



Getting Started With Shropshire Sheep

Registered Charity Number 1115599

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Compiled for the society by Alison Schofield

Disclaimer

The information provided in this booklet has been given in good faith, and while every effort has been made, the Society cannot be held responsible for any inaccuracies or omissions.

Introduction

Welcome to the Shropshire Sheep Breeders' Association and Flock Book Society.

The Membership pack you have received contains a CD on which are copies of all the forms you need, plus this booklet which contains useful contacts, rules of the society and easy reference guide to help you. They should all be self-explanatory but, if you have any questions, please ring the registrar or the Secretary and we will be willing to help. The latest flock book and the booklet "Critical Selection of Shropshire Sheep" are also on the CD.

We hope you are members of the society for a long time and enjoy owning Shropshire Sheep.

Society Contacts:

Secretary: Mr Simon Mackay

Address: Chandlers Way, Sutton Manor, St.Helens. Merseyside.
WA9 4TG

Tel: 01744 811124

email: simon.mackay1@virgin.net

Registrar: Mrs Alison Schofield

Address: Brookfield Farm, Sproston Green, Holmes Chapel,
Cheshire, CW4 7LN

Tel: 01477 533256

email: alisonschofield@hotmail.com

An Introduction to Shropshire Sheep

The Shropshire has long been an integral part of the sheep scene in Britain. The breed emerged in the mid-1800s from improvements to the native heath sheep of its home county and north Staffordshire to become the supreme meat breed of the late nineteenth century. Founded in 1882 and publishing its first Flock Book in 1883, the Shropshire Sheep Breeders' Association and Flock Book Society has the distinction of being the oldest recorded sheep breed society in the UK.

Shropshires were exported in vast numbers to the world's developing agricultures, especially to North America and the colonies. In recent years export sales have established a new European profile for the breed with Shropshires sold to Austria, Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Ireland and Switzerland.

The Shropshire breed is now primarily used for crossing to produce prime lamb for slaughter. Docile and hardy, with a sound constitution, thus enabling efficient flock management with minimal time and effort, the Shropshire adapts well to organic systems, gaining weight mainly off grass. Lambing returns of 160-180 per cent are regularly recorded by breeders and commercial producers alike.

A major attribute is the breed's ability to graze reliably amongst conifers without damaging the trees. Its value as an eco-friendly, cost-effective weed suppressant is increasingly borne out on large plantations in England, Ireland, Scotland, Scandinavia and Europe.

Shropshire rams are robust with good conformation. They are renowned for producing strong, active lambs with quick growth rates and lean, long, top-quality carcasses.

Shropshire ewes make excellent mothers. Long-lived, milky and prolific, they successfully rear multiples, producing lambs over many years.

Objectives of the Society

- the promotion of breeding Shropshire Sheep at home and abroad, and the maintenance of their purity
- the publication of a Flock Book, and the annual registration of male and female pedigrees as are proved to the satisfaction of the Council to be eligible for entry
- the annual compilation of a report of the Society's activities including shows, sales and other related events
- obtaining and maintaining breed classes at various shows
- the maintenance and improvement of a high health status
- the continued improvement of the commercial characteristics of Shropshire Sheep and the promotion of commercial opportunities for the breed
- investigating cases of doubtful and suspected pedigrees
- arbitrating upon and settling disputes and questions relating to Shropshire Sheep and their breeding
- furthering the well-being of the breed and the Society by all lawful means

Service Certificate (SSBA03)

SHROPSHIRE SHEEP BREEDERS' ASSOCIATION
SERVICE CERTIFICATE

This is to Certify that the ewe's listed below ran with the ram

Name of Ram _____ Reg No. _____

Between _____ and _____
Date Date

Ewe Reg No's or Tag's

Signature of Owner of Ram _____

Form SSBA/03 _____

Give the top copy of this certificate to the owner of the ewes for presentation when applying for registration. Keep the bottom copy for your records.

1. When selling in-lamb ewes - complete Service Certificate and give to new owner.
2. When using a hired ram ensure that the owner of the ram completes a service certificate as proof of its use.

