



BLUEFACED LEICESTER
SHEEP BREEDERS ASSOCIATION

NEWS FROM THE BLUES

2021



OFFICE NEWS

Association Tag Forms

Association Tag order forms have been posted out to all paid up members on the 6th April, tags can be ordered at the lower rate up to 31st May 2021 and then at the higher rate up to the 30th June, 2021.

Your registration history must be up to date and you must be a paid-up member of the Association prior to tag orders being processed. This year you will be supplied with a pair of Allflex button tags comprising of a yellow EID tag and

a white visual tag. The year letter this year is 'P'.

Pedigree tags for 2021 will include the GB suffix, as required for exporting to Northern Ireland & Europe

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Replacement Tags

If you need to order replacement Bluefaced Leicester ear tags this must be done through the Association office and not direct from the tag company.

The following details are required:

Bluefaced Leicester side of the tag details; UK flock number with individual number; Your CPH number.

If it is a bought in animal and not your own breeding, we require proof of purchase – either by supply of the original tag you are replacing or an Auctioneers invoice (this will be returned to you once the order is placed).

If all this information can be supplied at the time of ordering then it will allow us to improve our service to you. There is normally a five day turn around on replacement tag orders from the time of order. Replacement tags are supplied free of charge for 2021.

News From the 2020 AGM

Carl Stephenson, Pikestone Flock was elected as the new President for the Association and it was agreed due to Covid-19 his term will run until the Annual Meeting to be held in May, 2022. There is currently no President Elect, this position will be filled at the 2021 AGM.

www.blueleicester.co.uk

Details for Online Summer Show and rules of Entry

Due to the ongoing restrictions the Association have decided this Summer to host an online show for Registered Bluefaced Leicester's.

The show will be kindly Sponsored by Tom Stevenson & Natural Stockcare (Contact Tom Stevenson – 07713 259160)

The show will be hosted on the Association Facebook Page throughout July & August.

Entry for the show will be done by the submission of video clips sent to the Association Office.

Videos can be submitted via private message to the Association Facebook Page or via WhatsApp. The video clips must be no longer than 30 seconds in length per entry per class, the video must be taken on hard standing ground (ie concrete) not grass, there must be no editing of video clips, no background music or commentary.

Submitted videos must not be posted or shared on any social media platforms or groups pre-release of final results. All videos will be shared on the Association page after the issuing of results.

There will be four classes for Judging for each type (8 classes in total)

Class 1: Two Ewe Lambs

Class 2: Two Tup Lambs

Class 3: Two Shearling Rams

Class 4: Two Shearling Gimmers

The videos will be requested on a named day a region at a time in the order:-

- | | |
|-------------------------|---------------|
| 1. Scotland | 5. North East |
| 2. Southern Ireland | 6. North West |
| 3. Northern Ireland | |
| 4. Wales and South West | |

(this will follow the Association Sales pattern)

Further details will appear on our Facebook Page and Website

Photograph Request

It's time to get your cameras out. In the hope we are able to attend NSA Events and Shows next year, we are looking for new and fresh images to display on our boards.

We are looking for clear high-resolution images of Bluefaced Leicester's (both types) with young lambs at foot out on grass, also all breeds of horned ewes with their Mule lambs, Cheviot ewes with their Cheviot Mule Lambs, Welsh Ewes with their Welsh Mule Lambs and any other type of Mule lambs you can think of. Please send images to the Association office, all images will be put before a panel and the best ones will be selected.

MV Testing - There is an opportunity for members who MV test their flock of Bluefaced Leicester's to claim back monies to help towards the cost of testing. If you wish to make a claim please send copy of your Invoice from your Vet clearly stating the number of Bluefaced Leicester's tested and the £2.00 per sheep refund will be arranged for you from the Association office. The monies available are on a 'first come first served' basis.

