staple length. It's not just a shearing challenge, however – contestants will be asked to wrap the fleeces and the quality of wrap will be assessed.

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# On My Farm – The Next Generation

With a NSA Next Generation seminar planned at the Sheep Event (see page 4) we meet four project Ambassadors, all equally keen to forge a future in the sheep sector.

**By Rhydian Thomas (24), Rhydcymerau, Carmarthenshire, Wales**  
**This year is starting out well, with plenty of grass about and ewes and lambs performing.**

The area hasn't seen such good spring growth before, especially compared with last year, and this has made a dramatic effect on concentrate usage, probably using about 15t less this year.

Lamb prices has been good so far and while we sold some lambs lighter than preferable (averaging 36kg) this paid off as we sold them at £5.05/kg and a week later they went down to £4.65/kg. So it's a shame we didn't have more ready then.

These lambs were Texel cross Mule lambs but most of our ewes are Beulah Speckled Face, with my grandfather starting the flock 40 years ago. My father and mother now run the farm, with myself and my brother Aled. Me and Aled work off the farm most of the time and help at home when required. We are quite fortunate that our father is relatively young, still thinks he's 21 years old, easily manages the farm and still likes to come shearing with me occasionally when I'm busy, giving us youngsters a bit of a sweat to make sure we keep in front of him!

## Looking for right opportunity

I would much rather work at home than off the farm but unfortunately the business is not big enough to keep more people at home. I would like to rent some land and start my own flock but the price of renting ground locally is much too expensive for sheep farmers, with competition from the dairy farmers pushing all land values higher. Also, the current system with the Single Farm Payment doesn't help where farmers can receive a payment and don't actively farm their land. Until an opportunity arises I continue to do my shearing work, contract lambing and other shepherding work throughout the year.

The NSA has provided me with fantastic opportunities, such as having the chance to compete in Young Shepherd competitions and, after winning the Welsh title, being fortunate enough to go to France for the European final. I not only got the chance to compete at that level but also meet other young shepherds and learn a lot from their experiences and ideas. Somehow I also managed to win the competition, becoming the European Young Shepherd of the Year.

This also got me involved with the Next Generation Ambassador Group, which so far has been great and I am looking forward to the rest of the year with the group. It has not only been very beneficial in terms of the information and knowledge we have received, but also meeting 10 other young farmers with the same enthusiasm for the sheep industry and sharing ideas and experiences with them. I am very grateful to the NSA for giving me these opportunities.

## Fact File

- 600 ewes, mainly Beulah Speckled Face kept pure, plus some Mules put to the Texel
- 30 Limousin cross suckler cows, put to the Limousin and calves sold as stores
- Upland farm; 750-1,100ft above sea level; all grass



**By Jennifer Craig (24), Biggar, Lanarkshire, Scotland**  
**The main aim on the farm at Normangill, both short and long term, is to increase the productivity of all the flocks and aim to be producing what the consumer wants.**

As we are now almost completely EID throughout all ages of the sheep the next plan is to start an EID recording programme to aid with the management and performance of the ewes on the farm. This will then lead

on to performance recording the sheep, initially with the pedigree Charollais and potentially rolling out across all three of the flocks.

Looking further in to the future, I would like to investigate the possibility of putting cattle back on the farm in more depth.

As a young farmer in the sheep sector there are many challenges to be faced, but the opportunities are also in abundance. Adapting to change is a fundamental part of being successful in what is an ever-changing industry.

Being a hill farmer I am very passionate about the future of hill farming within Scotland. We are a sector that is in decline both in terms of sheep on the hills and also the people looking after them. Scotland would look very different without us. As I write this, we will very soon learn how the CAP reform will be implemented in Scotland and where we will all stand. There are many views on this and I, as every other person involved in farming, have my own opinion – but in the end we all have to deal with what comes, be it good or bad, and I believe we have the ability and the product to do so.

## Getting a deserved return

Lamb, and in particular Scotch Lamb, is a fantastic product and we owe it to ourselves to look at different markets and ways of marketing it so that we get the return it so richly deserves.

On the whole I do believe the sheep industry in the whole of the UK has a bright future, but not an easy one. If we can rise to the challenges hopefully we will have a better industry for not just my generation but also the generations to come.

## Fact File

- 1,000 pedigree Blackface ewes
- 200 Blackface cross Charollais ewes put back to the Charollais to produce finished lambs
- Jennifer's own flock of 25 pedigree Charollais ewes
- Option to use Beltex more in the future, as impressed by Blackface x Charollais x Beltex lambs born this year
- 1,750 acres of mainly hill ground
- Business managed by Jennifer and her father



*Jennifer and fellow Ambassador Andrew Prentice met Scottish Farming Minister Richard Lochhead at NSA Scot Sheep.*

Find out more about NSA Next Generation at [www.nsanextgeneration.org.uk](http://www.nsanextgeneration.org.uk) – and don't miss the 11.30am seminar at NSA Sheep 2014.





