



Winter 2014



Landriggs Tamnavulin, Shown here winning Male Champion at the Northern Show and Sale, with breeder E Henderson (left) and judge, Ifan Lloyd MRCVS (right) Went on to be purchased by P.Wilkinson of Gracewood Ryelands

Photo - Phillip Onions

Ryeland FBS Contact: Dot Tyne, Secretary, Ty'n y Mynydd Farm, Boduan, Pwllheli, Gwynedd LL53 8PZ. **Telephone:** 01758 721739

Email: info@ryelandfbs.com

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From the Editor

First of all may I say a huge thank you to the Society for giving me the chance to take up the role of editor on a permanent basis.

Thank you for all of your comments about the September issue, I hope you all liked it.

The quarterly newsletter is a great way to connect with every member in the Society so we can all be kept informed of anything that is happening. On that note may I please ask for your continued support in providing information for the newsletter.

I would very much like to bring back the articles about our members and also the Flock Visits, so if anyone out there wants to provide an article about themselves and the ryelands they keep, or would like to do some flock visits and provide an article, please let me know.

Also if there is anything new you would like to see in the newsletter please let me know on Jack.w.r.williams@googlemail.com as I am open to any suggestions, and again it is your newsletter.

In this newsletter we have information from the NSA, and a great opportunity to receive two months free membership! We have two vets articles, one re posted from Dec 2013 and a new one called 'Lest we forget', We have a report from the Herefordshire Ryeland Group on their recent Flock Competition, a report from a breeder who is also a feed supplier plus much more.

Please note anything for the March Newsletter needs to be sent to myself or Dot by 26th February.

May you all have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, and I hope lambing goes well for you all and that you have some great quality lambs.

Thank You

Jack Williams

Editor

From the NSA

MAKING MORE OF MUTTON NSA and the Royal Academy of Culinary Arts (RACA) have joined forces to breathe new life into the mutton market. Extending the efforts of the Mutton Renaissance Club, NSA and RACA will work with producers, processors and retailers to increase the demand for and availability of mutton. The initiative, which is sponsored by Eblex, HCC, and LMCNI, had its first outing at the Royal Welsh Winter Fair.

WELSH SHEEP NUMBERS HIGHEST SINCE 2003 Welsh sheep numbers rose for the fifth consecutive year in the twelve months to June this year. The Welsh government's Survey of Agriculture and Horticulture June 2014 shows the number of sheep and lambs stood at 9.74million in June, up 3% on 2013 levels and the highest recorded number since 2003. A 10% rise in breeding ewe numbers to 4.4million put the Welsh breeding flock at its largest for a decade, while the survey recorded 4.8 million lambs aged under one year.

EBLEX FUNDS RESEARCH INTO EWE LONGEVITY New research into ewe longevity could benefit the sheep industry by £4.35million, according to Eblex. The levy body is funding the one-year project, which is being carried out by Scotland's Rural College (SRUC). By finding the best way to include productive life-span in sheep breeding evaluations, the research aims to reduce culling rates and increase the productivity of the national flock.

Council Members

North of England

Alison Robinson (co-opted)
Nic Burton (co-opted)
Patrick Wilkinson
Malcolm Dodsworth
(co-opted)

Central & Southern England

Anne Jones
Ruth Mills
Tony Moore (Vice Chair)
David Parsons
Jane Pinches
Carole Shaw
Richard Wear
Margaret Wear

Scotland:

Wales:

David Lewis
Sue McVicar

CRC Representative

Andy McVicar

President

Carole Shaw (Deputy Vice Chair)

Vice President

John Donovan (Chair)

President Elect

Stephen Higgs

ENTRIES OPEN FOR SCOTTISH INNOVATION AWARD £4,000 is on offer to the winner of the 2015 Future Farming Award, which is presented annually to a Scottish farm or croft producing food or fibre sustainably by using new or innovative ideas. Entries are now open and close on 15th February 2015.

LEARN YOUR ABCs WITH FARMING Artist Mary Griese (who runs the Slightly Sheepish greetings card company) has produced an ABC book on farming to help children learn their alphabet. The book has 56 illustrated pages with a range of quirky words for each letter. For example, L includes legendary Longhorn, lovable Lley, lustrous Limousin and little Llanwenog! "I'm used to very young children from farming families being able to recognise different sheep and cattle breeds. They are way too clever just to say P for pig." Books can be ordered for £25+P&P on 01275 472 207 or griese.mary@googlemail.com

