



YOUR PEDIGREE YEAR

Breeding pedigree sheep requires the accurate and timely completion of pedigree information. You need to follow this timeline to maintain the integrity of your pedigree Shropshire flock.

Before Lambing

- **Order ear tags** – Showing the required information

After Lambing

- **Ear Tag Lambs** – Best practice is when lambs are a few days old.

No later than 30th June

- **Birth Notify** – do as soon as possible. After 30th June, late charges apply.

As they happen or as required

- **Registrations** - Registrations, transfers, sales, deaths etc must be recorded

No later than 30th November

- **Flock Return** – Submit flock return, including membership renewal, by 30th November

See attached **Quick Reference Guide** for more information.

The quick reference guide does not cover all areas. Please see the SSBA publication “Getting Started with Shropshire Sheep” for more details and other information.

The full (master version) of the rules and regulations of the SSBA are published in the Annual Flock Book.

All available on www.shropshire-sheep.co.uk

Shropshire Sheep Breeders' Association – Quick Reference Guide to pedigree recording

References to “Grassroots” are to the Grassroots Online Registry used by the SSBA.

Find forms, publications and Grassroots details on the SSBA website www.shropshire-sheep.co.uk

This guide does not cover official requirements e.g., Movement Licences, Medicine records, etc.

Before you lamb, order your ear tags (off your chosen provider) in plenty of time

- Tags come in unique pairs. Left ear is a yellow electronic ID (EID) tag; right ear can be a colour of your choice (except yellow, red or black).
- Both tags must have the same data printed on them, being-
 - One side: Your flock number (issued by government) e.g, UK 0123456
 - Reverse side: Unique animal number (issued by government to tag manufacturer); your SSBA flock letter; year of birth e.g., 0001 ABC 21

Tag your lambs

- Most breeders tag their lambs at a few days old. Usually when they are ready to leave the lambing pen with their mother. All UK regions have legal deadlines by which to tag lambs.
- Yellow tag in left ear. Other colour in right. Leave enough room for the ear to grow.

Birth Notify (“BN”) your lambs as soon as possible, but no later than 30th June in year of birth

- BN notifies the SSBA what lambs have been born to which ewes and rams. It is the first step of pedigree recording. A lamb that has not been BN cannot later be pedigree registered.
- The data needed is Ear tag (or Registration number) of Dam and Sire; number in litter; sex and tag number of lambs; date of birth.
- Can be done on Grassroots or by paper using form SSBA 5.
- Is free of charge if done by 30th June. After 30th June, late BN charges apply.

If you send animals to market / sell for meat / any die

- “Kill off” these animals on Grassroots

To Register previously Birth Notified sheep

- Register males and females to obtain a Pedigree Certificate.
- Do this online or use form SSBA 6. Pay the required fee.
- You can also register animals through your annual Flock Return.
- Home-bred ewes must be registered before first tugging. See below if you sell females.
- Males must be registered prior to their first use. See below if you sell males.
- All shearlings and older sheep must be registered before being shown.

If you sell females (other than for meat)

- Females over 4 months old must be pedigree registered before sale (even if sold to a non-Shropshire breeder). Register online or use form SSBA 6. Pay the required fee.
- Transfer ownership to buyer – either online; using the tear off slip on the pedigree certificate; or using form SSBA 9. Give Pedigree Certificate (less tear off section) to new owner.
- If not already registered, complete registration at sale. Then once registered, transfer.

If you sell males (other than for meat)

- Males do not have to be registered prior to sale (but can be and often are as part of an agreed sale). The new owner (if an SSBA member) can register them if not previously registered.
- Transfer ownership to buyer – either online; or using form SSBA 9.
- If registered, give Pedigree Certificate (less tear off section) to new owner.

Decide your tugging plan.

- Each group of ewes must run with one ram. You must know the parentage of all your lambs.
- Record your plan on Grassroots (Service Certificate functionality) or on your Flock Return.

Complete and Return your Flock Return by 30th November – it performs several tasks

- Membership - it is your membership renewal.
- Annual Return Survey – information the SSBA needs to know about your flock
- Flock Census & Registrations – “kill off” or register any animals you have not done this for.
- Tugging plan - it confirms which rams you have run with which ewes.
- Collect fees - You pay your membership fees and any other fees due.
- The Flock Census, Registrations, Tugging Plan and Annual Survey can be completed on Grassroots or using the forms sent to you. The other forms must be returned with your fees.