



**Getting Started
With
Shropshire Sheep
January 2021**

Registered Charity Number 1115599

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Compiled for the society by Alison Schofield

Version January 2021

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, the booklet "Critical Selection of Shropshire Sheep", A Diary Guide to the Shepherd's Year and the Ped eWeb on line flock book user guide 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

1 Dam Lane, Croft, Cheshire, WA3 7HE

Tel: 00 44 (0)1925 765304

E-Mail: secretary@shropshire-sheep.co.uk

Registrar: Mrs Alison Schofield

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

Tel: 01477 533256

email: registrar@shropshire-sheep.co.uk

Registrations Clerk: Mrs Ruth Mawer

Address: Registrations, Shropshire Sheep Breeders Association, Meadow View, Kelby, Grantham, Lincolnshire NG32 3AJ

Tel: 01400 230142

Email: registrationsclerk@shropshire-sheep.co.uk

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 often 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 and extensive 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 and orchards 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.

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 microns) 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 carcass classification of R3L or U3L. The resultant meat is lean, succulent and rich in flavour.

Official Breed Description

The Shropshire is medium sized, with typical mature rams and ewes weighing 120kg+ and 70kg+, 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 gigots full and deep;
Legs	Medium length, of strong bone and upright joints, well set apart and soft black in colour;
Skin and Wool	Cherry pink skin covered with a dense, fine quality wool of good staple

UNDESIRABLE TRAITS

Receding wool above the eyes.

Lack of wool around the base of the ears.

Excessive black wool or patches of dark skin with no wool on the head, either in front of or between the ears;

White specs or mottling on the face, ears and/or legs.

Wool Blindness due to excessive wool around or in front of the eyes.

Throatiness – being loose skin below the neck.

Horn stubs.

Thick, coarse, long, pricked or drooping ears.

Drooping rump (dock set low).

Roman nose.

Coarse wool on breeches.

Coloured wool in fleece.

Sheep which vary significantly from the Breed Description should be carefully considered before registration.

NOTE:- Judges/ inspectors are requested to adhere to the above breed standards.

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

Showing Shropshire Sheep

- All sheep must be eligible to enter, (see the SSBA's registration rules and the show societies' rules).
- Exhibitors must be paid up members, at most shows it is possible that the sheep can be led by a third party, check show rules.
- At shows with both breed and Downland/Rare breed sections, exhibitors are asked to support the Shropshire classes.
- Lambs must be born after the 1st December of the current season, and should be trimmed unless entering untrimmed classes, where squaring off of the tail only is permitted.
- Rams and shearlings may be shorn anytime after 1st January.
- Breeding ewes must have reared lamb(s) in the current season and must be shorn after 1st May and be shown untrimmed, except squaring off of the tail.
- SSBA trophies are awarded annually to the exhibitor gaining the most points at their six best shows.
- Points for the Farquhar and President's trophies are only applicable to sheep of exhibitors' own breeding.
- The Farquhar Trophy is open to exhibitors showing in Shropshire breed classes.
- The President's Trophy is open to those showing in Any Other Down Breed or Rare Breed classes.
- The Novice Trophy is open to exhibitors showing in Shropshire breed classes in their first five years of showing, or until they win the Novice Trophy three times.
- SSBA Young Members' Hornpipe Quaich is open to junior members showing in Shropshire breed classes/Any Other Breed and Rare Breed classes. Young Handler classes are also eligible for points. Exhibitors must have a Current Junior Membership and be 18 years of age or under on 31st December of the show season applied for.

Regulations and Conditions of Entry into the Flock Book

1. The main Flock Book is restricted to sheep registered in the British Isles. The European Flock Book is limited to any country where the SSBA is responsible for the registration of Shropshire Sheep. The European Flock Book is available only in digital format. Where “Flock Book” is used in the following regulations it refers to both Flock Books.
2. The list of countries where the SSBA is responsible for the registration of Shropshire Sheep is published annually in the Flock Book and is kept up to date by the Registrar. If and when required the SSBA will facilitate data transfer to another flock book provider but will not be liable to pay any costs associated with such data transfer. If for any reason beyond the SSBA’s control the Society is unable to continue to provide a registration service for overseas sheep, the SSBA will not be liable for any refunds of registration fees already paid.
3. All registered flockowners must keep a private Flock Book (to be produced to the Registrar 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.
4. 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 Registrar reserves the right of renaming the ram.
5. 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.
6. 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.
7. The Council reserves the right of declining any entry, if so recommended by the Registrar.
8. No breeder’s entry will be accepted 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.

