

# SHROPTALK



The Newsletter of the Shropshire Sheep Breeders' Association

Spring 2024

*A ewe and lamb from the Piddington Flock, Canon Frome, Herefordshire, owned by Sue Farquhar and Ellie Butcher.*



**DON'T FORGET TO  
BIRTH NOTIFY YOUR  
LAMBS BEFORE  
30TH JUNE 2024**

## **DIARY DATES**

**THE SSBA'S NATIONAL  
SHOW AND SALE 2024**

**Sat 27th July  
at Shrewsbury Market**

**EASTERN SHOW AND SALE**

**Fri 13th and Sat 14th  
September  
at Melton Mowbray Market  
(as part of the Traditional and  
Native Breeds Event)**

## **THE PRESIDENT'S SPRING UPDATE**

I can't help but feel that this edition of *ShropTalk* lands on your kitchen table after one of the most challenging winters we have seen for a while. No matter how many stock you have, you will have suffered the same atrocious conditions and that in itself has been soul destroying for us all. The weather has thrown everything at us. I often look up and think 'You must of run out of water by now!' but alas another cloud appeared. Let's hope that we see the winds change and spring gives us all that positive boost we so desperately need.

I must take my hat off to you all, whether experiencing it yourself or reaching out and offering support to others: lambing this year for so many of you has seen the presence of Schmallenberg (SBV) bringing with it horrendous losses and heart-breaking experiences. I hope you have all been able to pull through the lambing period and look forward to the year ahead with the lambs you have. I urge all of you affected by SBV to report it to APHA, and if possible utilise the free postmortem testing they are offering to enable them to build a full picture of the

impact it has had on the industry across the UK.

As we look forwards to spring, we must enable ourselves to focus on the positive things to come. You will see in this edition of *ShropTalk* an article on the 'new look' SSBA National Show and Sale at Shrewsbury in July. Please take note and please take sheep (and your chequebook)! There are some important changes to the event which, I hope, will make it more attractive to you all.

We also see a slight change to our later sale in the year, moving to Melton Mowbray once again, in an attempt to give our members in different areas the opportunity to buy and sell sheep. We hope this will allow later lambing flocks to have a chance to sell their stock without the time pressure of a July Sale. Remember, if these events are supported we can make them bigger and better every year.

I am thrilled with the hard work the Membership working group have been

doing, holding our first SSBA webinar for members in March. A huge thank you must go to Helen & Lawrence Power for giving us an insight into their Shropshire-keeping experience. Please look out for an email from Jan Morris detailing other member events happening throughout the year. Please support these where you can, we want them to provide you with tools, information and friends!

The last thing from me is a warm invitation to you all to come to my home, Penybryn, in the glorious Kerry Vale in Powys for a social get together on Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> June. I would love to see as many of you as possible. I plan to have some light-hearted stock judging, lamb selection and more. There will also be a cold buffet lunch on offer. I hope this will be an opportunity for us to get to know one another. If you would like to attend, please let me know to help with catering arrangements.

Stay positive - spring is upon us (or at least I blooming well hope it is!).

Tom Sellers

## NEW VICE PRESIDENT APPOINTED

Peter Greenow, owner of the Hackford Flock based in Dinedor, Herefordshire, has been appointed as the SSBA's Vice President. Peter will work alongside President Tom Sellers, to support and promote the objectives of the SSBA and deputise for Tom, if required.

## NEW DIRECTOR FOR THE ESSBA

Rob Kerby is taking over from Alison Schofield as a Director of the European Shropshire Sheep Breeders' Association. The ESSBA was formed to enable breeders in the Irish Republic, France, Belgium and Spain to continue to register their Shropshires post Brexit.

The Company is registered in Dublin and has two directors. The other is Adrian Norton, based in County Carlow, Rep. of Ireland.

Rob recently completed his term of office as the SSBA's President. He is based in Monmouthshire and runs the Cefn-carnau Flock.