COORDINATED APPROACH TARGETED AT BWMB AGM: Peter Ackroyd, President of the International Wool Textile Organisation and Chief Operating Officer for the Campaign for Wool, told the British Wool Marketing Board AGM last week that coordinated work across the supply chain was central to ensuring consumers understood the value of wool and the role it can play in the textile industry. He said collaboration between a wide number of wool producing countries had already been key but growers needed to continue to support this wool activities. Malcolm Corbett, BWMB Chairman, echoed Mr Ackroyd's stance, saying it was collaborative work so far that had helped increase producer returns in the last decade. "Growing demand for wool, partly as a result of the strong messaging from the Campaign for Wool, and also due to a rise in price of competing textiles, has helped improve prices. However, it is the strength in unity offered by selling through BWMB which is really helping deliver price improvements. BWMB's ability to offer large volumes of quality, graded wool coupled with its competitive auction system have been key to driving up UK wool prices."

NSA MEMBER DONATES EWES TO SHEEP WORRYING VICTIM: An NSA member from Shropshire is donating ewes to replenish a flock decimated by a dog attack. Tony Morris is very generously giving away six of his own small Kerry Hill flock to Del Knowles and Daryl Brown of Wrotham, Kent, whose Kerry Hills were savaged earlier this month.

INDUSTRY FOCUS MOVING DOWN THE HILL, SAYS EBLEX: The focus of British sheep farming is moving down the hill, according to a new report published by Eblex. The 'Breeding structure of the British Sheep Industry 2012' report claims that a decline in the breeding of hill sheep in favour of lowland breeds is undermining the central role of the stratified system in the industry. It also explores the growing popularity of imported and new breeds.

SHEEPSKIN SITUATION SOLVED: Anyone who has tried to get their own sheepskins back from an abattoir in the last couple of years will know what a nightmare it can be. This is because returns have to 'licensed' and the associated AB117 form was very complicated to fill out. A revised AB117 has now been released, which everyone in England, Wales and Scotland can use. NSA has also been informed that only the recipient now needs the paperwork, not the haulier too. AB117 can be down loaded from the Defra website and a shortcut is also provided in the 'Technical Information' section of the members-only area on the NSA website. NSA is very grateful to Nicki from Organic Sheepskins for this information, and for the offer of answering any questions members might have and providing salting instructions if people want them. Contact Nicki on nicki.port@btconnect.com

NSA Free 2 Month Membership Taster

NSA would like to offer a **2 month National Sheep Association 'taster membership'** to members of the Ryeland Flock Book Society, who are not currently members of NSA. This will be comprised of a copy of the most recent Sheep Farmer magazine, a booklet about NSA and a leaflet about our current 3in1Feeder prize draw promotion, along with 2 months of our weekly email newsletter which comes out on a Friday evening and is full of interesting news and events from within NSA and the sheep industry. The weekly newsletter is available only by email. Please note this taster package does not entitle you to be entered into the draw to win a 3in1 Feeder.

NSA hopes you will enjoy reading the literature and find it useful and informative. Please do consider joining NSA – not only will you reap the benefits but you will be supporting the only organisation which represents sheep farmers to the Government, policy makers and other stakeholders in the sheep industry.

If you would like to take up this opportunity please contact **Charlotte Underwood (Membership Recruitment Officer) at NSA HQ, Malvern, on 01684 892661** with your name, address, telephone number and email address. Alternatively if you do wish to join, and be entered into the draw, either contact NSA HQ for a membership pack or download an application from the website www.nationalsheep.org.uk

Herefordshire Ryeland Group

On the 26th October 2014, members of the Herefordshire Ryeland Group met over a meal at Burghill Golf Course to announce the Results from their recent Flock Competition.

The flock Competition was Judged on the 6th/7th September by Brenda McCaull of Rochford Ryelands and the competition was organised by Trevor and Irene Rollings, who also donated some of the Trophies.

Brenda's task was not easy, over the two days she had over 15 flocks to visit to judge all of various sizes. The classes she had to judge were, Flock with Numbers under 10, Flock with numbers of over 10, Best Ram, Best Coloured Flock and Best Coloured Ram.

Brenda said the competition was very close and it wasn't an easy decision to make, but overall she was looking for a flock that were all similar, that were obviously well looked after and had presence about them. In the Ram she was looking for a true to type ram, with great quality and Presence.

