
4. Trouble Shooting

As any pedigree livestock breeder knows, certain undesirable traits in sheep are highly heritable. By checking full pedigree information, breed society members will be able to selectively identify unproductive bloodlines in their flocks.



5. Improved Returns For Breeding Stock

SSBA Members are able to sell pedigree registered stock for higher prices than non-registered animals. By keeping pedigree Shropshires, members can guarantee the integrity of their breeding stock for plantation and vineyard grazing. Members will have access to the breed's increasing market potential to flock owners without tree plantations and vineyards too. The SSBA currently has around 300 members spread throughout the UK. As the breed society grows, the market for pedigree stock, particularly rams, will continue to grow. Don't miss out!

Membership Benefits of the Shropshire Sheep Breeders' Association

The SSBA offers its members many different services, including:

Advice on breed standards and selecting sheep;

Evaluation of in-breeding levels within your flock and advice on how to avoid in-breeding;

Information about where to buy stock - in-breeding checks before purchase are possible;

Assistance with buying and selling eg Annual pedigree sales and support with the website Sell My Livestock, where the SSBA has its own sales portal.

Breeders and enthusiasts may also enjoy membership of a friendly "club" that is supporting an historic and iconic traditional British breed, with important attributes for the viability of modern, sustainable agriculture.

The breed society attends promotional events on behalf of all its members. The society also has a proactive sales officer who is able to pass on enquiries to breeders. For anyone interested in showing sheep, the SSBA can help with advice on selection of show stock and preparation for the show-ring. The SSBA also has a thriving young members section, with a programme designed to develop sheep husbandry skills and showing skills.



www.shropshire-sheep.co.uk

secretary@shropshire-sheep.co.uk

Registered Charity number:1115599

Why you should run a flock of Pedigree Registered Shropshires



And the benefits of joining the Shropshire Sheep Breeders' Association

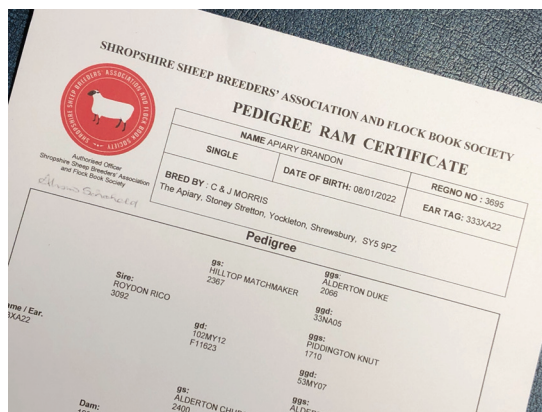
Future-proof your flock



- *Maintain and improve your asset-value
- *Maintain breed integrity
- *Maintain and increase genetic variation
- *Maintain one pure breed for “two crops from one acre” – meat /livestock and tree-grazing
- *Avoid in-breeding depression
- *Avoid genetic defects

1. Peace of Mind

A pedigree certificate provides evidence that the purchased animal is what it is meant to be. It is vital that potential owners buy pure-bred Shropshires, because cross-breeding has been shown to diminish the breed’s tree friendly nature. Some cross-bred Shropshires can look like pure-breds, but without a pedigree certificate purchasers can’t be sure.



2. Maintain Your Investment - Avoid In-Breeding

Shropshires kept for plantation, orchard or vineyard grazing offer a valuable additional income stream (fat lamb for the meat market and breeding stock). Knowing the full pedigree of every animal enables owners to minimise in-breeding within their flocks. Important performance traits, such as fertility, lamb survival and lamb growth, as well as general health and longevity can be significantly affected if breeding stock becomes in-bred. The breed society offers an in-breeding calculator for members’ flocks and this can be run every season on a whole flock basis, and when selecting potential new rams as flock sires.

3. The Shropshire’s Long-Term Future

If the Shropshire breed is an integral part of your business, or likely to become so, then **its long-term future should matter to you**. The breed was classified as “rare” until 2013. Although numbers of breeders and the size of the national Shropshire flock have increased, Shropshires are still a “Minority Breed”. It is important for the long-term future of Shropshires that breeders work together to ensure genetic diversity is maintained - and the commercial viability of the breed is enhanced. Members and breed enthusiasts should invest in the future of the breed by keeping pedigree registered Shropshires. There’s no better way to do this than by joining the breed society.