**By Thomas Gibson (27),  
Broughshane, County  
Antrim, Northern Ireland**

**The future for me is  
improving our farm and  
sheep enterprise – and I am  
looking forward to doing this  
with hybrid sheep and cattle  
and better grassland.**

With our crossbred flock being traditionally Mules and Texel cross Mules we have used Cambridge and Belclare tups over the last five years to breed replacements. We previously used Lleyns and Colbreds but we find the Cambridge and Belclare more suited to our farm. The ewes are great mothers and suit our system well, as we out-winter all the ewes on the hills and bring them into fields in late March to start lambing.

After spending some time in New Zealand one of my main focuses is to improve my grassland management and quality of my pasture. We now surface seed and only plough if the ground is very compacted. The surface seeding has worked well as it requires less labour and no stones to lift! We also have 40 acres of agro-forestry, which is divided into two-acre paddocks that we rotationally graze with ewes and twin lambs throughout the summer. We find this easily managed and utilises grass to its maximum performance.

There are so many challenges in the sheep sector and talking with fellow NSA Next Generation Ambassadors at our meetings I find the conversation always swings to either CAP reform or EID in sheep. Having had EID in Northern Ireland now for over three years it has become part of everyday life, although we had some teething problems at the start with tags not reading etc, but with all these problems sorted we have little trouble now.

#### **Fair CAP implementation**

We are still patiently waiting in Northern Ireland to find out how CAP reform will be implemented and hopefully it will be fair throughout the whole of the agricultural industry. With lots of proposals and rumours about how the new young entrants will be sorted out we can only hope it will be resolved to keep young people in the agricultural industry and give them incentives to improve and expand their farm business.

One of our biggest challenges in Northern Ireland is getting a fair price for our lamb. Mainland Britain is often 20-40p more than ours. We also have higher concentrate prices which means we have to get as much out of our grass as possible, which is often hard considering our geographical location.

Sheep are definitely needed in upland areas to produce lamb, as this ground is often unsuitable for cropping and cattle farming. Looking towards the future I feel a vibrant and strong sheep industry is vital to help feed the world's rapidly expanding population.



**By John Kirkpatrick (33)  
Derbyshire, England**

**Since having the opportunity  
to purchase a small farm in  
Derbyshire, I have taken the  
sheep side of my business in a  
very different direction.  
Following 12 months of  
research, I made the firm  
decision to purchase Easycare  
tups from Mike Gooding at FAI  
Farms in Oxford.**



I opted to develop a sheep that suited my system. The flock now consists of 100 composite ewes with Easycare, Berrichon du Cher, Wiltshire Horn and Texel genetics at its core. An Exlana tup has been purchased in 2014 to allow further improvement to be made. The ewes are used to produce lamb deadweight for our boxed lamb scheme, which is sold to both wholesalers and customers directly.

There are many challenges within the sector for young people, both new entrants and the already established. Land and capital availability are both major challenges with rented land in England trading at in excess of its true productive capability and landowners 'wanting their cake and eating it' in terms of high rental values and retention of any SFP. Furthermore the banking sector with its continued reforms is yet to prove its worth, with true decision making being removed at a local level.

#### **Getting into the sheep sector**

But for bright and talented people who are prepared to 'think out of the box' there are many opportunities to get into the sheep sector, and not necessarily by owning your own stock. There are plenty of varied opportunities and I have been presented with opportunities which have been beneficial and added greatly to overall profitability.

The industry in England has many challenges. We must deliver a sustainable, quality product to the consumer at a price they can afford. However it is not that simple. We must balance environment, health, animal welfare, traceability, carbon production, water quality, and we must show the public we are delivering value for money in terms of the money we receive in direct payments. With public finances becoming ever tighter we must continue to deliver and exceed expectations. We must also become more open about how we do our job and communicate the message to create better public understanding.

The opportunities are many in the sector and they may be an interest in primary production, the appliance of science/technology or desire to market the end product. The attractions of the sheep sector are varied and certainly limitless. The sector has also to see EID as a real strength for our industry. However it has to be coupled with the tools to get maximum benefit from it. These include an effective reporting system for movements and a robust method for individual animal identification feedback. We need the ability to identify high performing animals on an individual basis at slaughter and feed this information back to the producer to allow the producer to make informed decisions about what is working and, more importantly, what is not!

