

Whitefaced Woodland Sheep Society

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Newsletter 111 - June 2019

From the Chairman...

I hope all of you had a good lambing time. The weather was certainly an improvement on last year. But now look at June! Last year it was hot and dry, this year, wet and cold - which is not very good for my roses.* I was sorry to hear that Honley Show had to be cancelled. Let's hope for better weather for the other shows.

I shall be staying in North Yorks for a couple of days while I judge the Ryedale Show. Then I am going to Durham to stay with some friends.

From what I have heard, North Sheep went fairly well, with a reasonable amount of interest in the Woodlands. A big thank you to Robert and Angela Crampton and Tony Redfern for taking the sheep and setting up and manning the stand.

Wishing you all the best for the summer and hoping to see some of you at the shows. That's all for now. Take care

Neville

* Never mind Neville's – or my – roses, it's not very good for getting our sheep dry and clipped, either! Ed

Subscriptions by Standing Order

A few members have asked if they can pay their annual subscription by standing order. We will try and devise a form which they can send to their own bank, to set up the arrangement. Please let the Secretary know if you would like to use this method of payment.

Forthcoming events - dates for your diary-

First off, the **Annual Show and Sale** will be at Holmfirth Auction Mart on Sunday 29 September. Last year's sale was much better organised and Jill Thorp has volunteered to do the catalogue again for 2019. Closing date for entries will be 13th **September** and forms will be available. **UK tag number must be supplied**. Unregistered stock will be sold at the end of the Sale.

Chareen Kaye has very kindly offered to host the **AGM and Farm Visit**. This will take place at Blackwood Farm, Rishworth on Sunday 6 October. More details and contact details in due course.

Meltham Golf Club is booked for the **Society Fundraising Lunch** on Sunday 24th November. Some members have said that they would prefer a Dinner Dance every alternate year. This would probably mean an overnight stay for those who live outside the Holmfirth area, plus a volunteer to organise the event and sort out a suitable location. No one has come forward as yet!! This would be an ideal opportunity for 2020, so please have a think about what you would like, and how you could achieve it.

The Great Yorkshire Show

Judith Hawkhead would be pleased to hear from any members able to help in the RBST Marquee. If you are able to do half a day (9am-1pm or 1pm-5pm) they have entry tickets available. They would greatly appreciate your help even for just an hour or two.

judith.hawkhead@york.ac.uk

Phone: 01347 824534

North Sheep 2019

This year's great event was at New Hall Farm, a Frankland Farm, at Rathmell, Settle, North Yorkshire. The location was in the flat lush grass valley just East of Settle.

Angela, myself and Tony Redfern set up the stand on Tuesday 4th June. We were given the allocated space in the corner of the smallest marquee with sheep gates in a pile. We all thought this dead end was going to be disastrous but, on the day, quite the opposite.

The organisation was excellent, and we managed to unload both trailers before the drizzle turned to pouring rain. We had to pen the sheep first and build the stand around the pens as others were waiting to unload. We took an aged tup, who was well photographed and on his best behaviour and a two-shear ewe with a nice pair of twin gimmer lambs. Tony took a Whitefaced Woodland Ewe x Texel by a Charolais x Beltex tup. The lambs were born on 20th April and were bigger than our purebred lambs born two weeks earlier. The lambs would be sold around July.

The show opened at 8 am on Wednesday 5th June to a dull but mostly fine day; we had a few drizzle showers. From 8.30 am until round 4.30 pm there was a constant stream of visitors. We kept busy all day. We had quite a cross section of visitors: farmers who had never seen or heard of WW to breeders who wanted to know the benefits of cross breeding. Here Tony could convince them, as he has around 300 woody crosses, with all lambs being for the fat market. We also had a few Society members and people we knew, but not as many as you would have expected from being in Yorkshire.



The event was attended by over 5000 visitors, 3000 of which went on the tractor driven farm tour. There is everything you need to know about the developments in feeds, supplements, and welfare, as well as the latest in equipment, whilst most breed societies and associations had stands and sheep.

