



# A QUICK GUIDE TO YOUR PEDIGREE YEAR

These pages provide a “Quick Reference Guide” to the SSBA’s rules relating to pedigree recording. Follow them to ensure you meet breed Society requirements.

<b>Before Lambing</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Order tags</b> – showing the required information (see point 1 on next page).</li></ul>
<b>At Lambing</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Birth data</b> - keep a record of birth dates, sex, litter size, dam and sire of all lambs</li></ul>
<b>After Lambing</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Tagging Lambs</b> – best practice is when lambs are a few days old.</li></ul>
<b>No later than 30<sup>th</sup> June</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Birth Notify</b> – do this as soon as possible. After 30<sup>th</sup> June, late charges apply.</li></ul>
<b>As they happen</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Pedigree records</b> - registrations, transfers, deaths etc must be recorded.</li></ul>
<b>No later than 30<sup>th</sup> November</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Renew your Membership</b> – plus check and update your data on Grassroots</li></ul>

This guide does not cover all areas. The full (master versions) of the rules and regulations of the SSBA are published in the Annual Flock Book. The Flock Book, this guide and SSBA forms referenced herein, can be downloaded from [www.shropshire-sheep.co.uk](http://www.shropshire-sheep.co.uk)

References to “online” or “Grassroots” are to the Grassroots Online Registry used by the society. The society recommends that you do as much as possible online using Grassroots. Access the system and user guides at: [www.shropshire-sheep.co.uk/online-registration-system](http://www.shropshire-sheep.co.uk/online-registration-system). Your Grassroots Log-In is your flock letters (e.g. AXY) and if you have forgotten your password, follow the reset instructions on the log in screen.

To help the society, please include your flock letters (e.g., ABC) as the reference on all online bank payments or write your flock letters on the back of cheques.

## 1. Before you lamb, order your ear tags (from your chosen provider) in plenty of time

- Tags come in unique matched 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 letters; year of birth e.g., 0001 ABC 23

<p><b>2. Actions to take during lambing</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Make sure to record the date of birth, sex, dam (and sire from tuppung plan) of all lambs born.</li> <li>• Tag your lambs - most breeders tag their lambs at a few days old when they are ready to leave the lambing pen with their mother. All UK regions have legal deadlines by which to tag lambs.</li> <li>• Yellow (EID) tag in left ear. Other colour in right. Leave enough room for the ear to grow.</li> </ul>
<p><b>3. Birth Notify (“BN”) lambs as soon as possible, but no later than 30th June in year of birth</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• The data needed is Dam and Sire’s Ear tags (or Registration numbers); number in litter; sex and tag number of lambs; date of birth.</li> <li>• BNs can be done on Grassroots or by paper using form SSBA 5.</li> <li>• BNs are free of charge if done by 30<sup>th</sup> June. After 30<sup>th</sup> June, late BN charges apply.</li> </ul>
<p><b>4. If you send animals to market / sell for meat / any die</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “Kill off” these animals on Grassroots using the “Deaths” menu.</li> </ul>
<p><b>5. To Register previously Birth Notified sheep</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Register males and females to obtain a Pedigree Certificate.</li> <li>• Do this online or use form SSBA 6 and immediately pay the required fee.</li> <li>• Home-bred ewes must be registered before first tuppung. See below if you sell females.</li> <li>• Males must be registered prior to their first use. See below if you sell males.</li> <li>• All shearlings and older sheep must be registered before being shown.</li> </ul>
<p><b>6. If you sell females (other than for meat)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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 and immediately pay the required fee.</li> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• If sold to a non-member, it is very important that you complete the new buyer details online or on the form. This will allow the SSBA to contact the buyer to encourage them to become a member.</li> <li>• If animals are not already registered, complete registration at sale. Then once registered, transfer.</li> </ul>
<p><b>7. If you sell males (other than for meat)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Males do not have to be registered prior to sale (but can be and often are as part of an agreed sale), but they must be Birth Notified. The new owner (if an SSBA member) can register them if not previously registered.</li> <li>• Transfer ownership to buyer – either online; or use form SSBA 9.</li> <li>• If registered, give Pedigree Certificate (less tear off section ) to new owner.</li> </ul>
<p><b>8. Decide your tuppung plan.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Each group of ewes must run with one ram. You must know the parentage of all your lambs.</li> <li>• Using the Checkmate functionality in Grassroots can help you avoid inbreeding. Or to check inbreeding across your whole flock or a new ram you can contact the Registrar.</li> <li>• Keep a record of your tuppung plan, so you can easily Birth Notify your lambs. You can record your plan on Grassroots (using the Service Certificate functionality).</li> <li>• If you borrow or hire a ram, the ram owner <u>must</u> complete a Service Certificate for your ewes on Grassroots, otherwise you will not be able to Birth Notify your lambs.</li> </ul>
<p><b>9. Renew you Membership by 30th November and check data</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• You will receive a renewal letter and invoice.</li> <li>• Pay your invoice by 30<sup>th</sup> November to renew your membership.</li> <li>• By mid-December check / update your online data on Grassroots</li> <li>• By mid-December, do your Flock Census, Registrations etc online – e.g. kill off, register or transfer animals.</li> <li>• Tuppung plan – if you wish to do so, record your plan online.</li> </ul>