9. 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 Registrar with particulars of numbers and breeding, otherwise his/her entries will not be considered.
10. No pedigree breeding animals, their semen, ova and embryos can be accepted into the flock book in any country where the SSBA is responsible for registration unless accompanied by an equivalent Zootechnical Certificate from the equivalent breed society in the country of origin.
11. The SSBA will enter into the flock book, animals of the same breed, line or cross that are eligible for entry under the Society's breed criteria, without discrimination on account of their country of origin.
12. Only current members of the SSBA may register their sheep as pedigree Shropshires. Animals born in flocks during years when their membership of the SSBA has lapsed may not be registered.
13. The Society's Grading-Up Scheme closed on 31st March 2014. After this date, no new flocks will be allowed to join the Scheme. Flocks already participating will be permitted to complete the Grading-Up process.
14. Any females already on the Grading-Up Scheme must be sired by a registered ram. Female progeny will only be eligible for full registration as pedigree ewes at the third generation.
15. 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.
16. 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.
17. All Rules and Regulations will only be issued in English and if they are translated by anyone the English version is deemed the master. Any disputes and issues regarding entries to the Flock Book, including those that may arise with breeders in countries where the SSBA is responsible for registrations, will be dealt with in English and under English law.

Society Forms and Regulations For Their Use

ANNUAL FLOCK RETURN

1. You will receive this form in the post or via email in the autumn. It must be completed and returned with the necessary remittance to the address on the form by 30 NOVEMBER each year for your flock details to be included in the Flock Book. (NO reminders will be sent).
2. You may register on the flock return ewes not previously registered that are in-lamb for the first time. (These animals must be birth notified)
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 for every ram used in your current breeding programme.
5. In the envelope you should place:
 - a) Membership Renewal Form
 - b) Flock Return Form
 - c) Annual Ewe List – Can also be completed on line via Ped eWeb
 - d) Annual Return Survey– Can also be completed on line via Ped eWeb
 - e) Cheque to include All Fees

Post to Address on the form.

BIRTH NOTIFICATION (SSBA 5)

Shropshire Sheep Breeders' Association
and Flock Book Society

BIRTH NOTIFICATION FORM

Please return form to:- Registrations Clerk, SSBA, Meadow View, Kelby, Grantham, Lincolnshire
NG32 3AJ. Email: registrationsclerk@shropshire-sheep.co.uk

Breeders Prefix & Letters.....

Ewe Tag or Reg No.	Ram's Reg No.	D.O.B. of Lamb	Sex	Lamb Details	Est Tag

PAYMENT:

No.	Submission Date Before 30 th June	FREE	£
	Submission Date 1 st July - 31 st December	£6	
	Submission Date After 31 st December	£20	
	TOTAL		

Breeders Signature.....

Keep A Copy For Your Own Records

SSBA 5 Birth Notification Form v6 Dec2020 Registered Charity Number 1125599

1. Birth Notification must include ALL the following data:- Eartag or Reg No of Dam, Reg No of Sire, Date of Birth and the sex and tag number of all the lambs. You can use any method to send the data for example the official Birth Notification Forms or electronically via PedeWeb.
2. To be sent or completed on-line as soon as possible after birth and in any event on or before 30th June. All lambs must be Birth Notified at least two weeks prior to any show. Up to 30th June it is free to birth notify lambs.
3. Birth Notifications received after 30th June but before 31st December will carry a charge of £6 per lamb.

4. Birth Notifications received after 31st December will be at the Registrar's and Council's discretion and carry a charge of £20 per lamb.

