



NSA Eastern Region Melton Mowbray Ram Show & Sale

Ram sale by-laws 2026

1. The sale will be held at Melton Mowbray Market on Friday 18th September 2026. It will be the 41st annual sale and will be incorporated into the Melton Midlands Sheep Fair.
2. Entries and entry fees for rams intended for the sale must be lodged with NSA by **Monday 24th August**. Entries are via www.nationalsheep.org.uk/bookings-and-payments or, for people without internet access, via NSA Head Office on 01684 892661.
3. The entry fee is £10+VAT per ram. This is non-refundable.
4. Entries will only be accepted from NSA members. Entry can be made by a non-member if accompanied by a completed membership application form and payment, or that form and payment is received by the sale closing date. Go to www.nationalsheep.org.uk/membership to become a member or call NSA Head Office on 01684 892661. NSA will contact non-members who have entered the sale, to either arrange a membership subscription or reject the entry.
5. All rams must be in the hands of the vendor at the time of entry. They must be maedi visna-accredited. Vendors will be asked to mark a self-declaration of their MV status at point of entry and provide MV certificates for inspection on the day of the sale.
6. All information provided at the point of entry will be processed in line with the [NSA Privacy Policy](#). Your name, address, phone number and email address will be printed in the catalogue and shared with Melton Mowbray Market. If you do not wish this information to be printed in the catalogue, please notify NSA at the time you enter your rams.
7. The draw for the catalogue order will take in the week beginning Monday 24th August. All rams will be catalogued in breed blocks. The order of blocks changes annually and, for 2026, will be, Suffolk, Any other breed, Texel, Charollais. Crossbred rams are always the last block. New, or lapsed vendors for more than two years, will be drawn at the beginning or end of each breed section. A vendor cannot have a run of more than eight shearlings and eight lambs in any one breed in a run (i.e eight shearling and or lambs is permitted, but not nine shearlings); these vendors will have second run at the end of the breed block.
8. All rams will be supplied with neck tags with their lot numbers at the market on sale day. Each lot must be in the sale collecting pen, in the section allocated, as the preceding lot is sold. Vendors failing to comply will have their lots transferred to the end of the block.
9. On the day of the sale, a shearling ram may be substituted with a ram lamb, and vice versa, as long as the substitution does not take the total number of shearlings or lambs sold to more than eight. If a substitution takes a vendor's total to more than eight, the vendor will have a second run at the end of the breed block.
10. All rams must be penned by 9am on sale day for inspection and judging in pens. The sale will commence at approximately 12 noon.
11. All rams will be sold subject to an inspection by NSA. Inspection is a condition of entry to the sale. **Compliance with this inspection shall in no way form a guarantee to the purchaser of the animals inspected as, though care is taken to inspect every ram for defects, the final onus remains with the purchaser.** All rejected sheep must be removed from the sale pens; they cannot pass through the sale ring. Rejected sheep with lesions suggestive of caseous lymphadenitis (CLA) must be removed immediately.



The inspectors will consider the following:-

- i. The ram's identification is as required by legislation.
 - ii. The ram is not suffering from or suspected to have any infectious or contagious disease.
 - iii. The ram has two adequately sized testicles of approximately the same size and normal consistency.
 - iv. The ram is of a quality commensurate with the level set by the Inspector and is of adequate weight for the age and shows no malformation in structure.
 - v. The ram's teeth are in the correct position.
 - vi. There is no abnormal deviation in the structure of feet and/or legs.
12. Rams will be inspected by a vet alongside the NSA inspection team and the vet's decision is final. A buyer's warranty of 1% on the hammer price will apply and be charged to all purchasers. Rams are sold in guineas and charges to vendors will be 5% +VAT commission to Melton Mowbray Market.
 13. There will be an upstart price of 300gns per head across all rams. Vendors wishing to set a higher minimum price for individual rams must provide written reserves to the auctioneer.
 14. Rams sold outside the ring must be booked through the auctioneer and must not be sold for less than 300gns.
 15. All sheep must comply with any Defra regulations in force at the time of sale.
 16. Complaints must be notified to the auctioneers within one hour of the end of the sale or before removal from the market, whichever is the sooner. The purchaser shall have no rights to claim damages from the vendor in respect of indirect or consequential loss such as (but limited to) loss of profit or any other loss whatsoever.
 17. NSA Eastern Region, at its sole discretion, reserves the right to restrict numbers or refuse entries. It accepts no responsibility whatsoever for loss, injury or damage to any persons or their property.
 18. All sheep will be sold under the Livestock Auctioneers Association conditions of sale and these NSA bylaws.
 19. All sellers must comply with current Bluetongue Virus (BTV) restriction regulations, provide full disclosure of the vaccination status of all rams offered for sale, and ensure that any vaccinations administered are done so in strict accordance with the manufacturer's datasheet instructions.

General information for vendors

1. As all rams entered into the sale are MV-accredited, care must be taken by vendors and purchasers not to infringe MV rules and regulations. While every care will be taken by NSA Eastern Region and the auctioneers, they cannot take responsibility for any infringements, carelessness or consequences arising therefrom.
2. On the day of the sale, vendors are asked not to unload any sheep before obtaining clear instructions from the sale stewards. Kindly observe instructions from stewards and follow direction signs as appropriate.
3. Stock movement forms and any relevant licenses (including MV accreditation certificates) must accompany all sheep and be ready to present to stewards on arrival.
4. All penning is free of charge and under cover. Limited straw will be provided. Vendors must supply their own forage.
5. The market opens at 6.30am and stock should be cleared by 6pm.
6. Inspection of rams will start no earlier than 8am.
7. **Competition.** Rams will be judged in their pens no earlier than 9am. Dependent on numbers, classes will be as follows:-
 - a. Pen of 4 Suffolk ram lambs
 - b. Pen of 4 Suffolk shearling rams
 - c. Pen of 4 Charollais ram lambs
 - d. Pen of 4 Charollais shearling rams
 - e. Pen of 4 Texel ram lambs
 - f. Pen of 4 Texel shearling rams

Vendors may enter one pen in each class. The NSA Eastern Region Trophy will go to the best pen of ram lambs. The John Hallam Memorial Trophy to the best pen of shearling rams. And the Melton Borough Trophy will be awarded to the overall best pen of 4.

8. Catering facilities will be available on the day of the sale.

For further information, contact NSA Head Office on enquiries@nationalsheep.org.uk or 01684 892661. Alternatively, contact Melton Mowbray Market on 01664 562971.

Chief Executive: Phil Stocker
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Registered charity in England and Wales (249255) and in Scotland (SC042853)



National Sheep Association is an organisation which represents the views and interests of sheep producers throughout the UK.
NSA is funded by its membership of sheep farmers and its activities involve it in every aspect of the sheep industry.

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