Youth Council - The Bluefaced Leicester Sheep Breeders Association are looking at a proposal of putting together a 'Youth Council'

If any members are interested in being part of this new venture then please contact the Association Office

NEW

As a new promotional service for Members who sell at Association Sales, we have a new dedicated sheep for sale page on Facebook and on the Association website. Promotion can be done by use of video footage or photographs supplied to the association office and with as much detail as possible about the Sheep for sale. If you are interested in taking up the opportunity to use these pages nearer to sale time please contact the office for more details.

Helen Carr-Smith
Secretary

2021 Sale Dates

(Sale dates are correct at time of going to print)

Kelso

Friday 10th September

Ballymena

Saturday 18th September

Ruthin

Saturday 18th September

NSA Wales & Border Ram Sale – Builth Wells

Monday 20th September

Tavistock

Tuesday 21st September

Hexham

Wednesday 22nd September

Castle Douglas

Wednesday 22nd September

Hawes

Thursday 30th September

Welshpool

Thursday 30th September

Carlisle

(Traditional & Crossing Type)
Friday 8th October

Armoy

Saturday 9th October

Ballymena | 19th September 2020 | Ram Lambs

PRICE	TUP NO	SIRE	PURCHASER
Mr L Beacom, LAKEVIEW FARM			
£1,785	4665/N045 ET	4366/L001 Greenhow	J McCafferty, Ballybofey
£1,260	4665/N037 ET	4366/L001 Greenhow	Glenmore Livestock, Aghweagh
J Adams & Sons, HOLMVIEW			
£1,680	1337/N001 ET	1574/L001 Firth	Glenmore Livestock, Aghweagh
£2,310	1337/N002 ET	281/J001 Carry House	L Gannon, West Port
£1,890	1337/N003 ET	281/J001 Carry House	M Costello, Westport
£4,200	1337/N004 ET	281/J001 Carry House	D & L Graham, Blair Drummond
£1,050	1337/N006 ET	281/J001 Carry House	J O'Brien, Tourmakeady
£1,050	1337/N007 ET	3876/M001 Allanfauld Dazzler	D Farrell, Dromore
£1,995	1337/N008	3876/M001 Allanfauld Dazzler	W Jones, Llandeilo
£2,310	1337/N012	3876/M001 Allanfauld Dazzler	M Millar, Dungiven
£1,470	1337/N013	3876/M001 Allanfauld Dazzler	L Gannon, West Port
£2,310	1337/N014	3331/H001 Cottage	O & F McKenny, Castlewellan
Mr A Christie, THE FIELDS			
£1,050	3634/N003	1574/L001 Firth	D & N Hamill, Crumli
Mr H Henry, STARBOG			
£1,260	4373/N001	1538/K020 Midlock	K Dodds, Newry
£1,050	4373/N002	1538/K020 Midlock	S Rainey, Ballygally
A & D McKillop, GIANTS CAUSEWAY			
£24,150	4456/N001 ET	1493/L001 Farden Popeye	WM & CM Ridley, C Cambell, Mrs I Sharp, T Dick & Son & M R Thornborrow
£3,360	4456/N002 ET	1493/L001 Farden Popeye	D Hogg, Moscow
£1,890	4456/N005	790/M001 Yore House Maverick	I Smyth, Limavady
£2,100	4456/N006	1493/L001 Farden Popeye	M Byrne, Tullow
£1,050	4456/N007	790/M001 Yore House Maverick	M Costello, Westport
£1,365	4456/N012	1493/L001 Farden Popeye	M Costello, Westport
£1,155	4456/N013	1493/L001 Farden Popeye	P McBride, Cushendall
Mr J A Stewart, GORTNAMOYAGH			
£1,260	4228/N004	1493/L001 Farden Popeye	C McCann, Dundalk
Mr B McAllister, AUGHABOY			
£14,700	3970/N001 ET	4456/M004 Giants Causeway	W Adams, Ballymena & A Christie, Ballymoney
£5,775	3970/N002 ET	4456/M004 Giants Causeway	Hartside Farms, Biggar
£2,730	3970/N003 ET	4456/M004 Giants Causeway	T Fitzmaurice, Ballygar
£2,940	3970/N004 ET	4456/M004 Ginats Causeway	J Navin, Westport
£1,050	3970/N005 ET	4456/M004 Giants Causeway	S McDonnell, Cushendall
Mr B Blaney, TIEVEBUAILE FARM			
£1,365	3920/N001 ET	980/L006 Hewgill	D Nisbet, Loughbricklan
£7,875	3920/N002 ET	980/L006 Hewgill	B McAllister, Ballymena
£4,830	3920/N004	980/L006 Hewgill	J Mills, Larne
£1,155	3920/N006	980/L006 Hewgill	J McKane, Killygordon
£1,155	3920/N008	980/L006 Hewgill	G Gault, Ballyclare
£1,050	3920/N013	292/L001 Hundith	D O'Boyle, Foriff