Registration (SSBA02)

Ewes & Rams

SHROPSHIRE SHEEP BREEDERS' ASSOCIATION
AND FLOCK BOOK SOCIETY
Application For Registration

Enter details of any sheep you wish to register.
(Please refer to conditions of registration for further details)

Ear Tag	Sex	Name (for rams only)	Genotype

PAYMENT:

No.		£
	MALES <input type="checkbox"/> FEMALE <input type="checkbox"/>	
	MALES <input type="checkbox"/> FEMALE <input type="checkbox"/>	
	WEANING UP	
	MALES <input type="checkbox"/> FEMALE <input type="checkbox"/>	
	TOTAL	

Name Prefix

Signature Date

Complete form in the home and send your cheque made payable to the Shropshire Sheep Breeders' Association, together with the top copy of this form to -
The Registrar, Shropshire Sheep Breeders' Association, Brook Hill Farm, Spinston Green, Holmer, Clwyd, Clwyd, C/W4 7LN.
Any queries please phone The Registrar, Alison Schofield on (01477) 533254

Form SSBA02 Registrar Charity No. 1111599

1. All female sheep, including lambs, destined to be sold at a designated breeding sale MUST be registered prior to entry. Male sheep must be eligible for registration ie birth notified. Sheep sold at a primestock only sale do not have to be registered.
2. All shearlings and older sheep MUST be registered before being shown. All shows/sales send copy of entries to Registrar for approval. Any entries not registered will be withdrawn.
3. Home bred ewes in lamb for the first time can be

registered via the Flock Return or by using the Registration Book.

4. As all lambs are birth notified only the ear tag number is required as information is already stored on computer. Lambs can be registered at any time.
5. Ewes and ewe lambs over four months old being sold privately **MUST** be registered by the Breeder even if sold to an unregistered or non-Shropshire flock. Ewe lambs under four months old need only be birth notified.
6. Only current members of the SSBA may register sheep as full pedigree animals. Females born in flocks of lapsed members may be registered only as “Grading Up” ewes, after inspection. Males born under the same circumstances may not be registered.
7. Males can be registered via the Flock Return or by using the Registration Book. **Post to Registrar**

Transfer of Ownership (SSBA04)

Private Sales

Please return form to: Mrs A Schofield, Brookfield Farm, Sprouton Green, Holmes Chapel, Cheshire, CW4 7LN SHROPSHIRE SHEEP BREEDERS ASSOCIATION AND FLOCK BOOK SOCIETY <u>Transfer of Ownership</u>	
This is to certify that:	_____
	Name, Breeding Tag No. of Sheep
Has been sold to:	_____
Name & Address	_____
Of New Owners	_____

On _____	Date of Transfer
And a transfer fee of £. _____	is enclosed (£3 for each)
Signature of Previous Owner	_____
Name & Address	_____
of Previous Owner	_____

FORM SSBA04	Registered Charity No. 1115599

1. The Vendor is responsible for payment of the Transfer Fee to the Society.
2. Please complete the Transfer Form with notification of ear tag number and send to the Registrar together with Pedigree Certificate within 10 days of the sale.
3. The Registrar then sends the certificate to the Purchaser.

Official Show & Sale

1. Vendor to give Pedigree Certificate to the Purchaser as transfer fee is part of the Auctioneer’s levy.
2. Please indicate whether new owner (if not already a member) requires membership forms.

Current Fees

Membership Fee :

Full member	-	£ 35.00
Associate	-	£ 20.00
Life Member	-	£350.00
Junior (under 18)	-	£ 5.00
Overseas	-	£ 25.00
Birth Notification	-	No Fee
Registration: Ewe	-	£ 5.00
Ram	-	£ 15.00
Upgrading	-	£ 3.00
Transfer of Ownership	-	£ 3.00
Birth Notification Book	-	£ 2.00
Registration Book	-	£ 2.00
Transfer of Ownership Forms		SAE
Service Certificate Book	-	£ 1.00

Useful Contacts

Local Animal Health Office

If you are a new flock owner, you will need to register with DEFRA as a “sheep keeper” and tell them your agricultural holding number. This can be done via your local Animal Health Office (which should be listed in your local phone directory). The local AHO will give you a unique “flock number” beginning with “UK” and then 6 digits. If you do not have an agricultural holding number, a CPH, contact the rural payments agency and they will issue you with one.