The Results were:

Ryeland Flock under 10 Ewe's

1st Poppy Burgess (Honeybee Ryelands)

2nd Imogen Harris (Grendon Ryelands)

3rd J & L Whittal (Marches Flock)

Ryeland Flock Over 10 Ewe's

1st Sue Quigley (Michaelchurch Ryelands)

2nd Rosie Hawnt (Ashgrove Ryelands)

3rd Ian Jones & Rhoss Carter (Surol Ryelands)

3rd Rachel Leake (Minton Ryelands)

Ryeland Ram:

1st Rosie Hawnt (Arberth Nightspeed)

2nd Sue Quigley (Michaelchurch Ryelands)

3rd J & L Whittal (Marches Ryelands)

Champion Ryeland Flock

Sue Quigley (Michaelchurch Ryelands)

Champion Ram

Rosie Hawnt (Ashgrove Ryelands)

Coloured Ryeland Flock

1st Dorothy Hill (Hanwell Coloured Ryelands)

2nd Lennie Parker (Bramble Coloured Ryelands)

Coloured Ryeland Ram

1st Dorothy Hill (Hanwell Coloured Ryelands)

2nd Lennie Parker (Bramble Coloured Ryelands)

The Herefordshire Ryeland Group would like to thank everyone for entering the flock competition and if anyone would like to come and meet anyone that breeds ryelands in Herefordshire or the surrounding areas please contact our secretary Dorothy Hill on hill.hanwell@btinternet.com



Rosie Hawnt Receiving her Rosette for Best Ryeland Ram. Left to Right: Irene Rollings, Rosie Hawnt, Judge Brenda McCaull, with Judge Brenda Mccaull (Center) Trevor and Emily Rollings.

Photo - Rosie Hawnt

Ryelands Overseas

I have currently been doing a lot of research into ryelands overseas and have come across this article written by the editor of the Newsletter in New Zealand, and thought it may be worth sharing with you all, so you can see how ryelands started in New Zealand

EARLY NZ RYELANDS

Volume 1 of the Flock book of the Ryeland Sheep Society of New Zealand (Inc) was published in 1925. (Prior to this I believe Ryelands were, as now, part of the NZ Sheepbreeders' Association.)

The foreword of the first flockbook gives a brief history. It says that "it is on record that the first Ryeland sheep imported into this country were for the flock of Mr Kellock, Hinds, South Canterbury, in 1901.

At this time the head shepherd for Mr Kellock was Mr J Price, of Ashburton. Mr Price was very keen on the Ryeland breed of sheep and after much endeavour persuaded Mr Kellock to found a flock. It was thus that the Ryeland was imported into this Dominion.

Several breeders then turned their attention to this sheep primarily on account of the fact that it produced a quick fattening lamb, but also because of the excellent quality of its wool. The number and sizes of the flocks have shown a remarkable increase in the past five years, and it is a noteworthy fact that the second largest breeder in New Zealand is the Department of Agriculture at their experimental Farm, Weraroa.

After considerable correspondence between several of the breeders a meeting was held in Palmerston North on the 15th of November, 1924, when the Society was formed, officers elected, and a set of rules adopted.

We have every expectation of increasing and strengthening our Society as time passes, possessing, as we do, members who stand high in the community as breeders with knowledge, intelligence and integrity. Our book is not as complete as we would like, but future editions will have complete histories of flocks included."

The President who wrote the above was Mr T. Z. Stephens and the Society Secretary was Mr C. H. Flanagan.

Hopefully our members are still knowledgeable, intelligent and of integrity!

Flock #1 in the book is that of the Department of Agriculture. This flock was founded in 1907 by the purchase from W.T. Barnaby, England of 10 ewes (in lamb) and 1 ram. In January 1909 an additional purchase was made from the same breeder of 10 ewes (in lamb) and a ram. The ewes registered in the first book number 120 along with 60

shearling ewes. They bred 78 ram lambs and 84 ewe lambs in 1924. The sires used were Dominion Moumahaki, Dominion Duke and Dominion Prince, (of their own breeding), Waverly, and Waipuna Dart.

Flock # 2 was that of Mr T A Stephens, the new Society's President.

His flock was founded in 1908 by the purchase of 30 ewes from Wm. Hay (F2) whose flock was descended from ewes bred by WT Barneby and F E Gough, England. He had 210 ewes plus 60 shearling ewes.

Jack Williams

Kington Show 2014

Ryelands - Judged by Ifan Lloyd

Ram

1st J W Nugent

Ram Lamb

1st Salters Mill Charity 2nd Miss S Swankie 3rd Miss S Swankie 4th R Hawnt & G Bowen

Ewe

1st J W Nugent 2nd R Hawnt & G Bowen 3rd Miss S Swankie 4th J W Nugent

Ewe Lamb

1st J W Nugent 2nd Salters Hill Charity 3rd J W Nugent 4th Sue Quigley

Group of Three - R Hawnt & G Bowen

Champion - Miss S Swankie

Reserve Champion - J W Nugent

Coloured Ryelands - Judged by Pamela Bateman

Ram

1st Daphne & Selwyn Evans

Ram Lamb

1st Mrs A Swankie 2nd Daphne & Selwyn Evans

Ewe

1st Mrs A Swankie 2nd Daphne & Selwyn Evans 3rd Marion Thornett

Ewe Lamb

1st Mrs A Swankie 2nd Daphne & Selwyn Evans 3rd Harry Watson

Group of Three - Mrs A Swankie

Champion - Mrs A Swankie

Reserve Champion - Mrs A Swankie

Results courtesy of the Kington Show Society website.