OP PRICES

Ballymena Ram Lambs ** omitted from list published in the News from the
Blues Magazine December, 2020

PRICE	TUP NO	SIRE	PURCHASER
G & J Loughery, TEMAIN			
£19,950	4342/N001 ET	790/M001 Yore House Maverick	A Shennan & J Pirie
£10,500	4342/N002 ET	790/M001 Yore House Maverick	T Wray, M Kelly, M Conway & G & J Loughery
£5,775	4342/N003 ET	790/M001 Yore House Maverick	R Loughery, Gortnarney
£6,825	4342/N009	790/M001 Yore House Maverick	T Staunton, Tormakeady
£4,410	4342/N004 ET	790/M001 Yore House Maverick	K McFadden, Dunloy
£2,940	4342/N005 ET	790/M001 Yore House Maverick	R Wallace, Ballintrea
£2,730	4342/N006 ET	790/M001 Yore House Maverick	D E Thomas, Llanwrda
£2,205	4342/N007 ET	790/M001 Yore House Maverick	S Kerr, Kilwaughter
£1,890	4342/N022	790/M001 Yore House Maverick	D Campbell, Plumbridge
£1,575	4342/N016 ET	790/M001 Yore House Maverick	JJ McAlister, Cushendun
£1,680	4342/N023	790/M001 Yore House Maverick	W Alcorn, Limavady
£1,365	4342/N012 ET	790/M001 Yore House Maverick	W Smyth, Limavady
Mr R Currie, TULLAGH			
£1,680	4540/N002	3565/K001 Steel	T Duffy, Westport
Mr S Laverty, ORRA VIEW			
£6,825	3100/N001	2904/M001 Penhill	P Salmon, Carrigahorig
£1,785	3100/N002	2904/M001 Penhill	C Magill, Larne
£2,100	3100/N006	790/M001 Yore House Maverick	J Holden, Larne
£3,780	3100/N011	790/M001 Yore House Maverick	T Fitzmaurice, Ballygar
£2,310	3100/N014	2904/M001 Penhill	C Magill, Larne
R & S Hayes, CASTLEDAMPH			
£1,155	4281/N001	1337/L002 Holmview	R Hall, Pomeroy
£1,365	4281/N002	1337/L002 Holmview	R Gault, Ballyclare
S & J Wilson, DEERFIN			
£1,260	5017/N007	3463/M002 Asby Hall	Glenmore Livestock, Aghweagh
E & S McGarel, HICKEYS BRAE			
£1,050	4297/N004	4424/M010 Firmount	F O'Kane, Dungiven
Mr I Montgomery, MISTYBURN			
£5,460	4691/N001 ET	1493/L001 Farden Popeye	James Warnock & Son, Biggar
£1,680	4691/N002 ET	1493/L001 Farden Popeye	M Gingles & SMD Anderson, Kilwaughter
£3,780	4691/N006	790/M001 Yore House Maverick	J Taylor, Brigisteer
Mr D McCrystal, DRUMMUCK			
£3,360	4367/N001	292/L001 Hundith	P Salmon, Carrigahorig
£2,100	4367/N002	292/L001 Hundith	J McNeill, Cushendun
£12,600	4367/N003	3920/M002 Tievebuaile Farm	M Wright & A Porter
£1,470	4367/N004	1337/M005 Holmview	T Staunton, Tormakeady
£1,785	4367/N018	1574/H032 Firth	H McNeill, Cushendun
Mr E Harkin, MONEYGRAN			
£4,410	4462/N001	2904/M001 Penhill	J Holden, Larne
£1,785	4462/N011 ET	790/M001 Yore House Maverick	M Byrne, Collkenna

The New Grassroots Mobile App

All your own animal details, in your pocket, even when you have no internet or mobile access. Free for the first month, and then a small charge of £1.99 per month or £14.99 for the year.