5. ALL lambs must be Birth Notified before being shown. You will receive a certificate of Birth Notification to take to shows.
6. Your sheep will be issued with a "BN" number visible via PedeWeb.

Remember to keep a copy for your records.

Post to Address on the form.

SERVICE CERTIFICATE (SSBA 8)

Can be completed either on line via Ped eWeb or by using Form SSBA8.

1. When selling in-lamb ewes - complete a Service Certificate and give this 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 (SSBA 6)

Can be completed either on line via Ped eWeb or by using Form SSBA6.

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. The animal's Scrapie Genotype can be included on the registration certificate, if the animal has been scrapie genotyped. The genotype result should be supported with documentation from the testing laboratory and will only be included by request.

3. All shearlings and older sheep **MUST** be registered before being shown. Any entries not registered will be withdrawn.

4. Home-bred ewes in-lamb for the first time can be registered via the Flock Return or by using the Registration Form.

5. 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.

6. 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.

7. Only current members of the SSBA may register sheep as full pedigree animals. Females and males born in flocks of lapsed members may not be registered. Post to Address on the form

TRANSFER OF OWNERSHIP (SSBA 9)



The image shows the SSBA 9 Transfer of Ownership Form. At the top, it reads 'Shropshire Sheep Breeders' Association and Flock Book Society' and 'Transfer of Ownership'. The form contains several fields: 'This is to certify that:' followed by a line for '(Name, Ear Tag and Reg No of Sheep)'; 'Has been sold to:' followed by lines for 'Name & Address of New Owner'; 'Date of Transfer:' followed by a line; and 'Signature of Previous Owner:' followed by lines for 'Name & Address of Old Owner'. At the bottom, it says 'Please return form to: Registrations, Shropshire Sheep Breeders' Association, Meadow View, Kelby, Grantham, Lincolnshire NG32 3AJ' and 'Email: registrations@shropshire-sheep.co.uk'. The footer includes 'SSBA 9 Transfer of Ownership Form v5 Jan2020' and 'Registered Charity Number 1115599'.

Can be completed either on line via Ped eWeb or by using Form SSBA9.

PRIVATE SALES

1. A transfer of ownership fee of £3/head is payable to the Society by either the vendor or the purchaser and should be sent along with a completed Transfer Form with notification of ear tag number,

within 10 days of the sale whenever a registered Shropshire is sold. The future progeny of sheep that have been sold cannot be registered with the SSBA until the transfer fee has been paid.

2. The Registration Certificate to be given to the Purchaser.

3. Please inform secretary whether new owner (if not already a member) requires membership forms.

NATIONAL SHOW & SALES

Registrar to give all Pedigree Certificates to the Auctioneer, who will give them to the purchasers, as transfer fee is collected by the auctioneer on behalf of the breed society.

PLEASE NOTE, ALL OFFICIAL SSBA FORMS CAN NOW BE DOWNLOADED FROM THE BREED SOCIETY'S WEBSITE (PUBLICATIONS AND FORMS SECTION)

Current Fees

Membership Fee :

Full Member	-	£	40.00
Associate Membership	-	£	25.00
Overseas Member	-	£	40.00
Life Member	-	£	400.00
Junior (under 18)	-	£	5.00
Birth Notification	-		No Fee

Registration:

Ewe	-	£	6.00
Ram	-	£	16.00

(Posted certificates are available at an additional cost of £2/Certificate)

These fees are to be reviewed annually. All payments to the society will be in £ Sterling and the sender is responsible for paying all costs.

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. Any changes to the export levy will be agreed by Council. 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. 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 include the expiry dates of MV Accreditation & Scrapie Monitoring Schemes or Certificate of Compliance signed by their vet on the Flock Return form.
3. Members will then be requested by the Sales Officer to send a copy of their MV & Scrapie Monitored Certificate or Certificate of Compliance to the Export Officer with a deadline date.
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 all flocks eligible to export stock. Ram orders shall be allocated in strict rotation and this does not depend upon the breeder supplying females to export orders. 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. Only sheep that have been inspected on farm can be taken to the Assembly Centre. No substitutes allowed.
7. 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.
8. 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.
9. By the end of June, all Breeding Ewes accepted for export 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. The Inspector is responsible for conformity to breed standard not to the weight of the sheep which is the responsibility of the vendor.
6. 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). 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.