From The Vets

Lest We Forget

Recent high profile stories on the theme of 'Lest we forget' made me think of some diseases that haven't been mentioned for a few months or even years. Whilst they may have gone quiet they may not have gone away forever and it may just be a matter of time before

Schmallenberg

Schmallenberg Virus was identified as an emerging disease risk in November 2011, initially in Germany and the Netherlands with subsequent, very rapid, spread to the UK. The virus has been associated with few symptoms in individual sheep but very dramatic birth defects in newborn lambs, with worst affected flocks recording up to 50% deaths. As the disease is not notifiable figures for 2014 difficult to obtain (with neither the defra website nor that of Moredun, posting anything significant about the problem this year) it is easy to quickly forget how serious this disease looked a mere 2 years ago. The hope

being that immunity is now widespread, either through vaccination with Bovilis SBV or natural challenge, and the level of challenge is much less from chronically infected midges. But make no mistake the virus is still out there and some flocks will again be affected this autumn. Early lambers in most areas should still have considered

Blue Tongue

Going back a little further Blue Tongue was another insect borne viral disease that severely affected sheep flocks, with some flocks suffering up to 70% mortalities. Symptoms included a high fever, circulatory failure causing swelling of the head (and particularly the tongue) and debilitating lameness. The northern Europe outbreak started in 2007 and spread to UK the following year. This was made notifiable and, aided by a national vaccination campaign, the UK was declared free of disease in July 2011. The main snag with this disease is that there are at least 24 different strains and while the epidemic was caused by Type 8, others such as 1 and 7 have caused problems and Type 4 is currently affecting animals in Bulgaria, Romania, Macedonia and Greece. BT is also causing havoc in Australia.

FMD

FMD is an acute infectious disease which spreads very quickly if not controlled. It causes fever followed by the development of blisters, chiefly in the mouth and feet of cattle, sheep and pigs. After being free for many years we had a major outbreak in 2001 followed by a localised (Surrey) episode in 2007. National movement restrictions caused huge problems throughout the sheep industry. The virus is believed to be still circulating in some regions in the world and there have been epidemics in Japan and South Korea (2010) and Bulgaria (2011) since with scares in Tunisia and Russia. It may well be a matter of time before it re-appears and in my view the, much called for, relaxation of the 6 day standstill would be too great a risk as other methods of control have not been sufficiently developed.

Dick Thompson MRCVS

Ifan Lloyd MRCVS

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Northern Show & Sale 2014

Show results

Ryelands

Judge : Ifan Lloyd MRCVS

Breeding Ewe

1 - D. Evans, Mansel ewe

Shearling Ewe

1 - N. Pickering, homebred Peel Flatt ewe

2 - N. Pickering, homebred Peel Flatt ewe

Ewe Lamb

1 - A. Robinson homebred Hawthorns lamb

2 - T. Glover,

3 - T Glover

Female Champion A. J. Robinson ewe lamb

Reserve D. Evans with breeding ewe.

Shearling Ram

1 - E & J Henderson, Landriggs Tamnavulin

2 - H Mattinson,

3 - E & J Henderson

Ram Lamb

1 - A. J. Robinson, Hawthorns lamb

2 - P. Barnes

3 - A. Hunter Blair.

Male Champion - E & J Henderson

Wool on the Hoof – E & J Henderson



Male Champion

Landriggs Tamnavulin with breeder
E Henderson (left) and judge Ian
Lloyd (right)



Female Champion

A Hawthorns Ewe Lamb with
Breeder Alison Robinson and judge
Ifan Lloyd

Coloured Ryelands

Judge: R Aitken

Breeding Ewe

- 1 - D Evans, homebred Welsh ewe
- 2 - S Atkinson
- 3 - S Atkinson.

Shearling Ewe

- 1 - C W Broughton, homebred Melbourne ewe
- 2 - D Evans
- 3 - J Scott.

