

## Sheep Breeders Round Table

“UK sheep genetics delivering for the nation”

Biennial Conference 11-13 November 2022

Radisson Blu Hotel, Herald Way, Pegasus Business Park, East Midlands Airport,  
Castle Donington, Derby DE74 2TZ

Committee: Charles Sercombe (Chairman), Chris Lloyd (Treasurer), Bridget Lloyd (Secretary), Jonathan Barber, Liz Genever, Samuel Boon (AHDB), John Richards (HCC), Beth Alexander (QMS), Jason Rankin (Agrisearch), Nicola Noble (NSA)



#SBRT22

[www.nationalsheep.org.uk/sbirt](http://www.nationalsheep.org.uk/sbirt)

Friday 11 November –

13.30	Registration	
	Balancing net zero, innovation and sustainability	 <p>We thank Centre for Innovation Excellence in Livestock (CIEL) for their sponsorship of this afternoon session for the SBRT conference – this support has helped to keep costs to a minimum for all delegates attending</p>
14.00	<b>1: Research into Practice: Systems and tools to drive update and development of genetics for UK sheep farms</b>	Chaired by Chris Gooderham, AHDB
14.00	Phil Bicknell, Ciel Livestock	Highlights from the CIEL Net Zero report that sets the scene
14.15	Tim Byrne, AbacusBio,	Breeding objectives to help solve the climate crisis (mature size and feed efficiency)
14.45	Samuel Boon, Signet Manager, AHDB	CIEL at Work – The EWEBenefit Project
15.00	Nicola Lambe, Scotlands Rural College (SRUC)	Grass to Gas Project
15.15	Kim Matthews, Head of Animal Breeding and Product Quality, AHDB	What the Genetic Vision will mean for the beef and sheep producers - AHDB/Defra funded work
15.30	Q&A	
15.45	Coffee Break	
16.15	<b>2: Future sheep</b>	Chaired by Mark Young
	<p><b>A) What are the characteristics needed in sheep for the future?</b></p> <p><b>B) Driving uptake – how do we get improved genetics</b></p>	




	<b>adopted widely and rapidly?</b>	
16.25	Quick introduction and additional thoughts from the panellists	Tim Byrne, Nicola Lambe, Janet Roden & Farmer participant (TBC)
16.35 – 17.30	Open panel discussion	
19.00	Welcome drinks reception	
20.00	Conference Dinner  Speaker – Dr Jude McCann Farming Community Network (FCN)	The Farming Community Network – Supporting Farmers through change

### Saturday 12 November

8.30	Registration	
9.00	Charles Sercombe	Chairman's Welcome
9.05	<b>3: Satisfying the consumer</b>	Chaired by John Richards
9.10	Daniel Brown, LambPlan, Australia	Breeding for taste and tenderness - Meat eating quality, fact not fiction
9.40	Eleri Thomas, Hybu Cig Cymru / Meat Promotion Wales	Breeding for Muscle Density and an update on the Welsh Lamb Meat Quality Project'
10.10	Discussion	
10.30	Coffee break	
11.00	<b>4: State of the Nation</b>	Chaired by Charles Sercombe
11.05	Allan Ribbink, Chairperson, Canadian Sheep Federation	Genetics influences underlying lamb quality <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An oversight from the global sheep production forum</li> </ul>
11.25	Phil Stocker, Chief Executive, National Sheep Association	What are the opportunities for the sheep sector? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The impact of reduced support, ELMS, LIP, health and welfare pathway, devolved agricultural policy and the environmental challenges.</li> </ul>
11.45	Stuart Ashworth – Independent Advisor	Market place dynamics and their impact on prices <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A financial outlook for lamb, the background to lamb prices, the markets and factors affecting them</li> </ul>