PROCEDURE TO BE FOLLOWED BY THE EXPORT COMMITTEE FOR SOCIETY LED EXPORTS

1. The Registrar will inform the Export Committee of members eligible to export and the size of each qualifying flock, as soon as practical after 31st January.

2. 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 confirmation letter, if and when required.
3. On receipt of a completed Export Order form and deposit from a Purchaser or group of Purchasers, the Sales Officer shall contact all members by letter/email that are eligible to supply sheep for export and attach the Ram & Ewe Rotation form. This shows the allocation for each member for both ewes and rams.
4. Members to confirm to the Sales Officer that they can supply their allocation.
5. Males will be allocated according to the Ram Rotation form and must be tested free from Brucella Ovis and females will be allocated pro rata to the size of breeders' flocks.
6. 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.
7. A reserve ram will be nominated (next on the Ram Rotation form). This ram will also be Brucella 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 surgeon's invoice up to a maximum value of £50. This sum will be taken from the export levy.
8. If insufficient females are offered by relevant flocks, the spare allocation will be divided equally amongst other participating flocks.
9. The Sales Officer will contact the Society Inspector(s) giving due notice of the deadline by which inspections must be carried out. To include details of stock numbers involved and which flocks to be inspected.

PROCEDURE TO BE FOLLOWED FOR PRIVATE EXPORTS

1. Member to inform the Sales Office of a private export sale. Sales Officer will take full details of the animals, which will include what has been requested, numbers, total cost and when they are scheduled to go.
2. Export prices are to run in line with Society-led exports. All sheep must be pedigree registered before they travel.
3. Sales Officer will inform the Export Committee full details of the sale. At this point the Treasurer will prepare an invoice for the Vendor with levy due to the Society and this will be sent within two weeks of the export.
4. The Vendor will send a list of sheep exported plus address of the purchaser to the Registrar within two weeks 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 complete the society form, and for any failing inspection, a reason must be given in a written statement signed by the Inspector. The inspection results should be forwarded to the Export Officer and a copy held by the Registrar for three months after the export has taken place.
3. 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.
4. The Inspectors will invoice the Treasurer for fuel expenses incurred for inspections at the society's agreed mileage rate within one week of inspections taking place. 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 Order form and returning this to the Sales Officer.
2. A deposit of 20% is required on completion of the Export Order form. The monies will be held in the Society's bank and deducted from the final balance. Should the order be cancelled, incurred expenses will be deducted before the deposit is returned.
3. All monies for the sheep are to be paid by the purchaser at least 10 working days prior to the date set for the export to the Society's bank account, by money transfer, in pounds sterling.
4. 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 to provide the Treasurer with a full account of the export on the Society invoice form for each flock taking part. This includes 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.

Useful Contacts

Registration of sheep holdings

ENGLAND, WALES AND SCOTLAND

If you are a new flock owner you need to register with the nearest [Animal Health Divisional Office](#) to keep a sheep holding in England, Wales and Scotland.

<https://www.gov.uk/registration-of-sheep-holdings>

To register your sheep holding, you must notify the relevant body of:

- the address of the holding where you intend to keep your animals
- your name and address
- details of your flocks
- your County Parish Holding (CPH) number - if you have one

You will then be issued with a flockmark beginning with “UK” and then 7 digits. If you do not have an agricultural holding number, a CPH, contact one of the following to be issued with one.

The organisations are as follows:

- the [Rural Payments Agency](#) for England
- the [Rural Inspectorate](#) for Wales
- the [Rural Payments and Inspections Directorate](#) for Scotland

NORTHERN IRELAND

You need to register with the [Department of Agriculture and Rural Development \(DARD\)](#) to keep a sheep holding in Northern Ireland.

<https://www.gov.uk/sheep-holdings-registration-northern-ireland>

SSBA Official Ear Marking System

Each year starts on 1st December to run until 30th November the following year. The following requirements meet both SSBA and current DEFRA regulations.