Download the Grassroots Systems Mobile App from the Appstore or Google Playstore. Create an App User Name (must be at least 8 characters) and your own password. Then sync the details of all the animals you own using your normal Breed Society Member No and password. If you keep other Grassroots breeds, they can be added to the same copy of the App.

It is very straight forward to use, a 'step by step' guide is available on the Grassroots website: www.grassroots.co.uk and also available on the Association website: www.blueleicester.co.uk

From within the App you can:

- **Add images** - for your own use or to appear in the Online Registry
- **Add notes** - for individual animals or groups, including mating records, or reminders
- **Report changes** direct to the registry 'on the go'
 - **Sales** and keep a list of all your buyers
 - **Births** and apply to Notify or Register
 - **Deaths** and sales for meat
 - **Flag animals 'For Sale'** to appear in the Online Registry
 - **Link photos** - for your own use or to appear in the Online Registry

Ballymena Female Sale

19th December 2020

- Graham & Julie Loughery's Temain flock led the trade selling an aged ewe for 2500gns.
- The Holmview flock of J Adams & Son had a successful day selling ewes to 1850gns and ewe hogs to 1750gns.
- Gimmer shearlings from the Moneygran flock of E Harkin, led at 1560gns.

Averages

8 Aged Ewes - £1189

9 Gimmers - £800

35 Ewe Hogs - £593

**Full report available at
www.blueleicester.co.uk**



J37 Temain from G & J Loughery sold for the days top price of 2500gns to A Porter, Braeburn - sire G1 Cottage



K44 Holmview from J Adams & Son took the second top price of 1850gns selling to A Porter, Braeburn - sire J1 Carryhouse



N73 Holmview from J Adams & Son was the leading priced ewe hogg, selling for 1750gns to M Wright, Mullaghwee - sire M001 Allanfauld Dazzler

- The Kirkstead flock led the way with an L1 Espley sired ewe selling for 2200gns to M Quinn, Whinnyhall, in-lamb to a Whinnyhall tup.
- Second top also from Kirkstead, sold for 1600gns, sired by H16 Mendick.
- Messrs D Parry, Nant – y – Glyd, purchased another from Alan McClymont's successful pen for 1200gns, sired by a Burndale tup.
- Burndale sold a H3 Lower Down sired gimmer, in-lamb to M1 Kirkstead for 800gns.
- G Milne, Kinaldy sold his leading gimmer sired by L3 Philliphaugh for 800gns to Messrs Pennington, Much Wenlock.

Averages

7 Ewes - £428

24 Gimmers - £770

2 Ewe Hoggs - £761

**Full report available at
www.blueleicester.co.uk**

M49
Kirkstead
from A
McClymont
led the way
selling for
2200gns
to M Quinn,
Whinnyhall –
sire L1 Espley.



M52
Kirkstead
also from A
McClymont
sold for
1600gns
to Messrs
Fleming,
Teviot Head
– sire H16
Mendick

Follow the Mule Group on Facebook...

Find us on Facebook
@mulegroup



Carlisle Classy Lassies

18th January 2021

- 40 ewe hoggs averaged a very healthy £1860, up nearly £500 on the year.
- Midlock led the ewe hoggs, selling a M2 Asby Hall daughter out of the J6 Hewgill sired Midlock K90, for 9000gns to Jamie Pirie.
- The Hewgill pen sold two hoggs for 8500gns each, both sired by Hewgill M39.
- Kirkby Redgate's pen leader topped at 5000gns for another ewe hogg.
- Gimmer shearlings from W, M & C Wallace, Gapshield lead this section at 2200gns.