Sheep Ear Tags

By law, all lambs born on your holding will need to be double tagged (one tag per ear) with a unique animal number on one side and your flock number on the reverse. For animals born after 1st January 2010 one of the tags or a bolus needs to be electronic. The society rules state that the tag should also contain the last two digits of the year of birth and the unique society flock designation letters mentioned on the accompanying letter. There are several companies that will make up the tags and sell you the applicators. They also know the DEFRA rules on tagging and will make sure the tag numbers used on your tags comply with these.

Well-known tag manufacturers include:

Shearwell tags (01977 667222)

Ritchey Tagg (01765 689541)

Symtag (01934 750410)

It is best to place your order a couple of months before lambing, as all companies get busy during peak lambing times.

Welfare of Animals in Transport - Certificate of Competence

As from 5th January 2008, anyone moving sheep further than 65km as part of an economic business needs to apply for a certificate of competence for transporting animals, to comply with new statutory requirements. There are two certificates one for journey times under eight hours the other for journey times over eight hours. The Certificate of Competence involves a simple test and if applying for the over eight hour certificate there will be a practical element as well

to gain the certificate. Further details are to be found on the DEFRA website: www.defra.gov.uk.

Several organisations are offering training and assessments contact details are below:-

The British Wool Marketing Board

Web: www.britishwool.org.uk

Tel:

Callendar, Scotland (01877 339657)

Newtown, Wales (01686 626811)

Exeter, England (012392 477944)

England (01274 688666)

NPTC

Web: www.nptc.org.uk

Tel: 024 7685 7300

ADAS

Web: www.adas.co.uk

Tel: 0845 766 0085

Animal Transporter Authorisation

For journeys over 65km (approx 40 miles) farmers (or the farm/haulage business) must hold a 'Type 1' transporter authorisation. This is issued by Animal Health (previously the State Veterinary Service) and lasts for 5 years. To apply for an authorisation call Animal Health on 0845 603 8395 or visit the DEFRA website. To successfully obtain one you must be able to demonstrate that you have no record of serious infringements of animal welfare legislation in the last 3 years.

Movement records

By law, you have to record all movements of sheep on or off your farm.

A holding register can be obtained from your local DEFRA office or downloaded from their web site at www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/id-move/sheep-goats/pdf/holding_register.pdf

Movement Licences

By law, movement Licences must be filled in and kept on file whenever you move stock on/off your holding. Licenses are available from your local Trading Standards Authority or your Local DEFRA office. Once completed, the white copy should be sent to the Local Trading Standards office of destination premises within 3 days, the pink copy is kept by the sheep keeper at the premises of destination and the yellow copy is kept by the keeper at the premises of departure. (All these directions are printed on the bottom of the license).

Normally you cannot move sheep for 7 days after bringing stock onto your holding unless you have a licensed quarantine building or area. DEFRA might change this period if there is a disease outbreak. You might also find you are limited to where you can move stock to again during a disease outbreak. The most up to date details are on the DEFRA website at www.defra.gov.uk or can be obtained from your local DEFRA office.

Health Records

By law, you will need to keep records of all health treatments given (such as wormers, fly control chemicals etc) as well as anything prescribed by your vet for a sick animal.

You can buy record keeping books from a number of sources, including:

Animal Health Distributors Association (01394 410444)
www.ahda.org.uk

www.noah.co.uk/publications.htm

www.farmrecordbooks.com

Wool

If you want to sell your wool, you will have to register as a producer with the British Wool Marketing Board and obtain a Registration Number. You need to contact the BWMB head office to get a registration form: BWMB, Wool House, Roydsdale Way, Euroway Trading Estate, Bradford BD4 6SE (01274 688666).

Shropshire wool is of good quality and should more than cover the cost of shearing.

Maedi Visna (MV) Accreditation

“MV Accredited” sheep are free from the viral disease, Maedi Visna, which causes wasting and ill thrift. If you have purchased MV Accredited stock, the vendor should provide you with a current MV certificate, listing the ear tag numbers of all the animals you have purchased.

It is worthwhile maintaining MV status, because it enhances the value of breeding stock. To retain MV accreditation, contact the Sheep and Goat Health Scheme, based in Inverness, as soon as possible after buying the sheep (01463 226995). To ensure your sheep do not become infected with the virus, they must be kept separate from other non-accredited animals at all times.

Non-accredited sheep can become MV-accredited following two “clear” blood tests, six months apart. The S&GHS can provide details of how to join the accreditation scheme and the costs involved.