For further information refer to the DEFRA website <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/sheep-and-goat-keepers-how-to-identify-your-animals>

or contact your local Animal Health offices.

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

All lambs, before they are over two months old must be tagged in accordance with the DEFRA rules and the SSBA's identification rules.

Eartag Format

The tag information must contain the consecutive number of each lamb born followed by the breeder's flock designation letters and the year in which it is born on one side and the official Defra Flock Number on the other.

For example: **001 AA 21 UK 0301102**

Where **001** is the consecutive number of the lamb, **AA** is the breeder's flock designation letters and **16** is the year of birth. **UK 0301102** is the official Defra Flock Number.

Animals with tattoos cannot be exported.

Replacement tags should always contain the sheep's original identity. Sheep will not be accepted at shows or sales unless properly tagged/bolused.

Tags must be officially printed, not hand-written. They can be any colour except RED. (Black is the combination to use with boluses and yellow is used for electronic tags).

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 operates a computerised ewe and ram registration scheme. This assists both the Society and the flock owner in determining sire and dam lines.

Some suppliers that have indicated that they can produce tags in this format are as follows:

Shearwell Data	01643 841611	sales@shearwell.co.uk
Dalton	0800 838882	sales@dalton.co.uk
Roxan	01750 722940	sales@roxan.co.uk
Symtag	01934 750410	info@symtag.co.uk
Richey	01765 689541	info@ritchey.co.uk
Allflex	01450 364120	sales@allflex.co.uk

Welfare of Animals in Transport - Certificate of Competence

As from 5th January 2008, anyone moving sheep further than 65kmas 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: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/farm-animal-welfare-during-transportation>

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 APHA and lasts for 5 years. 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.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/application-for-a-united-kingdom-animal-transporter-authorisation-for-type-1-authorisations-valid-for-journeys-over-65km-and-up-to-8-hours>

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

NPTC – Tel: 024 7685 7300
Email: information@nptc.org.uk
Web: www.nptc.org.uk

LANTRA - Tel: 024 7641 9703
Email: bradley-parker@lantra-awards.co.uk
Web: www.lantra-awards.co.uk

Movement records

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

You can download a [sample sheep and goat register](#) or order hard copies from the Defra helpline by quoting PB13281:Telephone: 03459 335 577

The following web site details all the records you need to keep in a holding register including identifiers applied on your premises, animal movements, and an annual inventory.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/sheep-and-goat-keepers-how-to-keep-a-holding-register>

Movement Licences

By law, movement Licences must be filled in and kept on file whenever you move stock on/off your holding.

The following website details how to report sheep movements through the Animal Reporting and Movement Service (ARAMS) electronically or in paper form.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/sheep-and-goat-keepers-how-to-report-animal-movements>

Licenses are available from Animal Reporting & Movement Service (RAMS) , SouthWestern, PO Box 6299, MILTON KEYNES, MK10 1ZQ or online at <http://www.arams.co.uk/docs/ARAMS-1.pdf>

Once completed, the white copy should be sent to ARAMS (address above)within 3 days, the pink copy is kept by the sheep keeper at the premises of destination, the blue copy is kept by the 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 6 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 gov.uk website above.

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 (01664 822335)

<http://www.ahda.co.uk/product/animal-medicine-record-book/>

<http://www.noah.co.uk/about/publications/>

<http://www.farmrecordbooks.com/veterinary/>

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 can do this either by registering online at:

<https://www.britishwool.org.uk/page/producer-services/registration.php>

or contacting the BWMB to get a registration form: BWMB, Wool Wool House, Sidings Close, Canal Road, Bradford, West Yorkshire, BD2 1AZ

Tel: 01274 688666

The website <http://www.britishwool.org.uk/> has lots of information about producing wool.