#### **Fact File**

- 800 ewes and 50 cows
- Best Blaceface ewes put to Bluefaced Leicester for Mule production
- Crossbred ewes put to Texel for fat lambs or Belcare/Colbred for replacements
- Mules sold as ewe lambs and Texel crosses finished for Antrim Quality Lamb Group or, mainly, sold as stores
- Saler suckler cows put to the Stabliser
- Upland farm; 600-1,200ft above sea level
- Business managed by Thomas and his father

#### **Fact File**

- Started aged 10 with pedigree Suffolks
- Originally from Northern Ireland, where family still farms
- Rented a farm in Highlands of Scotland and ran 200 pedigree Lleyns
- Then purchased a farm in central England and now running 100 wool-shedding easy care ewes

# Man's best friend or enemy in the field?

By Simon Wragg, contributor

**Many visitors to NSA Sheep 2014 will make a purchase at the sheepdog sale, but dogs of all shapes and sizes are contributing to losses put at £5m a year by industry analysts.**

The spread of tapeworms excreted in dog faeces onto grazing can lead to infected sheep carcasses being rejected by meat hygiene inspectors in abattoirs – and while farm dogs are not the sole perpetrators, they are a potential reservoir of infection that can at least be controlled at farm level with three simple steps, suggests Fiona Lovatt, independent sheep consultant and president of the Sheep Veterinary Society.

## Tapeworm lifecycle

“Dogs often carry tapeworms that, left untreated, shed eggs in faeces,” she explains. “One untreated dog can begin excreting up to 750,000 eggs per day within 40-50 days of being infected. These can survive in the environment for up to two years and can be ingested by sheep when at pasture. The sheep then act as host during the next stage of the tapeworm's lifecycle.

“These form cysts 1-2mm in size in muscles within the sheep, particularly in the heart and diaphragm and larger cysts within the liver. Cysts may be found throughout muscle tissue resulting in condemnation of the whole carcass by meat inspectors.

“Because of the severity of the financial loss this incurs it's important sheep farmers find out from abattoirs the reasons for rejections in order to take action. Once you know there is a problem it is important to remember that you cannot treat sheep so you must treat the dogs.”

Three key steps should be followed. Firstly, worm dogs routinely with a product containing the correct active ingredient, especially if the dog has access to sheep grazing or is fed raw meat as part of a diet.

Worm every six weeks with a product containing praziquantel (such as Drontal Plus) rather than follow the standard advice for pet dogs which is to worm every three months. Once treated it is good practice to keep dogs away from areas grazed by sheep for at least 48

hours for the wormer to take effect.”

Secondly, as infected sheep and dogs rarely show clinical symptoms of infection it's necessary to prevent farm dogs scavenging from sheep carcasses and becoming infected in the first place. “Disposing of sheep carcasses quickly and correctly will help reduce risks significantly. It's often assumed foxes are also to blame for infecting sheep though all the current evidence shows it is more likely domestic dogs that are to blame,” she explains.

The third step is to manage where possible access of dogs – both farm and public – to areas where sheep graze. “It's accepted that in some situations such as open hill or moor land with public access that's not going to be practical or possible. But farmers can take steps such as posting signs at footpaths warning dog owners of the risks and requesting they pick up after their pets.” Posters are available to download from the NSA website ([www.nationalsheep.org.uk/dog-owners](http://www.nationalsheep.org.uk/dog-owners)) and are part of an education programme aimed at tackling the issue.

## Condemnations

In 2013 almost 1% (92,612) of carcass rejections were attributed to *C. ovis* (more commonly known as sheep measles), equating to £5m in lost revenue. A further £1m was lost in 2012 from 742,000 sheep livers being condemned for infection by bladder worms (*C. tenuicollis*), which has a similar lifecycle to *C. ovis* and can also be transmitted by dogs.

Incidence is seasonal, says Phil Hadley of Eblex. Drier summer months see cases fall but as store lambs are marketed off upland areas in autumn and winter, where dog walking on open grazing is more common, the numbers rise. As lambs are often moved to lower lying counties for finishing the geographic spread of infection is

## Tapeworm Fact File

- Worm dogs every six weeks to match the life cycle of common adult canine tapeworm. Neither dogs or sheep show clinical signs of infection so can you be sure they're clear of disease?
- Make sure your wormer contains praziquantel to protect the dog and sheep. Most cheaper 'supermarket' alternatives do not contain it so speak to your vet or animal health advisor.
- Don't forget to treat bought-in dogs, such as replacement sheepdogs. Be prepared to tackle neighbours, landlords and friends crossing grazing land, as well as the public. Don't forget the local hunt, as dogs fed raw meat as part of a diet are a greater risk. It's not easy but it's your pocket that's hit if a sheep's condemned.
- Dispose of sheep carcasses quickly to reduce the opportunity for dogs to scavenge and potentially become infected/re-infected.
- Know your tapeworms. *C. tenuicollis* is commonly responsible for the rejection of sheep livers at abattoirs (and is even more common than liver fluke); *C. ovis* is less common but has a more significant financial impact as infection can lead to whole carcass rejection.

not always easy to determine.