## EXPORT PRICES FOR 2024

Council agreed export prices for this year as follows:

Ewe lambs

R1 Scrapie genotype: £330

Unspecified genotype: £300

Shearling Ewes:

R1 genotype: £420

Unspecified genotype: £370

Shearling Rams

R1 genotype: £800

Unspecified genotype: £700

Ram Lambs

R1 genotype: £700

Unspecified genotype: £600

Prices reflect the increasing costs of testing prior to export, including to ascertain Scrapie genotype. However, due to the outbreak of Blue Tongue in the UK, exports are unlikely to take place this year.

## ENGRAVING OF SHOW TROPHIES

It is the responsibility of breeders who win show trophies to have these engraved at their own expense with their name and the year in which they won the trophy. Winners are urged to do this, because it is a fascinating record of our Society's history.

The only exception is the Hardwicke Trophy, currently awarded annually for The Most Prolific Ewe. Because of the high value and size of this trophy, it can only be taken away by breeders who are able to collect it at the AGM in person. Past winners who were unable to do this will be contacted by the Membership Secretary to see if they would like to have it engraved.

# WEBINARS TO HELP MEMBERS

The Society held its first Members' Webinar in March. The topic of "Shropshire Sheep - Getting To Know Them" was chosen to help new and fairly new breeders, although all members were welcome to attend and share their experiences.

A very interesting presentation was given by Lawrence Power (Adelaide Flock) and around 30 members attended via Zoom. It is hoped that a recording of the Webinar will be made available to other members in the near future. The Society is currently looking into the best way of providing this.

Council has approved some additional topics for Webinars this year (see adjacent box on the right).

If members have any further suggestions for topics, please let our Secretary, Yvette Openshaw, know via [secretary@shropshire-sheep.co.uk](mailto:secretary@shropshire-sheep.co.uk).

Live Webinar 

### Shropshire Sheep – Getting to know them

A presentation of experiences and lessons learned in the first years of owning this amazing breed by our own members.

Subjects to include:  
Buying your first sheep – What to look for  
Looking after your sheep  
Choosing your first tup  
Maintaining flock records  
Questions and Answers



Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2024 1900 – 2000 UK

**Tuesday 11th June 7pm**

How to use Grassroots - from setting up your

account to managing your flock

**Tuesday 10th September 7pm**

Breed Standards / Flock Health and Monitoring

**Tuesday 10th December 7pm**

Virtual Christmas Party - festive meet up with a glass of cheer and open sheep chat

# PROMOTING THE BREED AT SHOWS AND EVENTS THIS YEAR

The SSBA's breed stand will be displayed at two major events run by the National Sheep Association: ScotSheep and Sheep 2024.

## NSA ScotSheep

This is taking place on 5th June at Aikengall Farm, Innerwick, Dunbar, East Lothian EH42 1SG.

The 2024 event will include an extensive trade stand area with approximately 160 commercial and educational trade stands, including 40 sheep breed societies.

## NSA Sheep 2024

This one-day show will be held on Tuesday 30th July at the Three Counties Showground, Malvern, Worcestershire. It is the flagship event of the National Sheep Association. As well as finding out about the latest innovations and products available to them, sheep farmers can strengthen their technical knowledge by attending seminars and workshops.

## Can you help on the SSBA stands?

We have a few complimentary entry tickets available for these events for SSBA Members who are able to help man the stands.

If you would like to be involved, please contact our secretary, Yvette Openshaw (to help at Sheep 2024 at Malvern), and Sales Officer Claire Jakeman (to help at ScotSheep). First come, first served!



Above: New pop-up banners promoting Shropshires for vineyards and orchards.  
Below: Our main breed stand at Sheep 2022.





# VERY ENCOURAGING RESULTS FOR SHROPSHIRE TUPS USED IN THE **RAMCOMPARE TRIAL**

The National RamCompare trial is open to Signet-recorded rams from all the main Terminal Sire breeds. Thanks to members of the Shropshire Breed Improvement Scheme, Shropshire tups joined the trial for the first time in 2019. Data have been collected about their performance when crossed with commercial ewes to produce prime finished lambs. RamCompare Project Manager, Bridget Lloyd, reviews the results so far.

Over the past four years Shropshire breeders have been involved in RamCompare, the UK's national progeny test. Data from the project demonstrates the role this native breed plays in the commercial sheep sector and predicts a ram's economic worth to a flock. The information provides a useful insight for commercial buyers to select the right rams to achieve their lamb enterprise objectives.

In Signet-recorded flocks, data is collected and turned into estimated breeding values (EBVs) to demonstrate a ram's genetic potential. The RamCompare project has shown the value of this work, with improvements in growth rate (assessed in pedigree flocks as Scan Weight EBV) leading to a reduction in days to slaughter (faster finishing lambs) and an increase in carcase weights.

## RamCompare Host Farms Measure Commercial Progeny Performance

Rams are placed on commercial farms across the UK that are committed to collecting high quality data. The ewes on each farm (typically Lleyn, Mule or Composite) are a uniform type and lambs are predominately finished from grass and managed as a single group to ensure sires are compared fairly.

The project aim is to finish lambs within the UK target market specification, with lambs achieving a carcase weight of 17 - 19kg and grading at R2/3L. Rams are run with relatively small groups of ewes (40) to obtain the desired data and most rams are used for a single season to ensure the project tests as many rams as possible.

Over four seasons, a total of eight

Shropshire rams have been included on the trial, with progeny data collected from birth to slaughter from 561 lambs.

## Crossbred Progeny Achieving Target Market Specification

The data in the table (see below) shows that crossbred lambs sired by Shropshire rams routinely hit an R conformation grade or better, often out of plainer ewe types with few over-fat lambs recorded. Over four years the average carcase weight for each Shropshire sired progeny group has ranged between 17.2kg and 19.6kg.

## Project Data Helps To Predict Carcase Merit

RamCompare supports Shropshire breeders that performance record their flocks with Signet, providing evidence of how sires with high genetic merit (high EBVs) perform on commercial farms.

Complementing the long-standing breeding values for Scan Weight, Muscle Depth and Fat Depth, we have a series of new breeding values which include Days To Slaughter, Carcase Weight, Conformation and Fat Class. Data collected from the project has enabled the development of these more accurate predictors for carcase value. These abattoir derived traits are now published for all Signet Performance Recorded rams.

This analysis provides sound marketing information for pedigree breeders demonstrating an accurate and unbiased way to compare the genetic potential of different animals. Individual breeding traits can be used as evidence to reassure commercial ram buyers and clearly confirms the progress being achieved within the breed.

Table showing total Shropshire-sired lambs' standard kill data for conformation and fat class (RamCompare Trial)

Lamb classification	E	U	R	O	P
1				1	
2		1	49	29	2
3L	1	15	187	71	
3H		6	140	19	
4L		2	32		
4H			6		
Grand Total (# lambs)	1	24	414	120	2

### Market signals



## GLASCOED FARM FOCUS

Alwyn Nutting farms at Aberhafesp, Powys, and Glascoed is one of the commercial RamCompare farms supplying data to the trial. Around 400 composite ewes are crossed to RamCompare Terminal sire breeds using single sire natural service and AI. Rams are turned out mid-October for March lambing. Lambs are managed as one group and finished from grass, selected from the end of June to January.

The adjacent table on Page 4 shows the progeny groups at Glascoed with the average slaughter age and carcase weight for each Shropshire sire used to date, comparing them to the overall flock average for each season.

There were 39 Shropshire sired progeny from a total of 456 lambs in 2022 and a higher proportion of Shropshires were sired the following year.

Both sires have performed well when compared with the average for the total progeny each season.

Shropshire cross-bred lambs have generally finished quicker than the combined total average of the ten different rams on test each year, albeit at slightly lighter carcase weights.

Below: Alderton Major at Glascoed Farm.



Lambs produced by flocks on the RamCompare trial are classified according to the industry's standard EUROP grid, where E is the best carcase conformation and P is the poorest. Fat classes start at 1, which is too lean, through to class 4 which is too fat. Fat classes 3 and 4 are split into L (leaner) and H (fatter). 71% of cross-bred Shropshires graded in green classification squares, and 88.9% in the green and yellow combined.

To put these results into context, purebred Shropshires would on average be expected to have higher value carcasses than crossbred lambs out of commercial ewes on RamCompare farms (see grading sheets on page 4). However, these commercial ewes are more prolific and better able to rear multiple lambs under more challenging conditions than ewes from the purebred meat breeds. In the RamCompare trial, Shropshires are used alongside other terminal sire breeds such as Texel, Charollais, Suffolk, Hampshire, Meatlinc and Beltex. Bridget Lloyd from RamCompare comments that: "Through RamCompare we see very few P grade carcasses but there is a proportion of O grade carcasses across all breeds. This proportion is larger for some breeds or for certain RamCompare flocks depending on the season and environmental factors."

Shropshire sire and year	# lambs	Average slaughter age (days)	Average carcass weight (kg)
<b>Glascoed Farm - 2022</b>	<b>456</b>	<b>158</b>	<b>18.14</b>
LU:2000893 Alderton Major	39	150	17.97
<b>Glascoed Farm - 2023</b>	<b>413</b>	<b>175</b>	<b>17.58</b>
ABB:2100598 Cefn-Carnau	56	161	17.17



Composite ewes with lambs produced by RamCompare sires at Glascoed Farm.

*“The Shropshire tups performed well - with crossbred progeny finishing quicker than the combined total average of the ten rams on test each year.” Bridget Lloyd, Project Manager RamCompare.*

## THE HISTORY BEHIND SHROPSHIRE PRIMESTOCK

*“It is impossible not to be struck with the appearance of these as a most useful rent-paying animal....the qualities which have brought them into notice are their aptitude to produce great weight and quality of both mutton and wool, combined with early maturity...in addition... they are far more prolific than any other breed and capital nurses.”*

So said the judges of the Shropshire Class at the Royal Show in 1861. Throughout the 1860s and 70s, the breed continued to be well represented at shows, convincing many farmers that these handsome, well-proportioned sheep could be viable in a variety of agricultural conditions.

The Shropshire Sheep Breeders' Association was formed in 1882 to maintain the purity of the breed and its characteristics. Shropshires remained a favourite of farmers in the north of England and Scotland, as well as in the kinder regions of the English Midlands for many decades.

It wasn't long before the reputation of the breed spread abroad, and with the backing of the SSBA the overseas breeder could take confidence in the purity of the breed. The scene was set for an extraordinary overseas trade to begin. At its height in the period 1900 to 1920 no fewer than 6,700 Shropshire rams were exported to all Continents of the world, where they were used mainly for crossing with poorer quality indigenous breeds to produce prime lamb.

At this time, only 38% of registered Shropshire rams remained in the UK, and perhaps that was the beginning of the breed's decline, as the overseas trade was hit by outbreaks of diseases such as Foot and Mouth, and the effect of two World Wars on export trade from the UK.

The value of wool is no longer a priority in the sheep sector, and consumer demand for lamb has long overtaken that for mutton. However, even in the lean years when the Shropshire became a rare breed, its keepers have always known that their sheep could produce high quality lambs that matured early, and could do this from grass alone.

Grading sheets for lambs kindly supplied by Andrew Wilson, Ballycanal Flock, in Northern Ireland, and Les & Tricia Newman, Rode Flock, in Norfolk (see right) illustrate perfectly the great type of carcass that a modern purebred Shropshire can produce.

Following the recent results from the RamCompare trial, our breed now has high quality, independent data to show what the Shropshire is capable of as a Terminal Sire. We haven't been able to gather data like these about our breed for many decades - if ever.

Shropshires have performed well compared with breeds that have been recording with MLC or Signet since the early 1980s. It is exciting that the Shropshire has done so well from a late start, and will continue to make genetic progress. The most recent Shropshire tups to join the trial are right at the top of the breed for genetic merit - so watch this space!



Congratulations Jeanette and Rob Hares, Millenheath Flock, from Whitchurch, Shropshire, who won first prize with a pen of five Shropshire lambs at Shrewsbury Livestock Market's Easter Show and Sale. The lambs were born in late December and early January, and averaged 42kg. They made £186 each in the sale. A great result for the Shropshire breed!

<b>Abattoir</b> LU - Anglo Beef Processors (LU)				<b>Producer</b> 9L1423 - Lady's Bridge Farm			
Kill Date 25/03/2021				2 Carnlougherin Road			
Species Sheep				Broomhedge			
Lot id 084051				Moira			
				Craigavon			
				BT67 0HY			
Kill no	Ear tag	Grade	Origin	Category	Hot wt	Cold wt	
1181	0006	U3		Lamb	20.1	20.1	
1182	0006	U3		Lamb	22.3	22.3	
1183	0006	U3		Lamb	22.3	22.3	
					<b>64.7</b>	<b>64.7</b>	

<b>MLC</b>			<b>Carcass service</b>				<b>16/07/2021</b>		
Participant: 001	Centre Name: FELTHORPE	Lot Details: 133PK	Supplier: MISC						
HG BLAKE (COSTESSEY) LTD	Centre Number: UK5207	Dressing Spec.: MLC Standard	MISC SUPPLIER						
BULL FARM ABATTOIR	Week No.: 15	Lot Size: 4 : 4							
REEPHAM ROAD	Staff No.: E1028	Slaughter Time: 8:53							
FELTHORPE, NORWICH									
Farm: IMPSON EX NEWMAN						Tel: Fax:			
Eartag	Kill No.	Cat	Hot Wt. (kg)	Reb (kg)	Cold (kg)	Cond (kg)	Net. C (kg)	Class	Remarks
X NEWMAN	1- 000222	NSL	26.0	1.0	25.0	0.0	25.0	R3H	
X NEWMAN	1- 000223	NSL	26.3	1.0	25.3	0.0	25.3	U3L	
X NEWMAN	1- 000224	NSL	25.3	0.5	24.8	0.0	24.8	U3L	
X NEWMAN	1- 000225	NSL	28.3	1.0	27.3	0.0	27.3	U4L	

Carcass grading sheets for pure-bred Shropshire lambs from Ballycanal Flock and Rode Flock.



# NEW LOOK NATIONAL SHOW AND SALE

## New features

SHROPSHIRE-ONLY  
(NO OTHER BREEDS)



PRIZE MONEY IN EVERY  
SHOW CLASS

1ST: £25  
2ND: £15  
3RD: £10

ROSETTES AND PRIZE CARDS  
TO 6TH PLACE  
& ALL THE USUAL TROPHIES

NEW PRIZE FOR THE MOST  
SUCCESSFUL JUNIOR  
MEMBER SHOWING  
AT THE EVENT



UP TO 4 MALES CAN BE  
ENTERED PER VENDOR, AND  
UP TO 20 FEMALES



INSPECTION FOR HEALTH  
AND FUNCTIONAL TYPE ONLY



HIGHER UPSET PRICES  
EWE LAMBS: 150gns  
SHEARLING EWES: 200gns  
RAM LAMBS: 180gns  
SHEARLING RAMS: 220gns  
OLDER EWES AND RAMS AT THE  
OWNER'S DISCRETION  
HIGHER RESERVES CAN BE SET  
BY THE VENDOR



PRE-SALE ADVERTISING IN  
FARMERS GUARDIAN, AS  
WELL AS OTHER TITLES



SOCIAL EVENING AND MEAL  
IN THE TWO HENRYS PUB  
(ADJACENT TO THE MARKET)  
THE NIGHT BEFORE THE SALE

This year, for the first time since the event moved to Shrewsbury Market, the National Show and Sale of Shropshire Sheep will take place without being coupled to any other breeds. So mark the date in your diary - Saturday 27th July - and make sure you come along to support your breed and, better still, enter some pedigree Shropshires!

The SSBA's National Show and Sale Steering Committee has been working hard since last year to make the 2024 event larger and more successful.

Support from the Rare Breeds has dwindled away in recent years, so a decision has been taken to hold a Shropshire-only show and sale. It will be taking place on the same day as the National Suffolk Sheep Sale at Shrewsbury market, although this will be a completely separate event. The Shropshires will be based in the other side of the market to the one that we usually occupy. The pens will be adjusted to suit sheep, and animals will be sold through the market's permanent sale ring. The Marteye on-line sales system will be operational.

Some new features have been introduced: Significant sponsorship has been obtained including Osmonds Animal Health and Nutrition as the overall sponsor. The company hopes to be present on the day with a trade stand.

The breed society is to offer prize money to the owners of the 1st, 2nd and 3rd placed sheep in every show class. SSBA member Rosie Lee has also donated a prize - a superb leather showing halter - for the most successful junior member showing at the event.

### STOCK NUMBERS

The number of males that can be entered per flock has been increased to four. Please take note that *all males must still be shown*, and you can only enter two in each show class. So if, for example, you want to enter four males you could enter two ram lambs, one shearing ram and one older

ram - with each animal being shown. The number of females that may be entered per vendor has also been increased to 20. Females do not have to be shown, but if they are the vendor may only show a maximum of two in any class.

The pre-sale inspection of sheep will focus on health and functional type only. However, breeders entering stock are asked to ensure that animals meet the breed standard. Posters and leaflets will be available on the day at the market to highlight correct breed type.

More details on all these points, and others, including minimum weights for stock entered and permitted delivery times, are contained in the schedule, which will be available shortly from the SSBA's website, and will also be emailed to all members. Entry forms will also be available at the same time. If you are entering stock, please read the schedule carefully so you are aware of all the rules and regulations.

**The closing date for entries is Friday 28th June.**

### SOCIAL EVENING FRIDAY 26TH JULY

There will be a Social Evening for SSBA members, their families and friends held in The Two Henrys Pub and Grill, which is just a stone's throw away from the market. The cost per head is being finalised. Menu choices must be pre-ordered from a number of meal options. Drinks and/or desserts can be ordered at the bar at extra cost.

If you would like to join in, please contact Jan Morris (memberships@shropshire-sheep.co.uk, 07816 813986) who will have a list of meal choices available nearer the date, and will take your booking. Payment must be made in advance.



**Shropshire  
Sheep**

**OFFICIAL BREED SOCIETY SALES 2024**

**NATIONAL SHOW AND SALE**  
**at Shrewsbury Market on Saturday 27th July**  
**and**

**Eastern Show and Sale at Melton Mowbray Market**  
**on Friday 13th and Saturday 14th Sept**

as part of the Traditional & Native Breeds Event

Schedules available soon from Melton Mowbray Market

sales@meltonmowbraymarket.co.uk 01664 562971

# LET'S FARM GOES FROM STRENGTH TO STRENGTH

Back in 2022, we reported that the breed society was sponsoring Group Associate Membership and individual branded T-shirts for a new initiative that helps adults with learning difficulties. Called "Let's Farm", the scheme was co-founded by one of our Members, Rosemarie Lee (Rosaline Flock). Here, Rosic outlines the progress made over the past 18 months.