Averages

1 Aged Ewe - £2100.00

21 Gimmers - £890.00

40 Ewe Hoggs - £1860.00

Full report available at
www.blueleicester.co.uk

Midlock
N109 from
J Wight
& Sons,
sold for
9,000gns
to J Pirie,
Blarnavaid
- Sire
M002 Asby
Hall



Hewgill
N80 from
Messrs
Lord
sold for
8500gns
to M Allan,
Greenhow
- sire M39
Hewgill



Hewgill N81 from Messrs Lord
sold for 8500gns to N Laing,
Garscube - sire M39 Hewgill



Kirkby Redgate N078 from W
M Hutchinson & Sons sold for
5,000gns to D G Sayers, Valleyfield -
Sire M001 Skeughdale



M28 Gapshield from W, M & C
Wallace lead the gimmer shearlings
at 2200gns - sire J3 Gragareth

Hawes Female Sale

23rd January 2021

- The Hewgill pen led the way with their eye-catching trio of ewe hoggs, selling for £6000 twice and £5800.
- Gimmer shearlings topped at £3,200 for Messrs W, A & A Booth's Smearsett pen.
- Ashley Caton's Otterburn Lodge pen peaked at £3,000 twice for gimmer shearlings selling to R Tennant, Low Bucker House and Messrs Collingwood, Ambling Gate.
- The Arnfield & Wingate Edge Flocks' dispersal for P Hallam and Miss M Hallam sold to £2,300.

Averages

Ewes - £1392.50

Gimmers - £1711.11

Ewe Hoggs - £1706.25

Full report available at
www.blueleicester.co.uk

N71 Hewgill
from
Messrs
Lord
sold for
£6,000 to F
Robertson,
Beeches
- sire L7
Riddings



N72 Hewgill
from Messrs
Lord sold
for joint
top price
of £6,000
to Marian
& William
Porter,
Skelgate &
Riddings
- Sire L07
Riddings



N70 Hewgill from Messrs Lord
sold for £5,800 to RJ Shennan,
Farden - sire M39 Hewgill



M47 Smearsett from Messrs W, A &
A Booth sold for £3,200 to J Taylor,
Lunesdale - Sire J30 Smearsett



Megan Hallam's dispersal topped
at £2,300 for J56 Smearsett
which sold to J Bell, Cottage -
sire H3 Riddings

Summary of Health Schemes for Sheep

by Neil Laing



SCRAPIE

This has become the biggest challenge for trade across the Irish Sea. Whilst there is still on-going work between the administrations on both sides of the water and with the EU (which might change over time) this is how things stand at the time of writing.

All sheep being moved need to be either from a Scrapie monitored flock, or be a genotype ARR/ARR.

The rules for becoming Scrapie Monitored are quite prescriptive and potentially costly:

- ALL fallen stock needs to be brain stem tested clear for Scrapie.
- Replacements can only be sourced from similarly certified flocks.
- Membership takes at least 3 years, with the above rules to complete.



So, as it stands, even if all members joined the scheme tomorrow, it would take at least 3 years before we could trade sheep which are not ARR/ARR across the water. There are also implications for Irish sheep coming over here to a Show or Sale.


Maedi Visna (MV)

This disease has variable infection rates across the UK, but if it is present in a flock it can have a big effect on productivity, hence why some commercial farmers are interested in avoiding it. It presents as increase in culling due to poor milk, increase of lameness, poor condition, and an increase in pneumonia. Because of this it can be difficult to suspect in a flock until there is a high proportion of the sheep infected, which itself causes a problem with eradication.

Freedom from this disease is also a health requirement for trade with the island of Ireland.

There are Health Schemes that offer accreditation against MV, and these have been around for a number of years. These usually involve testing a large proportion of the flock each year, after initially testing all the animals twice. Again, like other Schemes, replacements should be sourced from Accredited flocks or they need 2 tests first. This can become costly for commercial flocks, but from a pedigree perspective can allow seamless trade across the Irish Sea, particularly for lambs.