There is good news though, as condemned carcasses are likely to reduce in time, suggests Dr Hadley. “Ebex has been working with the Meat Hygiene Service to iron out the interpretation of current guidance used by meat inspectors on when to condemn a carcass infected with *C. ovis*. This was issued to staff at the end of 2013.”

## PLEASE NOTE

Dogs are not permitted at NSA Sheep 2014, other than those entered in the sheepdog sale. Please leave your dog at home and do not leave it in your vehicle in the car park. **DOGS DIE IN HOT CARS.**



While dog walkers and foxes do play a role in spreading tapeworms, regular worming of farm dogs is also essential.

# Tips to ensure effective vaccination

By Kenneth Wilson, Donal S. McGregor and Partners vets, Thurso



**Vaccination is a cornerstone of preventative medicine and flock health control and has allowed farmers to significantly improve the health of their flocks, reducing losses from a wide range of infectious diseases.**

## But what is a vaccine?

Whenever an animal is infected by a foreign organism (antigen) it is either overwhelmed by the infection, killing the animal, or an immune response is mounted to eliminate and kill the organism. This immune response involves molecules called antibodies. The role of antibody is to recognise foreign agents and attract the attention of the immune system to home in and kill the invading organisms. This is known as the antibody/antigen response.

## Vaccine types

Vaccines contain either killed forms of an infectious agent or live (attenuated or 'weakened') agents with the aim of inducing a protective response without causing disease to develop. It should be noted that some live vaccines will cause mild clinical signs of disease in some animals. Some vaccines also contain an adjuvant, a chemical designed to irritate the immune system and alert it to the presence of the vaccine antigen and



Kenneth Wilson

prompt a much stronger immune response.

Studies have shown that even in flocks with identical husbandry and ages the response to vaccines varies significantly within groups of animals. This is due to individual animals mounting differing responses to invading pathogenic organisms.

By vaccinating whole populations of animals those sheep which do not develop such a strong immunity are protected to some degree by the strength of the overall flock immunity following vaccination, significantly reducing the chance of a disease outbreak. But it must be recognised that even when strong immunity exists (natural or vaccine induced) an overwhelming infection can still break through.

## Maternal immunity

Certain vaccinations are administered to pregnant ewes in order to pass on protective immunity to their lambs – so called Maternally Derived Antibody (MDA) – helping to guard against a range of neonatal lamb diseases, chiefly the clostridial infections. For these vaccines to be successful the lambs must receive adequate colostrum as

soon as possible after birth.

Vaccines play a vital part in optimising flock health, but to maximise their potential it is important for both vets and farmers to read the small print and pay attention to specific storage and administration instructions. A yearly flock health plan or equivalent can be an excellent point of contact between vets and farmers to discuss the different vaccination protocols suitable for each individual flock.



*This multi-dose automatic vaccinator passes the needle through disinfectant each time it is pressed through the animals' skin, preventing contamination between sheep during vaccination.*

## How to ensure effective vaccination

**Administer the correct vaccination course.** Vaccination protocols will often require that the product is administered at a specific time of the production cycle. Where a primary course requires two doses to be administered at a particular time interval, it is important to follow the protocol carefully. Omitting to give the second dose prevents a satisfactory immune response being stimulated and can lead to total failure of the vaccination regime.

**Avoid multiple vaccines.** Never mix vaccinations in the same syringe and always inject different products at different sites, on opposite sides of the neck if possible. Only use two vaccines at the same time if they are specifically licenced to be given together.

**Store vaccines correctly.** Vaccines must be stored at fridge temperature at all times. Cool boxes are a simple

and effective way of keeping vaccines at the right temperature in transit or while waiting to be administered.

**Only vaccinate healthy animals.** Vaccination of sick sheep will lead to failure of the vaccination and can in some cases cause significant adverse reactions.

**Use appropriate handling facilities.** Handling systems need not be complicated. The aim should be to restrain sheep firmly to facilitate injection.

**Inject into the correct site.** Vaccines are generally administered in the neck. Check the data sheet to find out if the vaccine you are using should be administered subcutaneously (under the skin) or intramuscularly.

**Use suitable vaccination equipment.** Needle hygiene is critical to preventing injection site abscesses. Always use sharp, sterile needles, and where an

automatic vaccinator is used, change the needle every 20 doses. If vaccinating small numbers of sheep with a single dose needle, do not reinsert the needle into the vial of vaccine; leave one needle in the vial of vaccine for drawing up and use others for injecting the sheep. Multi-dose, automatic vaccinators can be used very effectively and clean the needle between each injection (we recommend the Sterimatic system, pictured). But remember to clean such equipment and dry it thoroughly after use. Any fluid, detergent or residual vaccine material could interfere with subsequent vaccines.