Ewe Lamb

- 1 - C Smyth, homebred Barony lamb
- 2 - D Evans
- 3 - D Evans

Female Champion C W Broughton

Reserve C Smyth

Adult Ram

- 1 - B Wright, Highedge ram

Shearling Ram

- 1 - Holmes Family, homebred Tranwell Trooper
- 2 - D Evans
- 3 - J Scott

Ram Lamb

- 1 - D Evans, homebred Welsh Useful
- 2 - S & J. E. Fisher Greenlea Ultimate T
- 3 - A & S Dyer

Male Champion

D Evans, Welsh Useful

Reserve – Holmes Family, Tranwell Trooper

Wool on the Hoof

S & J. E. Fisher, Greenlea Ultimate T



Male Champion

Welsh Useful with Tom Evans (right)
and judge, Raymond Aitken (left)

Photo - Phillip Onions

From the Vets

This article is largely a reprint of an article that appeared in the December 2013 newsletter.

Mandibular prognathism or undershot / underbite in sheep is one of several birth defects known to occur in both domestic breeds and wild species.

Genetic Defects

Genetic defects are a group of abnormalities caused by faulty genes inherited from one or both parents. They often, but not always, cause abnormalities that are present from birth and are often termed inheritable defects.

The sheep genome has been mapped. The techniques for doing this is both improving and becoming more efficient and economical as new technologies become available. The complete sheep genome is huge so that looking for a specific marker can be like looking for a needle in a haystack. A small number of congenital faults have been researched in sheep. Much of the work is based on studies in other species. However, one way of looking for markers is to target specific points on the genome, which matches the location where the same defect has been found in other species. This research is cutting edge technology and, no doubt, a number of practical applications will become available over time. Research is actively being undertaken to create a reference genome for sheep. This is a huge project, which, once completed, will facilitate targeted research of the type that we as a society would want to carry out.

Genetic Jaw Defects or Malocclusion

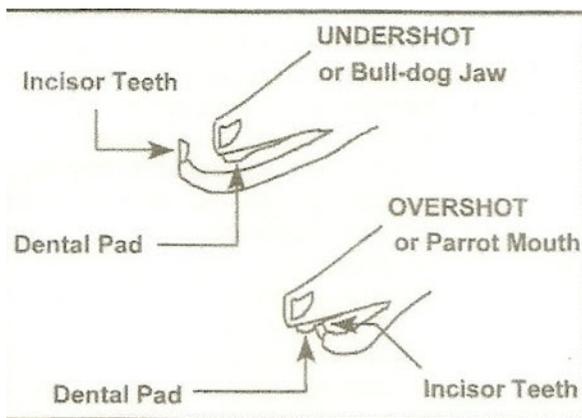
Sheep, in common with other ruminants such as cows and goats, have a unique dental arrangement in that there are no upper incisors (no front teeth on the top). Sheep have four pairs of lower incisors only. Instead there is an upper dental pad, which is lined up with the lower incisors. This arrangement allows sheep to graze in their characteristic manner.

Sheep though, do have both upper and lower molars (check teeth), which is the same as most other mammals. In fact molar teeth are more important than incisor teeth because they do the grinding of the food. Molar tooth abnormalities and disease are more likely to cause ill effect than incisor tooth problems. But they are not easy to examine and are often overlooked as a factor contributing to health problems.

Malocclusion or misalignment of the lower incisor (front) teeth against the dental pad is a controversial subject. There is currently no one solution to this condition!

There are two types of misalignment (refer to illustration):

1. Undershot mouth occurs when the lower jaw protrudes beyond the dental pad. The teeth will be in front of the dental pad. The scientific term for this “prognathism” but is often referred to as “bulldog jaw”.
2. The overshot mouth where the lower jaw is shorter and behind the dental pad. The teeth will be behind the dental pad. The scientific term for this is “brachygnathism”



It is generally regarded that a malocclusion of the incisor teeth can cause an adverse effect when the teeth and the dental pad are 5mm (half centimetre) or more out of alignment. This leads to a discussion that relates to the point at which the degree of under or overshot can be termed a genetic or inherited abnormality as opposed to natural variation!

Undershot mouth has been noted in a large variety of animals, with candidate genes found in donkeys, horse, dog and with the majority of studies being conducted in humans.

It is very easy to mis-diagnose mandibular prognathism, which is caused by an extended lower jaw, for something called maxillary retrusion which means that the upper jaw is shortened. Both can look the same. However, they are likely to have different genetic origins.

The condition itself is caused by several different genetic and environmental factors for example hormones; enlarged tonsils and blunt trauma have all been found to contribute to cases of under bite. Several genes have been examined and shown to have an association with undershot mouth. However, there doesn't seem to be any one gene entirely responsible for the formation of this defect. The inheritance of this condition is also many and varied some studies have shown a dominant mode of inheritance (i.e.. only one parent needs to have it to be passed on) some a recessive mode (both need the trait) and still other studies have shown a much more complex inheritance method.