I'm delighted to tell you that things have gone from strength to strength for Let's Farm. We now have 30 Rangers currently attending on a regular basis. The project has expanded because of the vision we have to be inclusive. We have been recognised in many different ways with awards from several organisations including:

- Cheshire County Farms Competition Farming Innovation 2023
- West Cheshire and North Wales Chamber of Commerce Winner of the Start up Business of the year 2023
- Community Rewards Impact Award 2024
- The High Sheriff's Enterprise Award for Environmental innovation & impact 23/24

- Recent TV exposure on Look North West!

None of the above could be achieved without our amazing Rangers and dedicated staff.

Our future vision going forward is for expansion on our growing areas involving a big push for a polytunnel.

We have nearly completed another lambing season with our Rangers who from the get go are dedicated to ensuring the highest welfare and care is administered to each and every one of the ewes. The Rangers have been fully briefed on the year's difficulties with Schmallenberg and had clear protocols to follow.

Yet another Ranger was able to gain skills assisting with a lambing. Many have their favourite ewe and follow their individual journey. They have already begun to eye up the show team for 2024.

Let's Farm are very proud to continue to represent the Shropshire breed.



Let's Farm Ranger  
Liam



Let's Farm Ranger  
Megan



Let's Farm Ranger  
Josh

## NOW YOU CAN ADVERTISE PEDIGREE STOCK FOR SALE ON GRASSROOTS

As we approach the start of the sales season, Council is pleased to announce that a new feature of the Grassroots On-line Registry has been enabled to allow SSBA members to advertise stock they have for sale.

- Members can flag animals as available for sale, via the Manage My Animals menu in the Farmers On-line Registry. Birth Notified stock as well as pedigree Registered animals can be flagged.
- Other members and visitors to the site (ie the general public) can search for animals flagged as 'For Sale' and can see their location on a map, their pedigree and offspring. There is no charge for this.

### How to add photos of animals

If you want to add photos of the animals for sale, then you can upload them, but only if you have the Grassroots Mobile App. There is a small monthly (£1.99) or annual (£14.99) charge for the use of the App. The App can be downloaded from the Google Playstore or the Apple Appstore and the fees are collected by Google or Apple. The App can then sync to as many Grassroots breeds as you keep. It downloads details of the animals you own onto your phone, so they are available even when you have no mobile signal or internet link.

You can log births, deaths, and transfers of ownership which are submitted to the Breed Society. You can keep details of buyers and add private notes to animals or groups of animals. You can add images to animals which can be private or shared via the farmers Online Registry.

The App does not access the whole database, it is a tool to manage your own records.



### What SSBA Members and other buyers can access

People who are not breed society members can also log into Grassroots as a guest. Like members, they then have access to:

1. Animals flagged for sale
2. Member Search (to see contact details, location on a map, and list of animals owned, for anyone who has given permission for the contact details to be shared).
3. Animal Search (to see pedigree and offspring and images of any animal in the database).
4. CheckMate - to check for common ancestors in potential matings for any male in the population against any females flagged as "for sale".

The Breed Society will add instructions to the "Sheep For Sale" page on the SSBA's website to explain to buyers how they can view sheep for sale on Grassroots. We will continue to link the website to the portal for Shropshire Sheep on the website Sell My Livestock, which is remains an avenue for marketing your stock.

**DON'T FORGET**  
IF YOU MAKE A PAYMENT TO  
THE SSBA BY BANK TRANSFER  
PLEASE TAG THE BACS  
PAYMENT  
WITH YOUR FLOCK LETTERS

## SHROPTALK

is edited by Pippa Geddes  
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Contributions welcome!

[www.shropshire-sheep.co.uk](http://www.shropshire-sheep.co.uk)



Check out our Facebook pages:  
**Friends of Shropshire Sheep**  
&  
**Shropshire Sheep Tree Club**