**Know your stuff!** Read the RUMA (Responsible use of Medicines in Agriculture Alliance) guidance on responsible use of vaccines and vaccination at [www.ruma.org.uk/sheep.htm](http://www.ruma.org.uk/sheep.htm).

# Which breed's where?

Alphabetical listing of breed societies and organisations with stands at NSA Sheep 2014

## 17 Beltex Sheep Society

Leading terminal sire breed with distinctive large double muscled hind quarters; can improve carcass quality on any breeding ewe.

Contact Barbara Huddleston  
T: 015395 67973  
E: beltex.sheep@btinternet.com  
www.beltex.xo.uk

## 26 Beulah Speckled Face Sheep Society

Our exhibits show the excellent crossing with Beulah ewes, easy to manage with a reputation for good mothering and adaptability.

Contact Dennis Jones  
T: 01982 553726  
www.beulahsheep.co.uk

## 8 Black Welsh Mountain Sheep Breeders Association

A small hardy hill breed ideal for commercial and hobby farmers. Easy to manage and easy on the eye!

Contact Fiona Sloan  
T: 01387 870653  
E: fiona.sloan@blackwelshmountain.org.uk  
www.blackwelshmountain.org.uk

## 41 Blackface Sheep Breeders' Association

The number one hill breed in the UK. Keep up to date with news and information via our website.

Contact Aileen McFadzean  
T: 07768 820405  
E: aileen@scottish-blackface.co.uk  
www.scottish-blackface.co.uk

## 34 Bleu Du Maine Sheep Society Ltd

Contact Jane Smith  
T: 01291 673816  
E: jane@bleudumaine.co.uk  
www.bleudumaine.co.uk

## 24 Bluefaced Leicester Sheep Breeders Association

The only sire of the UK Mule, famous throughout the United Kingdom for its prime lamb production.

Contact Helen Carr-Smith  
T: 01228 598022  
E: info@blueleicester.co.uk  
www.bluefacedleicester.co.uk

## 83 Blue Texel Sheep Society

The terminal sire with a difference – excellent carcass quality, easy lambing, will produce 95% white lambs when crossed.

Contact Sarah Chambers  
T: 07971 523062  
E: sarahsheepchambers@yahoo.co.uk  
www.blue-texel-sheep.com

## 84 Society of Border Leicester Sheep Breeders

See the pure breed and examples of crosses improving other breeds, producing lambs with exceptional carcass quality, size and vigour.

Contact Katie Keiley  
T: 01556 660155  
E: secretary@borderleicesters.co.uk  
www.borderleicester.co.uk

## 35 Brecknock Hill Cheviot Sheep Society

Very prolific breed, excellent mothers with super conformation.

Contact Peter Francis  
T: 01874 622488  
E: brecon@ctf-uk.com  
www.ctf-uk.com

## 39 British Berrichon Sheep Society

Looking to keep feed and labour costs down? Berrichons for low cost, easy lambing systems with carcasses the butcher wants.

Contact Sue Powell  
T: 01989 770071  
E: berrichon@btconnect.com  
www.berrichonsociety.com

## 81 British Charollais Sheep Society

Number one easy lambing terminal sire. Visit our website and like us on Facebook.

Contact Jonathan Barber  
T: 01953 603335  
E: office@charollais-sheep.com  
www.charollais-sheep.com

## 129 British Coloured Sheep Breeders Association

Promoting the preservation of coloured sheep breeds, their fleeces and products.

Contact Lorry Turpin  
T: 01691 656428  
E: lorryturpin@outlook.com  
www.bcsba.org.uk

## 93 British Vendeen

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Contact Andrew John  
T: 01386 725229  
E: info@vendeen.co.uk  
www.vendeen.co.uk

## 106 Cambridge Sheep Society

Fifty years of breeding, management and understanding the prolific ewe encapsulated in an exhibit of Cambridge and Cambridge crossbred sheep.

Contact Alun Davies  
T: 0151 327 5699  
E: d.a.r.davies@liv.ac.uk

## 21 Castlemilk Moorit Sheep Society

The society supports all aspects of the breed and encourages the ownership, breeding and welfare of Castlemilk Moorit Sheep.

T: 01788 891963  
E: castlemilkmoorit@hotmail.co.uk  
www.castlemilkmoorit.co.uk



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01539 567973  
www.beltex.co.uk



**Blackface Sheep Breeders' Association**  
Information on the breed and sale dates available on our web site or from:-  
Aileen McFadzean, Tel/Fax: 01738 634018  
Email aileen@scottish-blackface.co.uk  
www.scottish-blackface.co.uk



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www.berrichonsociety.com  
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www.ukmules.co.uk  
www.blueleicester.co.uk

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T: 01686 688234  
E: charmoise@hotmail.co.uk  
www.charmoisesheepsociety.co.uk

### 10 Cheviot Sheep Society

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Contact Pat Douglas  
T: 01450 850218  
E: cheviotssheep@hotmail.com  
www.cheviotssheep.org

### 98 Clun Forest Sheep Society

We will be on hand for your queries regarding the Cluns. Excellent mothers, vigorous lambs, flavoursome meat and fine wool.