This is a very complex trait involving the interaction of environment and genes, although there have been a number of studies each one seems to find something different. No studies have as yet been conducted on sheep and because of the difficulty in precise diagnosis and the complex nature of this condition a short-term project seems unfeasible. Small discrepancies where the lower incisors fail to meet the upper pad can be caused by environmental factors such as diet. For example, heavy grain feeding of lambs and soft diet can favour small misalignment. Lower incisors can drift in front of the dental pad with age e.g. aged rams particularly if fed a soft diet. However, these environmental discrepancies are unlikely to cause a 5mm misalignment.

Breeding Advice

Early recognition of this problem is essential. Delay could result in dissemination of the gene into the flock, which will make elimination far more challenging.

The degree of malocclusion can be mild to moderate to severe.

Mild malocclusion may be evident in lambs, but the permanent teeth may be in a more normal position. The convers can also occur.

True overshot and undershot jaws are definitely inherited defects.

It is essential that flock keepers recognise these problems.

Mouth examination and teeth alignment are an essential part of a pre purchase examination and as part of the judge's routine in the show ring and should always be carried out.

DO NOT PURCHASE SHEEP WITH DEFECTIVE TEETH ALIGNMENT AND CHEK THE MOUTH BEFORE PURCHASE

If buying direct from the breeder check the teeth of the parents if possible and don't purchase the offspring if a defect is present.

Monitor the teeth of lambs. Be careful not to make rash decisions based on mild malocclusion in the lamb category. It is advisable to wait until permanent teeth appear. On the other hand, be aware that apparently normal lambs may develop into adults with mild malocclusion.

It's advisable to keep good breeding records so that lambs born with this abnormality can be traced back to the ram. Likewise older sheep should be traceable to both parents. A rigid approach is advisable in order to eliminate defective sheep and sheep lines from flocks.

Don't forget that a ram or ewe with a normal mouth can itself produce lambs with defective mouths.

Remove a ram if it produces defective mouths and do not use a second year.

Adopt the same approach with ewes and do not breed from the progeny!

It may be necessary to remove an entire family.

A word of caution though - If you're not certain how to approach this problem it's sensible to seek veterinary opinion or even approach the society for advice.

Summary

It's not possible to offer universal advice in an article such as this. However, it's important that breeders are aware of this condition .

Irresponsible breeding practices or a lack of awareness, typically from less well informed breeders, will result in dissemination of the problem within the flock and, more seriously, to other flocks.

This is a very complex trait involving the interaction of environment and genes , although there have been a number of studies each one seems to find something different. No studies have as yet been conducted on sheep and because of the difficulty in precise diagnosis and the complex nature of this condition a short-term project seems unfeasible.

Ifan Lloyd MRCVS

New Members 13.07.14 - 18.10.14

Ryelands

- 01922** - Steve Arkely, Muirside Lodge, Brodie, Forres, Moray, IV36 2TE
01923 - Neil Sanders, The Barn, Cefn Gwyn, Kerry, Newtown, Powys, SY16 4PJ
01924 - Ian Marshall, Nupend Farmhouse, Nupend, Stonehouse, Glos, GL10 3SU
01925 - John & Emma Grant, Blackhillock Farm, Knocklando, By Aberlour, Moray, AB38 7SD
01926 - Jayne Bonsall, Trinity Farm, Coldharbour Lane, Brackenfield, Alfreton, Derbyshire, DE55 6EE
01927 - M. Cane & J. Leverton, Stonehouse Scotland, Wellington, Hereford, HR4 8BE.
01928 - Sarah Wynne, Moor Court, Lyonshall, Kington, Herefordshire. HR5 3LA
01929 - Mrs Jennifer Marsh, Shutelake Farm, Butterleigh, Devon, EX15 1PR
01930 - Mrs Lowri Tustain, 4 Bryn Teg, Bryneglwys, Corwen, Denbighshire. LL21 9LP.
01931 - James Harber, The Peacock Hotel, 66 High Street, Snainton, Scarborough, Yorks. YO13 9AJ
01932 - James Kerr, Crosbie Knowe, West Kilbride, KA23 9PH
01933 - Elliot & Jean Poyser - Darby, 45 Lime Grove, Chaddesden, Derby. DE21 6WL
01934 - Meilyr Gwynn Williams, Ty Gwyn, Eglwysbach, Colwyn Bay, Conwy, LL28 5RN
01935 - Ian Rushton, 6 Scothern Road, Nettleham, Lincoln, Lincs. LN2 2TX.
01936 - Imogen Harris, Maund Cottage, Watery Lane, Maund Bryan, Bodenham, Herefordshire, HR1 3TB.
01937 - Mr J & Mrs V Plant, Rose Cottage, Knightley, Woodseaves, Stafford, ST20 0JW.
01938 - Clarke Colquhoun, Badyen Farm, Cardross, Argyll & Bute. G82 5HN

