



Est. 1925

CLUN FOREST SHEEP BREEDERS SOCIETY LIMITED

Registered in England No. 438563

Secretary: Sue Scrivens

NEWSLETTER

November 2016

Welcome to our newsletter.

2016 has been another good year for the Cluns with increases in flock headcounts and more new members. We have had an excellent showing season, with more Cluns entering more shows and winning inter-bred classes. The commerciality and versatility of the Clun was demonstrated at the NSA Sheep 2016 event in Malvern. Mr Roger Williams kindly brought along his English Mule Ewes (BFL x Clun) and their smashing twin lambs. At the Society Show and Sale, there was 100% clearance of females and 83% of males, with many average prices up on 2015.

With 2016 nearing its end, we wish all our members a very Merry Christmas and successful New Year for 2017.

Annual Registrations

Please find enclosed registration and subscription forms. Once you have completed them please return to Sue by **31st December 2015** to ensure inclusion in the Flock Book. Please note that late registrations may incur a penalty, or even may not be included, and so will not be eligible for showing or selling at breed events.

If you would prefer to **email** your registration forms, please send your request to:
sue@clunforestsheep.org.uk

This year you will have the option to pay either by cheque or bank transfer.

Individual Ear Tags

As a Society, we appreciate that there is already a lot of "red tape" and form filling associated with livestock, and as such we have tried to keep additional requirements for tagging registered pedigree Clun Forest sheep to a minimum. The colour of the visual tag will be used to identify year of birth for all registered sheep, as follows:

2016 - Blue

2017 - Green

2018 - Orange

2019 - Purple

2020 - White

If possible, please include the year of birth on the tag as additional information e.g. "16" or "2016".

Some of our breeders with smaller flocks have expressed concerns about purchasing tags for a few sheep. Whilst we do not endorse any particular supplier of EID tags, Roxan have advised us that their minimum order is only 5 pairs of tags.

Ram Names

You have also told us that it is sometimes difficult to remember individual Rams by Flock Book number alone. So from 2017, all new registered males will be named as follows:

Flock Prefix followed by individual name

e.g. "Superflock Albert".

We will be starting with names beginning with "A" in 2017, followed by "B" in 2018, and so forth. This is a similar system used by many breed societies.

clunforestsheep.org.uk

Our website continues to grow, becoming more important to the promotion of the breed and creating increasing interest. If you have any ideas or would like something included, please visit the site and send us a message. The site now attracts over a thousand views per week which double this time last year.

Also please make use of our face book page, join the page and post pictures, ask questions and make it work for you and your flock. (Please note the opinions and comments expressed by contributors are not specifically endorsed by the Society.)

Clun Forest Calendar 2017

Orders are now being taken for our 2017 calendar. At £8 (plus P&P) we believe this is great value. The pictures include some fabulous photos of Cluns throughout each season.

Likewise, if you feel that you can assist with developing other promotional material or have an idea to promote the breed, please let us know.

Please reply to: Sue Scrivens, Greenway Farm, Whitchurch, Ross on Wye, Herefordshire, HR9 6DH
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Clun Community day 2017

We have been given a wonderful opportunity to work with the local community in Clun to promote our breed at a "Fun Day" on Saturday 19th August. We hope to include many events such as exhibitions of sheep, weaving/spinning of fleeces, cooking demonstrations, sheep trimming. If you can think of any fun activities to include or wish to take part, please contact Steph Thackery or Ryan Davies.

Flock Book 2015

For your information please find enclosed supplementary pages of the flock book for 2015.

Summer Shows 2016

If you travelled throughout England, Scotland and Wales during the summer of 2016 visiting agricultural shows, the chances of seeing Cluns were far higher than previous years.

There were the usual solid entries at 4 shows with Clun classes - Three Counties, Royal Welsh, Burwarton and Newbury. It was even more exciting to see Cluns making appearances in the Any Other Breed Section at numerous shows including: Brecon, Buckingham, Dumfries, Felin Fach, Kent, Lincolnshire, Moreton-in-Marsh, Nantwich, Northumberland, Nottingham, Sennybridge, South of England, Suffolk, Tenbury Wells & Thame. Even better, several Cluns won the Championship in the Any Other Native Breed classes - a great advert for our wonderful breed!

This is a great testament to the dedication and enthusiasm of breeders and exhibitors such as Del Knowles & Daryl Brown, John Shepperson, Rex Vincent & Deb Searle, Monty Davies, Mike & Evie Eckley, Steph Thackery, Mandy Glover, Torz Brown & family, Kathe Davies, Edna, Alan & Phil Spice, Cameron Hendrie, Brian Davies, Jen & Brian Hunter and Mary Parry.

The Three Counties – this saw the start of the Clun classes with 5 exhibitors making their pilgrimage to Malvern from across England, Scotland and Wales. The judge, Barry Francis, awarded the Overall Breed Championship to the Female Champion, an Ewe from Brian Davies. The Honddu ewe then went on to win Native Interbreed the next day. The Male Champion, a Shearling Ram, also came from the Honddu Flock, narrowly beating a very strong Sarnesfield-bred ram from Rex Vincent and Debbie Searle.

Royal Welsh - Next was the Royal Welsh Show, the jewel in the show season crown and the best livestock show in Europe. Clun entry numbers were high with 8 exhibitors. The classes were competitive and full of quality sheep. Top honours were awarded to Mike Eckley with his 2-year-old ram, 'Ivor the Engine' that won both the Male and Breed Championships. Runner up in the Male Championship was Del Knowle's Aged ram. The Wrotham flock saw double success in the Female Championship with with a strong shearling ewe and reserve for an ewe lamb. Again there was Interbreed glory for the Cluns, Mike Eckley's "Ivor the Engine" won the Reserve Native Individual Lowland Championship - the first time a Clun has ever achieved this!

Burwarton Show - again numbers were good with 5 exhibitors attending. The Championship went to I.T.Davies with another Shearling ewe. We should recognise the incredible commitment of Team Hunter who travelled from Scotland for the one-day show and went home with a red rosette.

Newbury – this was perhaps the most pleasing an exceptional entry from 7 exhibitors, with some breeders travelling from as far Wales and Scotland. There was to be a new name on top that day, when the Spice family took home top honours in the Breed Championship with their Aged Ram; Del and Daryl coming a worthy second with their Royal Welsh winning Shearling

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ewe 'Claudette', who won against strong competition in a class of 11 ewes.

A fantastic showing season for the Cluns with the breed going from strength to strength, and Cluns being showcased to many more potential breeders and buyers. The highlight being winning Interbreed glory at 2 of the UK's biggest shows. If you would like more information on showing Cluns, please go to our showing tips section on our website www.clunforestsheep.org.uk



92ND SHOW & SALE REPORT

The 92nd Clun Forest Sheep Breeders Society Show & Sale took place in Ludlow with a firm trade for both ewes and rams, with buyers from as far as the Ilse of Skye.

The 123 Females on offer saw 100% clearance with a top price of £300 for an ewe lamb, which went to Scotland to new breeder Mary Parry of Lockerbie. The Champion Pen of 10 Two Shear Ewes was won by veteran Clun Breeder Gordon Roberts and were later sold for £172 to another familiar name to Clun breeders of J.Hamer, Bicton. The top priced pen of 10 ewes went to W.G.Smith, Burrington. These ewes sold for £182 to another new breeder, J.Tamplin of Caerphilly, Wales.

In the Male Section there was a steady trade on rams with 84% clearance and an average of 264gns for

Shearling Rams. The top price of the day was for a strong Walton ram from Evan Jones, Presteigne who was sold for 640.50gns to John Shepperson from Wiltshire. The winner of the A.E.Williams Salver for the Best Average of 3 rams went to renowned breeder Richard Price with an average of 486.50gns. The Champion Male from I.T.Davies sold to D.Jones, Brecon for 535gns.



In the Ram Lamb Class young Cameron Hendrie followed up his success in the Royal Welsh Show with his lamb winning the class and the Reserve Male Championship. The lamb was also bought by Mr. Tamplin for 367.50gns and will surely produce some quality Cluns in the Gwent valley.

PRICES

Shearling Rams - 44

Top - 640.50gns Av. - 263.69gns (up 32gns on 2015)

Aged Rams - 22

Top - 315gns Av. - 157.50gns

Ram Lambs - 6

Top - 367.50gns Av. - 211.75gns (up 54 gns on 2015)

Shearling Ewes - 65

Top - £206 Av. - £131.07

Two Shear Ewes - 45

Top - £182 Av. - £158.88 (up £26 on 2015)

Ewe lambs - 13

Top - £300 Av. - £88.00

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SIGNET – BREED PERFORMANCE

With the increasing numbers of Cluns, we need to continue to select sheep for breeding with proven vigor and vitality to maintain the robust characteristics for which the Clun is renowned. This is becoming increasingly important in the competitive world of sheep farming.

Estimated Breeding Values (EBVs) provide a recognised way to add value to your sheep and improve your flock. The Society has been in contact with Signet to explore the options available for performance recording in Clun Forest sheep. Indeed, the team at Signet is excited at the prospect of once again seeing data come in for the Cluns, particularly focusing on **ewe prolificacy, maternal ability and lamb growth rates**.

Individual flocks can be taken on for recording on a 'within flock' analysis. However, for 'across flock' this requires 4-6 flocks who would be prepared to either share rams or use similar genetics (if the flocks aren't sufficiently linked). Around 200 – 400 ewes across a few flocks would be a good start.

Illustrative Costs (exclusive of VAT)

- Annual fee of £120 per breeder plus £3 per ewe
- Optional ultrasound scanning undertaken by Signet technicians - typically charged at £1.75 per head (minimum visit fee of £175 – cap of £800 on scanning for larger flocks)

For example, for flock with **20 ewes**:

£120 annual fee plus £60 ewes (£3ph) = **£180**

With optional scanning of circa 40 lambs (minimum scanning fee of £175)

Total = £355

As soon as we know which members are interested, roughly how many sheep are involved and where in the country they are, the Society can contact Signet who will discuss with each breeder what their main objectives are. The proposal is that we should be looking at features based primarily on a 'Welsh' index as it rewards milk, growth and muscling. This is the index that the Lley and Romney's are using, both of which have a similar maternal basis. Amongst other analyses, Faecal Egg Count recording is an increasingly popular tool that can be used in breeding selection for worm resistance. As shown above, the cost of signing up is £120 + £3/ewe

annually. This would include analysis and reports, and will give each member the basis for improved selection. After this, Signet will prompt them for a census of the identities of the ewes and rams and their respective sires/dams.

An optional element of performance recording is the collection of accurate measurements of muscle and fat using ultrasound scanning.

Recording protocols:

For those who are used to performance recording, this will be familiar territory, but basically breaks down into 3 data sets and 2 levels of performance recording

- Lambing data (to include embryo transfer recipient, fostering and birth weight records)
- Submission of eight week weights – weigh lambs between 6 and 12 weeks of age. At this stage a preliminary report is sent to the breeder.
- Ultrasound scanning lambs – most lambs are scanned at approximately 21 weeks. To ensure that there is sufficient variation in the muscle and fat depth measurements it usually requires animals to be at least 45kg. If lambs are growing more slowly it is perfectly acceptable to scan them at an older age to ensure that sufficient levels of variation can be detected. The animals are weighed and recorded on scanning day.

More detailed information can be found at

<http://beefandlamb.ahdb.org.uk/wp/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/Performance-recording-your-pedigree-flock.pdf>

If you would be interested in helping to take forward the breed as a modern Clun, please contact Sue Scrivens (Breed Secretary)

FLOCK COMPETITION 2017

Finally, after the success of our flock competition in 2013, we are pleased to confirm that the next competition will be run in 2017. Brian & Ann Davies, with their wealth of knowledge and showing successes, have kindly agreed to be judges. There will be a variety of categories and opportunities for all our breeders to show off their wonderful flocks.

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