Contact Sandra Williams  
T: 07764 941985  
www.clunforestsheep.co.uk

### 4 Cotswold Sheep Society

Promoting and maintaining the purity of the Cotswold sheep breed by providing registration and full membership services to existing/new members.

Contact Sam Furlong  
T: 01386 593663  
E: oakhamcotswolds@gmail.com  
www.cotswoldsheepsociety.co.uk

### 15 Dalesbred Sheep Breeders Assoc

Dalesbreds are a hardy, prolific, hill breed with an excellent conformation. Also versatile for crossing Mule, Masham and continental lambs.

Contact Ellen Gibson  
T: 0754 9884491  
E: ellengibson111@gmail.com  
www.dalesbredsheep.co.uk

### 36 Dorset Down Sheep Breeders Association

King of the prime lamb breed. Renowned for producing fast finishing quality lambs off grass.

Contact Carolyn Opie  
T: 01579 320273  
E: secretary@dorsetdownsheep.org.uk  
www.dorsetdownsheep.org.uk

### 18 Dorset Horn & Poll Dorset

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Contact Marguerite Cowley  
T: 01305 262126  
E: dorestsheep@xlnmail.com  
www.dorsetssheep.org

### 1 Easy Care

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Contact Iolo Owen  
T: 07788 585309 or  
01407 840250  
E: iolo@easycareheep.com  
www.easycareheep.com

### 80 Hampshire Down Sheep Breeders Association

The modern terminal sire with fast growth, early maturing lambs, low input finishing from grass, quick to suckle and hardy.

Contact Richard Davis  
T: 01494 488388  
E: richard@rickyard.plus.com  
www.hampshiredown.org.uk

### 2 Hebridean Sheep Society

The leading UK breed for conservation grazing, the Hebridean is a hardy, versatile, productive and easily managed native breed.

Contact Rita Peace  
T: 01908 611092  
E: info@hebrideansheep.org.uk  
www.hebrideansheep.org.uk

### 7 Hill Radnor

A hardy upland breed, prolific yet docile producing quality prime lamb with wool sought after for spinning.

Contact John A Lewis  
T: 01874 623200  
E: jal@montague-harris.co.uk

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T: 03001 110003  
E: secretary@jacobsheep.org.uk  
www.jacobsheepsociety.co.uk

### 27 Kerry Hill Flock Book Society

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Contact Pam Chilman  
T: 01544 267353  
E: kerryhillssheep@excite.co.uk  
www.kerryhillssheep.net

### 5 Leicester Longwool

Contact Ruth Mawer  
T: 01400 230142  
E: ruthlls@hotmail.co.uk  
www.leicesterlongwoolssheepassociation.co.uk

### 3 Llanwenog Sheep Society

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Contact Emily Addis  
T: 01570 471777  
E: llanwenogssheep@hotmail.com  
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### 96 Lleyn Sheep Society

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Mitchells Lakeland Livestock Centre  
Cockermouth Mart. 01900 822016  
BROUGHTON IN FURNESS  
Rams: Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> September 2014  
Ewes: Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> October 2014  
Harrison & Hetherington  
Broughton in Furness Mart. 01228 406200  
Association Secretary: Amanda Carson  
[amanda@herdwicks.org.uk](mailto:amanda@herdwicks.org.uk) Tel 07702:751477  
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Contact Alison Brodie

T: 01461 600673

E: alison.brodie@nc-cheviot.co.uk

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T: 01398 371484

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### 99 Romney Sheep Society

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Contact Alexandra Long

T: 01233 813057 or

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T: 01986 782251

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T: 02825 632342

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Contact Moss Jones  
T: 01970 636688  
E: mossj@wlbpc.co.uk  
www.welshmule.co.uk

### 104 Wensleydale Longwool Sheep Breeders' Association

Contact Dr Graham Steventon and Dr L. Clouder  
T: 01926 633439  
E: lynncouder@me.com  
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*With no experience of the feeders, I set up a trial to assess how ewes supplemented with the feeders compared to ewes fed on the usual block system for flushing and tugging. It was surprising how quickly they adapted, with average intakes of 0.3kg/ewe/day after just the first day on ewe nuts. Once ewes were used to the system I shut the groove down and intakes on straight barley settled out at an average 0.18kg/ewe/day."*

*After 53 days of flushing, 44 days of which included supplementation with either barley or feed blocks, the group on feed blocks had increased their body condition score (BCS) by 0.2 from 2.9 to 3.1, however, the group on barley managed to increase BCS by 0.63, rising from 2.7 to 3.33.*

*In the barley fed group 10% of the ewes had a BCS of less than 3.0, whereas, with the block fed group, there was much more variation in BCS with more than 20% scoring below 3.0.*

*Crucially, on a cost basis, feeding whole barley has been nearly twice as cheap - £1.20/ewe with barley at £150/t compared to supplementing ewes with feed blocks - £2.38/ewe with blocks at £840/t.*

*There was little or no impact on scanning percentage in the flock, with the group fed on feed blocks scanning at 177% and the group on the feeder scanning at 175%.*

*The single ewes are now on the feeders instead of blocks so the feed saving will continue right through to lambing. We may add a bit of soya into the barley if the ewes look like they need it nearer lambing but probably not.*

*The feeders are doing everything I hoped.*

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#### 62 Trident Feeds

Market leaders in livestock feed supply, we will be launching a new brand of Bio-Ethanol co-product feed suitable for sheep.

Contact Sam Wilson.

T: 01733 422214.

E: trident.sales@abagri.com.

www.tridentfeeds.co.uk.

#### 202 Volac

A leader in dairy nutrition, manufacturing and supplying performance nutrition products around the world for the feed and forage markets.

Contact Jackie Bradley.

T: 01223 206877.

E: louise.mahrra@volac.com.

www.volac.com.

#### 219 Wales & Border Counties Liquid Feeds Ltd

Don't buy cake for sheep this winter! Feed PRIME 20 instead. Oats = £90. Cake = £250.

Contact Brian Richards.

T: 01584 811099.

E: info@wbcliquidfeeds.co.uk.

www.wbcliquidfeeds.co.uk

#### 175 Welsh Shearing Equipment Centre

Europe's leading authority on sheep shearing equipment and clothing. New and reconditioned equipment available at competitive prices.

Contact Sam Morris.

T: 01874 636455.

E: welshshearing@aol.com.

www.shearing.com.

#### 221 Wessex Animal Health Ltd

Distributors of animal medicines and nutritional health products to livestock farmers nationwide. Free delivery, advice and a dedicated service.

Contact Keith Gardiner.

T: 01425 474455.

E: sales@wessexanimalhealth.co.uk.

www.wessexanimalhealth.co.uk.

#### 248 Westflight Ltd

Solar PV Systems from 10kW to 250kW as ground or roof mounts. Hydro electric turbines for small streams.

Contact Chris Brooks.

T: 08443 814258.

E: chris.brooks@westflight.co.uk.

www.westflight.co.uk.

#### 252 Whyle House Lamb

Quality Herefordshire lamb and mutton burgers in a roll with a choice of sauces, or in packs to take away.

Contact Andy Offer.

T: 01568 750543.

E: andy@whylehouse.co.uk.

www.whylehouse.co.uk.

#### 159 The Woodland Trust

Free advice and support for tree planting. Speak to us about the role trees can play in supporting sheep production.

T: 08452 935792.

www.woodlandtrust.org.uk.

#### 108 The Wool Room

We pride ourselves in being the wool bedding experts and have an extensive range of wool bedding and wool homewares.

Contact Zoe Redfern Nichols.

T: 01780 461217.

E: zoe@thewoolroom.com.

www.thewoolroom.com.

#### 213 Wynnstay Group

Manufacturers and suppliers of agricultural inputs to farmers and the rural community in Wales, the Midlands, North West and Yorkshire.

Contact Sian Probert.

T: 01691 828512.

E: info@wynnstay.co.uk.

www.wynnstay.co.uk.

#### 87 XL Vets UK Ltd

XL Vets Farmskills courses provide practical farm-based training, delivered by vets and industry experts to improve livestock and business performance.

Contact Alyson Staines.

T: 01228 711788.

E: admin@xlvets.co.uk.

www.xlvets.co.uk.

#### 53 Yamaha - Motor (UK) Ltd

As Europe's top selling ATV, we will be exhibiting the full range of machines from 350-700cc at NSA Sheep 2014.

T: 01932 358000.

www.yamaha-motor.co.uk.

#### 117 Yara UK Ltd

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T: 01759 302545.

E: ypl-info@yara.com.

www.yara.co.uk.

#### 52 Zintec Feed Supplements

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T: 01568 708008.

F: 01568 708987

E: ewells@zintec.co.uk.

www.zintec.co.uk.

#### 160 Zoetis

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### The CYDECTIN for Sheep Range



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Treats worms and scab



**CYDECTIN TriclaMox Drench**  
Fluke and worm combination



**CYDECTIN LA Sheep Injection**  
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For further information please contact: Zoetis UK Ltd., Walton Oaks, Dorking Road, Walton-on-the-Hill, Tadworth, Surrey KT20 7NS Tel:0845 3008034

All CYDECTIN products contain moxidectin, CYDECTIN TriclaMox Drench for Sheep contains moxidectin and triclabendazole. Speak to your medicine prescriber about the use of this or alternative products.