Coloured Ryelands

- 504C** - Tammy Preece, 18 Ebnal Close, Leominster, Herefordshire, HR6 8SL
505C - Ms White, Orchard Leigh, Low Ham, Langport, Somerset, TA10 9DP
506C - Sarah Whitaker, Orchard House, Newton Arlosh, Wigton, Cumbria, CA7 5ET
507C - Michelle Varmen, Ivy Farm, Common Lane, Snelson, Macclesfield, SK11 9BJ.
508C - Miss Danielle Napier, New Cottage, Canon Frome, Ledbury, Herefordshire. HR8 2TG.
509C - Mrs Lisa Hamer, 32 Garden Suburb, Llanidloes, Powys. SY18 6EU
510C - Mr Alisdair Moss, Wrens Park, Down Street, Piltdown, Uckfield, East Sussex, TN22 3XX
511C - Imogen Collis, North House Farm, Long Lane, Fowlmere, Nr Royston, Herts, SG8 7TG
512C - Amy Brown, 3 Blackhouse Cottages, Reston, Eyemouth, TD14 5LR.

A Guide to feeding in-Lamb Ewes

I was asked about writing an article about feed and feeding for the Newsletter after questions were asked on the face book group. I work selling and advising on all agricultural inputs and am on the Feeds Advisor Register.

Feeding the in lamb ewe in late pregnancy is a subject that is often debated with breeders .In this article I will try and put down a structured guide to feeding ewes.

It is important to remember that 70% of foetal growth occurs in the last 6 weeks of pregnancy at a time when the rumens (stomach) capacity is greatly decreasing hence food intake is decreasing.

With this a balanced increase of ENERGY and PROTEIN within the diet should be incorporated .

Getting this wrong with underfeeding in the last 2 months of pregnancy can lead to

- High lamb losses
- Twin lamb disease
- Poor supply of colostrum
- Small weak lambs

Forage

As a feed advisor the first thing is to assess the forage available to feed with any additional supplementation.

Lambing earlier in the year will greatly increase the amount of supplementation required as grass growth is slow .

Most popular forage fed to sheep is hay or haylage. If possible get it tested for feed quality.

A standard hay test might read something like this

D Value (Digestibility) 55-60...The higher the better .

ME (Energy) 8-9 is typical in meadow hay

CP (Crude protein) 8 – 12 is typical in meadow hay.

For the purposes of this exercise we wont discuss silage as I feel it isn't relevant to typical Ryeland breeders.

Please take care to feed only the best quality forage to late pregnancy ewes. As a rule of thumb I would always replace hay left in racks /troughs after a maximum of 24 hours.

Water

Sounds obvious I know but you will be surprised how many farms I visit that have inadequate water supply for their stock. Ensure all troughs/vessels are clean and fit for use. A ewes need for water will greatly increase once lambed ..

Concentrate Feeding

Questions are always asked around feeding

- What do I feed ?
- When do I start feeding ?
- How much do I feed?
- How long do I feed for?
- How do I know what I am feeding is the good for my ewes

I will try and answer these as concise as I can ,but these are only a guide and advice on your situation should always be sought .

For ease of this editorial I will not discuss home mixing as I don't think its relevant for discussion with the small numbers in the flock. Most relevant to us as breeders is Compound feeds either as nuts or rolls. Nuts are for trough feeding and Rolls for feeding on the floor..

Be aware all compound feeds are not the same. Please please ask for a full formulation and specification sheet ,or look at the label on the bag...Don't assume because its called Mega ewe or Quality nut its alright. Specify what protein level you require 16% ,18% or even 20%. Most will feed an 18% and adjust feed levels according to forage quality.

Look at the label on the bag or spec sheet, a list of ingredients will be listed in order of inclusion. Ideally I like to see cereals (wheat ,barley and in some instances oats) nicely sitting at the top.

Bi products from the food industry appear and are great, straight such as Maize Gluten, Wheatfeed, Rape and the reliable Soya. Soya normally appears lower down the ticket as its very high in quality protein and expensive.

Tip

Molasses will appear on the ticket and it sits at around 5% of the feed, so anything below this will be lower inclusion.

Energy levels will not be on the ticket but ask your supplier if unsure.

I would suggest a minimum of 12MJ/kg.

Vitamins and minerals present within the feed should contain high levels of Vitamin E and Selenium. This is vital for both the ewe and the unborn lamb as is related to immunity. Immunity for the lamb will be enhanced by increase vit e levels within the colostrum. Look at vitamin e levels of 150 mg/kg in the best feeds.

Look at the following ewe compounds

Feed 1

List of ingredients WHEAT, WHEATFEED, RAPEMEAL, PALM KERNEL, BARLEY, SUGBLEND, MOLASSES, SOYA, SOYA HULLS, VITS MINS ETC.

Feed 2

List of ingredients WHEATFEED, RAPEMEAL, PALM KERNEL, OATS, MAIZE GLUTEN, MOLASSES, SUNFLOWER, VITS AND MINS

Both feeds are 18% protein but vary greatly on price. Which one is best?

Feed 1 is the best on energy and works out at £14/tonne dearer than Feed 2.

Working on the theory that a ewe will eat approx its own bodyweight in feed in pregnancy and lactation (varies depending on grass growth)

So £14 divided by 1k to get price per kg... 1.4 p per kg extra..

Ryeland ewe at 60kgs ... 60kg times 1.4 p....

Cost per ewe 84p more..

False Economy to buy the cheaper !!

How much to feed and when is the next issue. If ewes are scanned then if at all possible split the ewes into groups.

My opinion is start feeding 8 weeks before lambing..

Singles 0.1kg

Twins 0.2kg

Triplets 0.25kg

Increase the levels depending on ewe condition (thin ewes need more) to a maximum of 1.5 kgs for triplets ,1.15kgs for twins and 0.9 kgs for singles at 2 weeks before lambing.

For unscanned flocks feed at 1.25kgs/ewe .Do not feed anymore than 0.5kg/ewe per feed at any one feed.

Feed at this level to maintain milk levels for the ewe and try and maintain condition once lambing has occurred. This is nearly impossible as the ewe will have negative energy balance and will generally lose a bit of condition 'milk off her back' as farmers would say.

A gradual reduction of feed can take place as grass growth increases in the spring. Feeding can stop once grass growth is 4cm high. (please note these are a guide and advice sought as regards forage quality and quantity assessed) .

Buckets ,Blocks are used in certain situations ,ask for a Sheep High Energy bucket or block ,and can be placed for 24 hour access. Do not place near the water trough as will increase intake and it also makes the ewe exercise by having to walk to the water and the lick. These are useful and can reduce levels of concentrate feeding in flocks.

Please note well ,do not use High Mag buckets on in- lamb ewes that are housed permanently at lambing time .But have them on hand as grass grows in the spring as lush green grass can cause staggers.

Finally advice is out there ,don't be afraid to ask. I was asked to write this article on feeding in lamb ewes and have tried to pass on tips and pointers to guide you.

Remember when buying ewe feed Look at the label!!! And ENJOY LAMBING

Steve Briggs

Lodgeway Ryelands

Notices for Members

2014 Sheep Survey : Enclosed with this newsletter you will find your 2014 sheep survey. Please complete the form as fully and as accurately as possible. For some of you, this may be quite a large task - the database currently records all the sheep registered by a breeder as still being in their ownership. Please mark sheep on the list as being either still on your ownership, sold (with details of the purchaser if possible) or dead. Also add to the bottom of the list any sheep you have bought in from other breeders. Please return the completed forms as soon as possible but before 31st March at the latest. The survey can also be completed online and it is very quick and simple to do. Log on details can be found at the top of the paper survey form. If completing your survey online please email the Secretary with the details of any additional sheep in your ownership that are not included on the survey list.

2015 Subscription Reminder Also included in this mailing is an reminder for your 2015 membership subscription. If you have signed up to pay annually by Banker's Order, most payments are made on the 6th January. If you have not taken up the Banker's Order option, please consider doing so - members paying by this method receive a £5 discount on the annual fee. Please send your subscription by whatever method, before the 31st March. If your fee is not paid by this date you will be removed from the mailing list. Also included on the reminder is an opportunity for you to check that the contact details the RFBS holds for you are correct. Please let the Secretary know if any corrections are required.

Registration Fees: Please note that from 1st March 2015 each batch of sheep registrations submitted on paper forms will be subject to a £2 admin fee. This is to encourage more members to use the online option. The fees for individual animals will remain at £5 for females and £15 for males.

2015 Year Letter: Advance notice that the year letter for lambs born in 2015 will be V.

Annual General Meeting 2015: This year it will be the turn of the Wales region to host the AGM. The date of the meeting is Saturday 25th April 2015 and it will take place at the Royal Welsh Showground, Builth Wells. Further details will follow in due course.

Next Council Meeting: The next meeting of Council takes place on 17th January 2015. If you have any issues you would like Council to discuss, please contact the Secretary by Saturday 4th January.

March Newsletter: Please send copy to the Editor or Secretary by 26th February 2015.

Wishing you all a happy and prosperous 2014!