Scrapie Monitoring

“Scrapie Monitored” flocks are registered with DEFRA and have been certified free from Scrapie for at least 3 years. If you have purchased all your stock from a Scrapie Monitored flock, or if the animals have been genotyped and are certified as having the ARR/ARR genotype, you may apply to join the Scrapie Monitoring Scheme. Contact your local Office of Animal Health for details and an application form.

Scrapie Genotyping

Scrapie genotyping is different to Scrapie Monitoring. If you have purchased stock that has been Scrapie Genotyped the vendor should be able to tell you the genotype of the stock and provide you with a genotype certificate.

Sheep Courses

The Breed Society is often asked if there is anywhere that new entrants to farming can obtain basic sheep husbandry skills.

The British Wool Marketing Board runs courses that include sheep shearing, veterinary medicine, lambing, foot care and crutching. For more information, visit the BWMB's website: www.britishwool.org.uk or call them on 01274 688666.

Alternatively, your local agricultural college may run such courses.

Helpful DVD's

Smallholder Series is producing a series of four DVDs called "Sheep On Your Smallholding" to cover all aspects of sheep management. The presenter who interviews various sheep farmers on a range of topics is Adam Henson from the BBC's Countryfile.

The DVD's in the series are:

1. Establishing your flock
2. Managing your flock for peak health
3. The Breeding Flock
4. Sheep for enterprise, business and profit

Smallholder Series has a website: www.smallholderseries.co.uk and they can also be contacted by post:

Carole Youngs,

Green Farm, Blackwells End, Hartpury, Glos GL19 3DB.

Regulations and Conditions of Entry **into the Flock Book**

1. All registered flock-owners must keep a private Flock Book (to be produced to the Editing Committee if called upon to do so), otherwise they will be barred from registering their flocks, as it is obvious no truthful pedigree can be given unless such a course is adopted.
2. Rams to be eligible for entry must be named. No name which has already appeared in the Flock Book can be duplicated. If this regulation is not observed, the Editing Committee reserve to themselves the right of re-naming the ram.
3. No ram will be eligible for entry unless bred by the breeder whose flock is already entered in the Flock Book or accepted for entry in any forthcoming volume.
4. No ram shall be eligible for entry unless the names and numbers of Sire and the Sire of the Dam be given, along with the registration number of the Grand Dam.
5. The Council reserve the right of declining any entry, if so recommended by the Editing and Inspection Committees.
6. No breeder's entry will be received unless he or she complies with the following conditions:-
 - a. that the whole of the sires used in his/her flock from the date of his/her first registrations be inserted into the relevant Flock Book, and that every ram used subsequently must be entered year by year;
 - b. if required, satisfactory proof must be given of the means by which persons registering rams have hired or purchased them.
7. No pure-bred breeding ewes can be introduced into a registered flock except from that of another registered breeder (i.e. a breeder whose flock is recorded in the last published volume of the Flock Book at the time the stock were disposed of), and the owner must furnish the Editing Committee with particulars of numbers and breeding, otherwise his/her entries will not be considered.
8. Only current members of the SSBA may register sheep as full pedigree animals. Females born in flocks of lapsed members may

be registered only as “Grading Up” ewes, after inspection. Males born under the same circumstances may not be registered.

9. Any females to be graded up must be sired by a registered ram and are only accepted for entry to the grading up register subject to the satisfactory inspection by a nominated breed society inspector. Female progeny will only be eligible for full registration as a pedigree ewe at the third generation. .
10. When a flock is advertised to be wholly dispersed, no portion of that flock shall be entered by the vendor when first entering a new flock. If any portion of the flock so advertised is reserved, the sexes, ages and numbers thereof must be fully stated in the catalogue.
11. In case the Council at any future date discover an inaccuracy or fraudulent entry, they reserve the right to cancel such entry and/or expunge the flock in question from the Flock Book.

Regulations for the Export of Sheep

General

1. An Export Sale is defined as any sale where an official ministry health certificate requiring the signature of an LVI (livestock veterinary inspector) is required for the movement of the livestock.
2. If any member of the SSBA is approached regarding ANY (society led or private) export of Shropshire sheep, they should immediately inform the Sales Officer.
3. Society-led export orders will be organised and managed by the Export Committee, comprising the President, the Secretary, the Export Officer, the Sales Officer, the Treasurer and the Registrar.
4. Export prices will be set annually by the SSBA's Council.
5. Export prices must be adhered to for all sheep, whether sold as part of a society-led export, or sold privately.
6. The Export Levy will be reviewed annually at the AGM. It is currently 5% of the sale price, where inspection is involved. Where there is no inspection (for example, where Purchasers have selected their own animals) the levy is 4%.
7. All SSBA members exporting sheep, whether as part of a society-led order or as a private sale, must pay the export levy at the relevant level to the breed society.
8. All members will be notified by the Export Officer, at least once a year via the Society's newsletter or another such.
9. The Export Officer must keep up to date with any changes in export regulations and provide an advisory service to non MV flock-owners who wish to export.

Stock Eligibility and Selection

1. Members must indicate on their Annual Flock Return if they wish to supply sheep for export in the coming 12 months.
2. Members wishing to export must also send to the Registrar with their Flock Return, a copy of their current Scrapie Monitoring Scheme certificate, or written confirmation from their vet stating that their flock has been free from Scrapie for at least 3 years to date.

3. The Flock Return and the certificate or veterinary confirmation must be returned to the Registrar by 31st January, in order for members to be eligible to export in that same year. Eligible Flocks must also meet the necessary export health requirements.
4. All sheep forward for export must be registered and registration fees paid prior to the presentation of sheep for inspection.
5. To ensure that all members are given an equal chance to export males, the Export Committee shall keep a list of flocks eligible to export stock (Ram Export List). Ram orders shall be allocated in strict rotation, and if a breeder is unable to supply a ram when first requested, he/she shall remain at the top of the list until able to fulfil an order.
6. If the blood lines of the ram do not meet the requirements of the order then the next ram on the rota will be considered. The owners/breeders of the ram(s) passed over will maintain their position in the rota until they can fulfil an order.
7. New breeders supplying sheep for export shall be added at the bottom of the Ram Export List and must wait until they reach the top before being invited to send a male for export.
8. By the end of June, all Breeding Ewes must have had their lambs weaned and be completely dried off.

Breed Inspections and Export Assembly

1. A number of breed inspectors appointed by the SSBA's Council will cover different parts of the country.
2. Inspections will ensure that eligible sheep (both male and female) meet breed standards. They will be carried out on the owner's farm by an appointed inspector, before sheep are transported to the Export Assembly Centre.
3. The Export Committee will decide upon the most appropriate Export Assembly Centre to use for each consignment, based on the location of breeders supplying stock.
4. The Export Assembly Centre will have Public Liability Insurance.
5. All breeders supplying sheep for export will be asked to sign a "disclaimer" which states that the society cannot be held responsible if animals are accidentally injured or fall ill whilst at the Export Assembly Centre, and are subsequently judged unfit by a vet for the export consignment. (Breeders can insure their

own sheep for this eventuality) that the society cannot be held responsible if animals are accidentally injured or fall.

6. It is the responsibility of the breeder to collect any such sheep within one month of delivery providing the animal is fit to travel and subject to any movement restrictions in place at the time.
7. The Inspector is responsible for conformity to breed standard not to the weight of the sheep which is the responsibility of the vendor.

Procedure to be Followed by the Export Committee for Society Led Exports

1. The Registrar will inform the Export Committee of member's eligible to export and the size of each qualifying flock, as soon as practical after 31st January.
2. The Secretary will then send each member a copy of the rules and any specific health regulations or requirements, reminding them that must be registered with the SSBA and that registration fees have to be paid prior to the presentation of sheep for inspection.
3. On receipt of a sales enquiry, the Sales Officer shall contact the potential Purchaser(s) and send them a copy of the Export Order Form and letter and, if and when required, an Export Confirmation Form.
4. On receipt of a completed Export Order Form from a Purchaser or group of Purchasers, the Secretary shall contact all members by letter that are eligible to supply sheep for export to ascertain what stock they have available.
5. Before allocation of the order the Secretary will inform members eligible to export.
6. The Export and Sales Officers shall determine how the order will be allocated. Males will be allocated according to the Ram Export List and females will be allocated pro rata to the size of breeders' flocks.
7. Breeders supplying sheep for an export order will be contacted by the Export Officer at least one month before the export is due to leave the country.
8. A reserve ram will be nominated (next on the Ram Export List). This ram will also be B. ovis tested. If this ram is not required for the final export order, the member will be reimbursed, upon

receipt by the Treasurer, of a copy of the veterinary surgeons invoice up to a maximum value of £50. This sum will be taken from the export levy.

9. If insufficient females are offered by relevant flocks, the spare allocation will be divided equally amongst other participating flocks.
10. The number of sheep each breeder is requested to supply will be confirmed in a letter to each breeder sent by the Secretary.
11. The Export Officer will contact the Society Inspector(s) required, giving due notice of the deadline by which inspections must be carried out and farms and stock numbers involved.
12. Registration documents will not be released by the Society's Registrar until all registration fees are paid by the Vendor.

Procedure to be followed for Private Exports

1. On receiving notice about a private export sale, the Sales Officer shall inform the Export Committee of the details, and an invoice shall be raised for the export levy by the Treasurer within two weeks of the export.
2. The Vendor will send a list of sheep exported plus address of the purchaser to the Registrar, within one week of the export.

Specific to the Nominated Society Sheep Inspectors

1. The inspectors must have no vested interest in the sheep they are inspecting. This is determined by the Registrar and Export Officer.
2. Inspectors should identify each animal inspected, and for any which fail the inspection, a reason must be given in a written statement signed by the inspector the inspection results should be forwarded to the Export Officer. Then held by the Registrar for three months after the export has completed.
3. The Inspector must ensure that the breeder/owner is not present during the inspection.
4. The reasons why any sheep fail to pass the inspection will be explained to the owner by the inspector, after the inspection has been completed.

5. The Inspectors will invoice the Treasurer Fuel expenses only for the inspections. This will come out of the inspection levy, and the remainder of the levy will be split between the inspectors pro rata to the number of sheep inspected.

Terms and Conditions Set For Export

1. Overseas Purchasers must confirm their acceptance of the terms and conditions of the export order by signing the Export Confirmation Form and returning this to the Sales Officer.
2. All monies for the sheep are to be paid by the purchaser at least 5 working days prior to the date set for the export, to the SSBA Society's bank account, by money transfer, in pounds sterling.
3. All monies are to be paid by a Sterling bank transfer and all charges are to be paid by the Purchaser.

Specific to the Export Officer Following the Export

1. All sheep records must be sent to the Registrar for inclusion in the relevant Flock Book.
2. The Publicity Officer must be informed of export consignments for the necessary promotion of the breed to take place.
3. The Export Officer must provide the Treasurer with a full account of export, including numbers sent and sale price, within 48 hours of dispatch.

Specific to the Treasurer

1. All monies will be paid to the Vendor(s) after the deduction of any levies, expenses, fees etc due to the Society, within 5 working days of the export consignment leaving the UK.

Regulations on the Upgrading of Unregistered Shropshire Ewes

Pure Bred Ewe FA prefix	1 st cross Ewe FB prefix		Pedigree ewe eligible for full pedigree registration
Pedigree Ram		2 nd cross Ewe FC prefix	
	Pedigree Ram		
		Pedigree Ram	

Procedure

1. The Applicant will contact the registrar for an application form which should be returned together with the appropriate inspection and registration fees and, where applicable, membership and flock prefix fees.
2. On receipt of the application and correct fees, the Registrar will forward the inspection forms to the applicant together with details of the Society inspector who will be notified of the request for inspection.
3. The Applicant will contact the inspector to arrange a mutually convenient time for the inspection. He/she should complete the form(s) prior to inspection. Individual ear numbers of the ewes selected for inspection must be indicated. Ewes without individual ear numbers will not be inspected. All sheep should be penned up for the inspection.
4. The Inspector will conduct the inspection for breed standard. Pass or fail will be indicated for each animal.
5. The Applicant will send the top copy of the results to the Registrar.
6. The Applicant will reimburse the Inspector for the cost of fuel only.
7. The Registrar will register the animals when the inspector has been reimbursed.

Summary of Charges (current at time of going to print)

Payable to the SSBA £ 2 inspection fee per ewe
£ 3 registration fee per ewe
£35 membership fee if applicable.
£ 5 flock prefix fee if applicable.

Payable to Inspector Fuel costs only