12.15	Discussion	
12.30	Lunch	Opportunity to view posters

14.00	<b>5: Debate - The use of Advanced Breeding Techniques has positively benefited the British Sheep Industry over the past 35 years</b>	Chaired by Charles Sercombe & Liz Genever
14.05 14.10	Ian McDougall (ABT practitioner and sheep farmer)  Carroll Barber (Pedigree breeder)	For: Use of advanced breeding techniques to develop genetic advances to fast-track breeding development objectives, enhance flock/environmental targets, reduce biosecurity risk for a flock and allow use of genetics across the world.
14.15 14.20	Pen Rashbass, Pedigree breeder (Hebridean sheep)  Amanda Carson, Sheep Veterinary Society (President) & Herdwick Sheep Breeders Association (Secretary)	Against: Views on the benefits of traditional selection methods and concerns regarding the unintended health and welfare consequences that can arise when selection focuses on just a few traits.
14.25	Discussion	
15.15	Coffee	
15.45	<b>6: Increasing impact of existing schemes</b>	Chaired by Beth Alexander, QMS
15.50 16.10 & 16.25	Janet Roden  Joined by two HCC project farmers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sian &amp; Llion Jones, Moelogan Fawr, Llanrwst</li> <li>Sion Ifans, Bryn Uchaf, Machynlleth</li> </ul>	Enhancing the hill flock - maintaining momentum without funding <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hill Ram Scheme Project updates from two project farmers one new to manual recording and one using TSU technology</li> </ul>
16.40  16.55	Breeding better terminal sires - Samuel Boon, Signet / Abigail Wells, Egenes  Andrew Walton	RamCompare – what next <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>What have we learnt and what is the future</li> <li>Shearforce and Primal Yield</li> <li>Breeder impact</li> </ul>
17.10 – 17.30	Discussion	

19.00	 Wine Reception – sponsor Egenes, SRUC	Poster session with authors present
20.00	Dinner	

### Sunday 13 November

9.00	<b>7: Responsibility of breeding for better health</b>	Chaired by Lis King, AHDB
9.00	Fiona Lovatt - Vet, Flockhealth	Ensuring the sale of high quality, healthy and disease-free rams
9.20	Ben Strugnell – Vet	Swaledale sheep with neuroaxonal dystrophy
9.50	Tomas Olsson, pedigree breeder and Titti Strömne, independent advisor	Swedish sheep breeding objectives - Traits recorded in the national programme, tail length, health measures within Elitlamm, how farmers use the service, lessons we can learn
10.15	Discussion	
10.30	Coffee Break	
11.00	<b>8: What will the sheep industry look like in 10 years?</b>	Chaired by Emily Grant, Forrit (Farming & consultancy)
11.10	Tim White – Commercial stud breeder (Exlana) & Sheep Farmer of the Year 2021 (Farmers Weekly)	Exlana selection for health and welfare traits - reducing worms & flystrike whilst simplifying routine sheep management practice
11.30	Tim Pratt – Pedigree breeder (Poll Dorset and Dorset Horn)	The role of the pedigree in commercial systems – using performance data to guide management decisions
11.50	Matt Harding – Sheep Innovator of the Year 2021 (British Farming Award)	Linking genetics with commercial forage-based systems - from traditional breeding to a sustainable system (customer perception & lessons learnt)
12.10	Discussion	
12.20	Charles Sercombe	Chairman's Closing Remarks
12.30	Lunch	

## Conference fees

Ticket type	Includes	2022 price schedule
Friday afternoon ticket – must purchase separately	Conference only on Friday afternoon (lunch not included)	£25 +VAT
Weekend conference ticket (single occupancy) – Friday is not included	Includes Saturday and Sunday conference tickets plus dinner, bed & breakfast (Friday and Saturday night)	£320 +VAT
Weekend conference ticket (double occupancy) – Friday is not included	Saturday and Sunday conference tickets plus dinner, bed and breakfast (Friday and Saturday night)	£240 +VAT per person
Friday evening dinner	Dinner only on Friday	£30 +VAT
Friday night accommodation only	1 night accommodation single occupancy (includes breakfast)	£110 +VAT
Friday night accommodation only (partners fee for double occupancy)	1 night accommodation supplement (partners fee to upgrade to double occupancy - includes breakfast)	£30 +VAT
Saturday ticket	Conference only (inc. lunch) on Saturday	£75 +VAT
Saturday evening dinner	Dinner only on Saturday	£30 +VAT
Saturday night accommodation only	1 night accommodation single occupancy (includes breakfast)	£110 +VAT
Saturday night accommodation only (partners fee for double occupancy)	1 night accommodation supplement (partners fee to upgrade to double occupancy - includes breakfast)	£30 +VAT
Sunday ticket	Conference only (inc. lunch) on Sunday	£65 +VAT

To book your place at this conference please visit <https://events.ahdb.org.uk/>

We thank the following organisations for their sponsorship of this event:

