

**The Shropshire Sheep Breeders' Association  
and Flock Book Society**

**Flock Book**

Volume 101

2001

Rams Registered at Home

Nos 955 - 984

Ewe Registrations F03292 - F03558

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# Foot and Mouth Disease

2001 will be remembered for its disastrous implications for the livestock industry. The discovery of Foot and Mouth Disease in February led to the slaughter of millions of farm animals, predominantly sheep. The ensuing controls, imposed to wipe out the disease, meant that animal movement was curtailed for the next six months. As a result, there were no livestock markets, and breed sales and agricultural shows were also unable to take place. Continued emphasis on increased biosecurity, animal identification, and movement licensing, means that British farming will never be the same again.

Fortunately, as a breed, the Shropshire fared better than many others. Only one flock – that of Mr. and Mrs. R. G. Lee, from Devon – was culled because of contiguous concerns. The Association would like to express its thanks to those members who offered animals to the newly-created Sheep Bank, from which it was hoped that affected flocks would be able to draw. In the event, this scheme was unable to operate because of movement restrictions affecting restocking. The Lees were able to source a new flock from John and Pauline Bowles in the same county.

In 2001, Council inaugurated a Special Award for services to the SSBA. The first recipient was Dick Dorrell, Past President of the Association, who has kept Shropshires for many years, like his father before him. As will be seen from previous Flock Books, Dick has had a highly distinguished showing career, always willing to offer help and expertise to newcomers to the breed. Because of FMD restrictions, it was not possible to organise a suitable occasion to mark the award, but it was to be subsequently presented in the spring of 2002, with the society's best wishes to Dick – who had been unwell for some time – and his wife Cheryl.

# **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 world.

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 Ireland, Scotland, Scandinavia and Switzerland.

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.

# Facts and Figures

## Wool Properties

The Shropshire clips a heavy, dense fleece of good staple and fine texture. The average weight of a fleece is 3-4 kg, and the average length of staple is 10cm. The wool has a Bradford count of 54-56 (32 micron), does not felt and is in demand for traditional hand-knitting.

## Crossing Attributes

When used as a terminal sire for prime lamb production, Shropshires are recognised as excellent crossing rams thanks to the superior conformation, growth rates and carcass quality of their lambs. Pure-bred and Shropshire-cross lambs are typically ready for slaughter at 12-15 weeks old, with a typical carcass weight of 18kg and MLC carcass classification of U3L . The resultant meat is lean, succulent and rich in flavour, and contains a low percentage of bone.

## Official Breed Description

The Shropshire is medium sized, with typical mature rams and ewes weighing 120kg and 80kg respectively. Shropshire Sheep are active and alert with a free action.

Head naturally clean soft black face, with a covering of wool on the poll. Rams should possess a bold masculine head

Ears soft black in colour, of medium length and well set on

Neck muscular and not too long

Body well fleshed, long, deep and symmetrical. A broad, straight back with well-sprung ribs. Rump - quarters long and wide, dock well set on and legs of mutton full and deep

Legs medium length, of strong bone and upright joints, well set apart and soft black in colour

Skin cherry skin covered with a dense, fine quality wool of  
and Wool good staple

# 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

# Shropshire Sheep Breeders' Association and Flock Book Society

## Officers and Council 2001

President	Mrs S Shimwell
Vice President	Mrs R B Higgins
Honorary Treasurer	Mrs F A Cotton
Secretary	Mrs T Newman
Registrar	Mrs A Schofield
Export Officer	Mrs M Farquhar
Merchandise Officer	Mrs C Wadland
Press & Publicity Officer	Mrs P Geddes
Sales Officer	Mrs C Jakeman

## Council

The Officers plus:  
Mr R Spencer  
Ms L Bowles

## Sheep Health Committee

The President  
Mr J E Bradshaw  
Mrs M Farquhar

## Society Representatives on National Sheep Association Councils

Mr J H Bowles - South West  
Mrs M Farquhar - National

# Secretary's Report

## to the 2001 Annual General Meeting

Madam President and Society Members

Well, what a year to look back upon – for some sheep farmers a disaster from which they cannot return and for others an animal-less time and a long patient wait.

As there were no shows – therefore no results what-so-ever to reflect upon – haven't we all missed those amazingly busy days getting sheep in, selecting then trimming and training etc. and loading along with flock boxes of equipment from flasks to plasters and sandwiches, white coats etc. etc.

This change to our lives all began as so many show folk had just about finished lambing and I was in the midst of organising SSBA rosettes for the season, when on Wednesday 21 February an announcement of Foot and Mouth Disease in Northumberland was made. Several days later, countless news reports - I felt that I must listen and soon like farmers all over the country we closed the gates, organised disinfectant and 'keep out' signs as announcements of the numbers of animals being slaughtered shocked and terrified us. The disease seemed to be all around us although in the East of England we were fortunate and there wasn't a case anywhere but quietness 'set' into the countryside as it did in areas where the disease was rife. Doubtless we all have friends or family whose animals have been lost. Thankfully there was only one lost flock of Shropshire sheep, that of Mr and Mrs R Lee in N. Devon who have asked me to convey their thanks and appreciation for the support that they were given, this they found so helpful. They were also most grateful for SSBA members who offered to help them to re-establish a flock, however, this proves to be impractical due to the current Defra regulations. However, I understand that they plan to re-stock when circumstances allow.

Besides the horror of the disease itself there have been the mountains of paperwork – including a longer fax than the width of the road animals were planned to cross – the ever changing rules – the hopeful promise of when it would all end. Exasperating – exaggerated and what a wealth of stories it has evoked! Thanks to farmers and their humour besides their concern.

Thankfully – for SSBA the merchandise scene led by Carol Wadland and Sue Shimwell has continued to spin gently – there's plenty of wool here today and some lovely garments thanks to their efforts.

It is a pleasure acting as secretary for this Society. May we all hope that 2002 brings back shows and a return to normal sheep keeping activities. With a special thanks to Les who kindly allows me to use the office facilities thus helping SSBA.

Tricia Newman

# Regulations and Conditions of Entry into the Flock Book

1. All registered Flock keepers must keep a private Flock Book (to be produced to the Council 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 a 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 the Sire and the Sire of Dam be given, along with the registration number of the Sire 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 included unless he/she complies with the following conditions:
  - a THAT THE WHOLE OF THE SIRES used in the flock from the date of the 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. Any graded up females shall be inspected for full registration as pedigree ewes at the fourth generation and only accepted for entry subject to a satisfactory report by a Society inspector.
9. 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.
10. 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 on the Export of Sheep**

## **General**

1. In the event of a member of the Society being approached regarding an export, the Secretary, President and Export Officer must be informed.
2. All members will be reminded via periodic editions of the Society Newsletter of the requirements of sheep for export.
3. All monies to be paid by the purchaser prior to the export, to the Society Account, by money transfer, in pounds sterling.
4. All monies are to be paid by sterling draft, therefore ensuring that all bank charges are agreed in advance .
5. Breeders will be invited to submit for export numbers of sheep pro rata to the size of their flocks.

## **Specific to Vendor**

1. The Society shall organise the export.
2. The Society Inspector will select all sheep prior to departure.
3. A levy on the sale price to be set at AGM, with periodic review. The Export Levy is currently 5%.
4. All registration fees must be paid prior to the presentation of the sheep for inspection.

## **Specific to the Export Officer**

1. At the beginning of each year all members owning MV and MV/Scrapie Monitored flocks to be asked what sheep they have available for possible export.
2. All members owning MV and MV/Scrapie Monitored flocks must be informed of any relevant export enquiry.
3. All sheep forward for export to be registered prior to presentation.
4. Export Officer to write/fax Society Inspector giving due notice of inspection date and obtain confirmation of availability.
5. All monies for the purchase must be paid to the Society bank account by money transfer in pounds sterling prior to the despatch of the sheep
6. All sheep records must be sent to Registrar for inclusion in the relevant Flock Book.
7. The Publicity Officer must be informed of exports for the necessary promotion of the breed to take place.

8. 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 Society Registrar**

1. Registration documents must not be released by Society Registrar until all registration fees are paid by the vendor.

### **Specific to the Treasurer**

1. Upon receipt of an invoice from the vendor, all monies will be paid to the vendors after the deduction of any levies, expenses, fees etc. due to the Society, within 5 working days. Copies of the accounts must be passed to the Secretary within the same period.

# SSBA Official Ear Marking System

The Society's official earmarking requires the following to be adopted by members:

All lambs, before they are over two months old must be either tagged or tattooed. This must contain the breeder's flock designation letters, the consecutive number of each lamb born and identification of the year in which they are born, eg AA00102.

Sheep born after 1st December 1997, when reaching six months old require a second tag/tattoo in order to verify their identity should they lose the first tag/tattoo. This second tag/tattoo contains the same information as the first tag/tattoo.

Replacement tags should always contain the sheep's original identity.

Sheep will not be accepted at shows or sales unless properly tagged/tattooed.

Sheep for export may have additional tags inserted by the society before dispatch.

New MAFF legislation requires tags for sheep born on or first moved off the birth holding on or after January 1 2001 to consist of the letters UK followed by the new numeric flock mark of the birth holding (6 numbers). Tags must be printed, not hand-written. They can be any colour except RED. Tattoos must also carry the flock mark but need not include UK.

Each member must keep a private flock book reflecting a reliable system of earmarking, so as to identify each sheep, and be prepared to produce the same for inspection by the Society's officers. The Society now operates a computerised ewe and ram registration scheme. This assists both the Society and the flock owner in determining sire and dam lines.

# New Flocks Introduced in 2001

Name	Prefix	Letters	Date Joined
<b>MISS A BURNHAM</b>	WELLAND	MQ	February 2001

## Sheep Obtained From

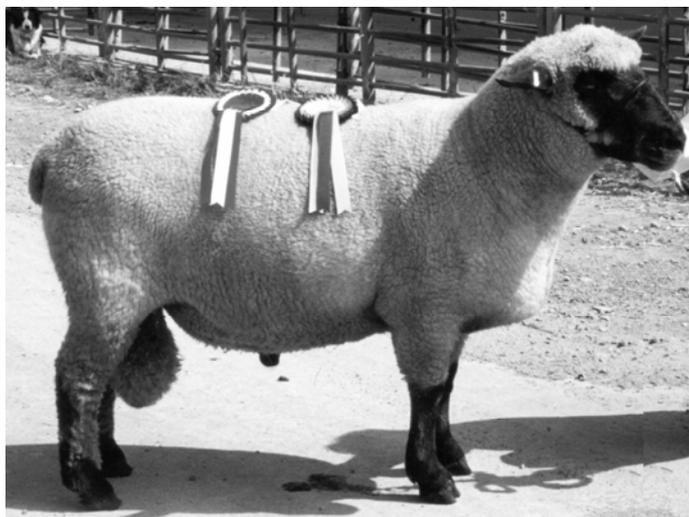
Mrs M Farquhar & Son	Piddington
JH & PA Bowles	Sidedowns
Mrs E Stewart	Frenchlands

## **“USHERS” Flock**

**MV ACCREDITED**

**SCRAPIE MONITORED**

Limited Quantity of Quality stock For Sale  
(Prize Winners at Shows Entered)



**“Ushers Jake”**

Mrs Marion Webb  
Leicestershire  
(1 mile Junction 20 M1)

Phone/Fax  
01455 554351

# Society Forms

## Flock Return

1. You will receive this form in the post. It must be returned completed with the necessary remittance to the Registration Officer by 31 JANUARY each year for your flock details to be included in the Flock Book. (*NO reminders will be sent*).
2. You may register at this time ewes not previously registered that are in lamb for the first time.
3. If you have used a ram lamb, or a previously unregistered ram (*must be birth notified*) it also needs to be registered.
4. £1 is payable of every ram used in your current breeding programme.
5. In the envelope you should place:  
Flock Return Form  
Cheque to include **Annual Membership Fee**

## Post to Registration Officer

## Birth Notification (blue book)

1. **THERE IS NO NEED TO DUPLICATE** – whatever system you use, whether it be a piece of paper hanging in the barn, official Birth Notification Forms or sending a disc, if it has the ewe's tag number on it with what she has produced, together with the tag number of lambs, the Registration Officer will accept it.
2. To be sent within 90 days of birth and not less than 2 weeks before being shown. NB ALL lambs must be notified before being shown. You will receive a certificate of Birth Notification to take to shows.
3. Remember to keep a copy for your records

## Post to Registration Officer

## **Service Certificate (green book)**

1. When selling in-lamb ewes - complete Service Certificate & 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 (yellow book)**

### **Ewes & Rams**

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 Registration Officer 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. Ewe/ewe lambs being sold privately **MUST** be registered by the Breeder.
6. Rams can be registered using the Registration Book.

## **Post to Registration Officer**

## Transfer of Ownership (pink form)

### 1 Private Sales

The Vendor is responsible to the Society for ensuring that the completed form with notification of ear tag numbers, plus Transfer fee of £3.00 per sheep, be sent to the Registrar within 10 days of the sale. Vendor sends Pedigree Certificate to Registrar together with transfer form/fee. Registrar then sends Certificate to Purchaser.

Vendor must either

- a) Inform the Purchaser of Society Transfer fee and that separate cheque made out to the SSBA will be required to cover this fee.
- b) Offer to pay Transfer fee.

### 2 Official Show & Sale

Vendor to give Pedigree Certificate to the Purchaser as transfer fee is part of the Auctioneer's levy.

3 Please indicate whether new owner (if not already a member) requires membership forms. Try to encourage membership

## Current Fees

Birth Notification - No Fee

Registration:	Ewe	-	£	5.00	
	Ram	-	£	10.00	
	Upgrading	-	£	3.00	
	Transfer of Ownership	-	£	3.00	
	Birth Notification Book	-	£	2.00	<i>(enough for 200 births)</i>
	Registration Book	-	£	2.00	
	Transfer of Ownership forms			SAE	
	Service Certificate Book	-	£	1.00	<i>(10 certificates)</i>

## Grading Up Scheme

The Shropshire Sheep Breeders' Association operates a Grading Up scheme where fourth cross ewes only are eligible on inspection for entry into the pedigree register. The process is as follows:

1. A ewe is mated to a registered Shropshire Ram and the resulting female offspring are eligible to a FA indicator.
2. This FA indicated ewe is mated to a registered Shropshire Ram and the resulting female offspring are eligible to a FB indicator.
3. This FB indicated ewe is mated to a registered Shropshire Ram and the resulting female offspring are eligible to a FC indicator.
4. This FC indicated ewe is mated to a registered Shropshire Ram and the resulting female offspring inspected by a Society Inspector. When the Inspector is happy with the animal it is eligible for entry into the pedigree register and an F indicator.

### Pedigree of a Graded Up Ewe

Pedigree Ewe	3rd Cross Ewe FC Indicator	2nd Cross Ewe FB Indicator	1st Cross Ewe FA Indicator	Unknown Ewe
			Pedigree Ram	Pedigree Ram
		Pedigree Ram		
	Pedigree Ram			