Use medicines responsibly: [www.noah.co.uk/responsible/](http://www.noah.co.uk/responsible/) \* Registered trademark Date of preparation: 2.14 POM-VPS

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# 15 things not to miss at the show

**1 Go home better informed**  
With practical advice throughout the day on everything from liver fluke and sheep scab to staying compliant when moving and identifying sheep, the seminar programme at NSA Sheep 2014 is not to be missed. Find the full listing on page four and the seminar marquee between the Wye and Avon halls.

**2 Use every acre better**  
Two event workshops will look at adding environmental benefits to your farm without jeopardising productive farmland. Lightsource will provide information on adding solar panels that sheep can graze between (10.30am and 1.30pm) and Woodland Trust will recommend ways to plant trees without sacrificing good land and adding benefits by providing shelter belts and reducing flood risk (11.15am and 2.15pm). Find the workshop area at the back of Avon Hall.

**3 Get involved in the big debate**  
Have your say on the balance between red meat production and caring for the environment. Can the two go hand in hand? Tom Heap from BBC Countryfile will oversee the Big Debate at 12.30pm in the seminar marquee.

**4 Support the next generation**  
A top line up of 20 regional Young Shepherd of the Year finalists will be fighting it out for the top prize. Watch them being put through their paces in and around the Avon Hall. And don't miss the seminar looking at different entry points into the sheep sector and support offered by the NSA Next

Generation project – 11.30am in the seminar marquee.

**5 Stamp Out Lameness**  
Find out more about the five-point lameness control plan from the research team at FAI Farms. Workshops held through the day at the MSD Animal Health in Avon Hall, stand 153.

**6 Vote for your favourite 'sheep advert'**  
Three videos of farmers promoting our amazing sheep sector will be running all day on the NSA stand (Wye Hall 3, stand 89). Watch them all and place your vote.

**7 Vaccinate your sheep safely**  
Pick up top tips on vaccination technique. Turn to page 25 for advice and don't miss the Sterimatic workshops at the event – 12 noon and 3pm in the workshop area at the back of Avon Hall.

**8 Appreciate wonderful British lamb**  
Put your feet up for 20 minutes to watch the Ready Steady Cook competition (10.45am, 11.45am and 2pm, Avon Hall, stand 162), swing past the Asda stand to watch a cookery demonstration (every 45 minutes, Avon Hall, stand 162) and seek out Eblex's butchery demonstration (all day, Avon Hall, stand 148).

**9 Balance home-grown forage**  
Expert advice will be on offer all day in the Rumenco drop-in clinic, so turn up any time with questions about assessing feed produced on the farm and complimenting it with the best bought in products. Wye Hall 2, stand 60.

**10 Obtain come legal advice**  
Celebrate NSA's new legal helpline service by meeting Clarke Willmott Solicitors' legal team on the NSA stand (all day, Wye Hall 3, stand 89) or taking afternoon tea at 3pm at a special reception. Members and non-members welcome.

**11 Show off your stockjudging skills**  
Whether it's judging Texel cross lambs for the chance to win a Ritchie Farm Implements lamb weigher (9am-4pm, Wye Hall 4, stand 90) or assessing commercial lamb carcasses with ABP and Eblex for a £200 cash prize (10am-3pm, Avon Hall, stand 148), it's worth having a go at NSA Sheep 2014's two stockjudging competitions.

**12 Get more from wool**  
Find out what the Campaign for Wool is doing to drive global demand and maximise the value of your fleeces (BWMB stand, Wye Hall 4, stand 119).

**13 See how it should be done**  
Watch over a dozen professional fencing contractors test their skills against their fellow competitors and demonstrate the advantages of good quality fence erection in the Tornado Wire Fencer of the Year competition. Avenue F, near the public entrance.

**14 Learn more about farm assurance**  
Not farm assured and wondering if it's worth it? Already farm assured and want to better understand the inspection regime? Whatever your question, take advantage of the SAI Global drop-in clinic to get the answer. Avon Hall 154.



**15 Join NSA today**  
If you're already a NSA member you know the benefits you receive, including Sheep Farmer magazine, the Weekly Email Update, discounted event entry, associate membership of Moredun and much more. If you're not a member, sign up at the gate to get into NSA Sheep 2014 for just £6, or call past the stand any time during the day for a cuppa and a chat to find out more. Bring along a completed membership form (see page 11) or find the NSA stand in Wye Hall 3, stand 89.

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Web: [www.healthyhooves.eu](http://www.healthyhooves.eu)

The image shows two black plastic jugs of Healthy Hooves ECO footbath solution. To the right of the jugs is a close-up profile of a sheep's head, showing its ear and eye.

# Finding your way at NSA Sheep 2014





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