Scrapie

Scrapie is one of a number of diseases called transmissible spongiform encephalopathy (TSE)s and is a fatal brain disease of sheep and goats. It has been present in this country (and many others) for well over 200 years. There are many clinical signs and most affected animals show some of these many months or years after the animal has become infected. Most cases of scrapie occur in sheep between the ages of two and five years. The disease has been notifiable in the EU since 1993 but unlike BSE there is no evidence to suggest that scrapie is a risk to human health.

Scrapie is thought to have come from imported Merino sheep from Spain and has since spread through the movement of infected sheep. Only Australia and New Zealand are recognized as being currently free of scrapie.

SCRAPIE GENOTYPING

Studies of the genetics of sheep have shown it is possible to identify whether sheep are relatively resistant or susceptible to scrapie and TSEs by testing a blood, semen or tissue sample containing the animal's DNA. This test is called the 'PrP genotyping' test and the result is known as the 'PrP genotype' of a sheep. The sheep PrP gene has two copies (alleles), one derived from each parent.

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.

The table below shows the 15 known genotypes which occur in sheep and their relative resistance or susceptibility to scrapie.

Genotype result	Type	Degree of resistance/susceptibility
ARR/ARR	1	Sheep that are genetically most resistant to scrapie.
ARR/AHQ ARR/ARH ARR/ARQ	2	Sheep that are genetically resistant to scrapie, but will need careful selection when used for further breeding.
AHQ/AHQ AHQ/ARH AHQ/ARQ ARH/ARH ARH/ARQ ARQ/ARQ	3	Sheep that genetically have little resistance to scrapie and will need careful selection when used for further breeding.
ARR/VRQ	4	Sheep that are genetically susceptible to scrapie and should not be used for breeding unless in the context of a controlled breeding programme approved by NSPAC.
AHQ/VRQ ARH/VRQ ARQ/VRQ VRQ/VRQ	5	Sheep that are highly susceptible to scrapie and should not be used for breeding.

SCRAPIE MONITORING

“Scrapie Monitored” flocks are registered with SAC 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 (see scrapie genotyping section), you may apply to join the Scrapie Monitoring Scheme.

http://www.sruc.ac.uk/downloads/download/809/scrapie_monitoring_scheme

There are 2 categories of status for SMS members.

1) Negligible Risk – this is equivalent to Scrapie free and is for flocks/herds showing compliance for 7 years. Movement of sheep and goats (and their embryos/semen) to the 4 member states (currently Austria, Denmark, Finland and Sweden) with an approved control programme can only take place from holdings with this status. Some South American countries also stipulate animals of Negligible Risk status.

2) Controlled Risk – is freedom for at least 3 years and is intended for all the other member states that do not have an approved scrapie control programme in place. This is similar to the current situation. Controlled risk flocks may achieve Negligible risk status after being monitored for 7 years.

Flocks that are members of a SAC scheme can be found at:

<http://www.psghs.co.uk/>

Maedi Visna (MV)

Maedi Visna (MV) is a viral disease which was introduced into the UK through imported sheep. It has since spread, especially in commercial flocks. MV is a chronic disease of sheep caused by a retrovirus. The name derives from two Icelandic words which describe the main clinical signs of pneumonia and wasting. The condition is highly contagious, difficult to diagnose and is fatal.

“MV Accredited” sheep are tested free from the viral disease, 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, as soon as possible after buying the sheep

Email: psghs@sac.co.uk Tel: 01835 822456

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 SAC can provide details of how to join the accreditation scheme and the costs involved.

Details can be found on the website:

http://www.sruc.ac.uk/downloads/download/281/mvcae_testing

Flocks that are members of a SAC scheme can be found at:

<http://www.psghs.co.uk/>

Sheep Courses

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

There are several companies offering such courses.

FarmSkills training is delivered by XLVet member practices:

<http://www.farmskills.co.uk/courses/sheep-information>

Your local agricultural college may run such courses, as might your local smallholder group.

Devon smallholders website lists the UK's smallholder associations

<http://www.devonsmallholders.co.uk/smallholdersassociations.html>

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

There is also a new series called Smallholding Skills containing the following two DVD's

1. A Guide to Sheep Butchery
2. A Guide to Showing Sheep

Smallholder Series has a website: www.smallholdersseries.co.uk