Recently there has been a new Scheme launched offering MONITORED FREE STATUS.



This is NOT the same as Accreditation, and doesn't meet the export requirements for this disease, but can offer a cheaper form of assurance that the disease is absent/present at very low levels for a commercial buyer of, say, mules. Two Schemes exist from different labs and have slightly different testing requirements, so you should definitely speak to your own vet about which one might suit your farm best.

Johne's Disease

Like cattle there are now Health Schemes offering levels of freedom from Johne's disease. There is a Scheme that mimics the cattle scheme exactly and involves testing all sheep every year for a number of years and getting a flock risk Level from 1 to 5. The challenge with this scheme in my eyes at the moment is the replacement policy requirements. ALL replacements must be from a flock of the same, or better status, so might prove challenging. Buying in from Non Accredited sources is permitted but requires additional testing, which will make this expensive.

There is a Monitoring Scheme for Johne's too, again designed to give a lesser degree of confidence that infection is at a very low level. Like the MV Scheme it involves testing some thin cull ewes. It is worth saying at this point that there is a highly effective vaccine against Johne's that is used when the disease is present as a route to eradication. However, it could also be used as a marketing tool to sell breeding stock vaccinated against Johne's, as an alternative to freedom from. This might be more useful if the buyer sources from multiple farms of unknown status.

CLA

CLA or Caseous Lymphadenitis, causes wasting and poor production in sheep and has economic importance in many countries worldwide. There is a Health Scheme that certifies freedom from this disease.

OPA

OPA, or Ovine Pulmonary Adenocarcinoma, or Jaagsiekte, is another disease that causes wasting and poor performance. It is caused by a virus that forms tumours in the lungs, which eventually cause the sheep to show signs of pneumonia. It is difficult to diagnose in the live animal, there being currently no accurate blood test. Ultrasound scanning of lungs can help identify infected animals but it is reasonably variable in finding early infected animals with small tumours in the lungs. This is realistically the only tool we have in helping to reduce the infection rate in flocks. There is no vaccine available for this disease and no cure.

Summary

These diseases are important from a flock production perspective, and a discussion with your vet if you suspect your sheep aren't performing as well as you expect them too, is the starting point for identifying which, if any, is behind it. However, most if not all of these diseases are mentioned on export paperwork to Northern Ireland, with vets being asked to certify if these diseases are present in the flocks of origin.

Hope this gives a brief outline of some of the important diseases which could affect our ability to market our Leicesters, whether it be Health Schemes or testing, or vaccines that can help improve or maintain the health status of our flocks, this should give you food for thought.

Neil Laing



Mule Group News

After a fairly, hectic curtain raiser of a year for the Mule Group, it is time to consolidate the concept and push ahead with new ideas. The principles of the group remain the same, to deliver consistent messages of Hybrid Vigour, Adaptability and Profitability for all Mules while continuing to respect, the integrity of the individual Associations.

In our first year, the new concept attracted the attention of a fairly quiet farming press, as things open up after Covid we will have to compete for column inches in a more competitive market. Our opposition continue to avoid the issues of output and profitability so we are still in a good position to drive home the message, however continued feedback from vets and journalists about the shortcomings of mules, centres on the iceberg diseases of MV, Borders Disease and OPA, whilst it is up to each Association to address these issues, any help and encouragement the Bluefaced Leicester breeders can give would be useful. If we are able to reduce the criticism of the disease situation of Mules, then we can push ahead further.

Finally, whilst it is in early stages of proposals, we are looking to promote charity Mule female sales throughout the country in a bid to raise funds for local charities and create a positive image for all concerned. This excellent idea has come from Tom Jones who has put in a tremendous amount of work on the Blues and Mules Facebook page. Following a death in the family, Tom came up with this excellent idea. Look out for details after lambing.

I wish you all good fortune with the lambing and thank you for your continued support.

Derek Hall