A great and worthwhile day for the Society, unfortunately our stand and graphics are well past their sell by date and look very dated. For future events we need new graphics with high quality photographs. We really need to design a stand or better still have one designed. Many stands do spend a lot of money, as they show at various sheep events around the UK, but they were very impressive. The best breeders association stand was Blackface Sheep, second was Herdwick Sheep and third Swaledale Sheep.

The location for 2021 is still undecided.

Robert Crampton

Show results

Honley is traditionally the first show of the season with Woodland classes, but it was cancelled on the morning of 8 June, because of the dreadful weather.

North Yorks County Show

Judge: Laura Brown

Aged or shearling ram: 1st Karen Lucas, 2nd Richard Smith, 3rd Angela Crampton

Ram lamb: 1st Karen Lucas, 2nd Richard Smith, 3rd

Angela Crampton

Aged ewe: 1st Richard Smith, 2nd Angela

Crampton, 3rd Karen Lucas

Shearling ewe: 1st Angela Crampton, 2nd Karen

Lucas, 3rd Angela Crampton

Ewe lamb: 1st Karen Lucas, 2nd Angela Crampton,

3rd Richard Smith,

Group of 3: 1st Angela Crampton, 2nd Richard

Smith

The Champion was Angela's shearling ewe and

Richard's aged ewe took Reserve.

Three Counties - Rare Breeds Day

After last year's fiasco, there was considerable effort to get the classes running again. Judged by Adrian Windsor, the Championship was won by Maureen Johnson. Results were:

Ram: Windrush (Peter Harkness and Ben Stayt)

Ram Lamb: Mudchute (Tom Davis)

Ewe: Maureen Johnson

Ewe lamb: Windrush Group of Three: Windrush



Congratulations to Maureen Johnson

Harden Moss Sheep Show

Judge: Jeff Dowey

A well attended show, with about a dozen entries in both the shearling ewe and lamb classes. Some two thirds of the sheep were still in full wool, so an added challenge for Jeff! Aged ram: 1st Paul Thorp, 2nd Angela Crampton,

3rd Robert Thackeray

Shearling ram: 1st Casey Campbell, 2nd Richard

Smith, 3rd Paul Thorp

Ram lamb: 1st Chareen Kaye, 2nd Laura Brown,

3rd Robert Thackeray

Aged ewe: 1st Chareen Kaye, 2nd Laura Brown,

3rd Richard Smith

Shearling ewe: 1st Paul Thorp, 2nd Angela

Crampton, 3rd Chareen Kaye

Ewe lamb: 1st Paul Thorp, 2nd Chareen Kaye,

3rd Robert Thackeray.

Champion was Chareen's aged ewe and Reserve

was Paul's shearling ewe.

Woodland fleeces wanted

Good quality Whitefaced Woodland fleece wanted. New season fine wool required, clean and well-presented and free of kemp. Please contact Rupert Arnold on 01132843373 or email r.arnold@braythorne.co.uk

CONTACT DETAILS

Chairman:: Neville Belfield, 2 Gonville Avenue, Sutton, Macclesfield, Cheshire SK11

0EG Phone: 01260 253158

Vice Chairman John Jones, Cefn Gwyn Farm, Aberangell, Machynlleth, Powys SY20 9QG Phone: 01650 511485, mobile: 07925 118278 e-mail: johnjonesbenjamin@yahoo.co.uk

Treasurer: Karen Lucas

6 Croft Drive, Millhouse Green, Penistone

S36 9NE Phone: 07787 241960

Secretary & Membership: Rachel Godschalk Plover Hall, Gilmonby, Barnard Castle DL12 9LU Phone: 07962 152242; e-mail:

RachelGodschalk@whitefacedwoodland.co.uk

Newsletter & Registrations: Ann Godschalk Plover Hall, Gilmonby, Barnard Castle, Co. Durham DL12 9LU Phone 07985 096230, e-mail: AnnGodschalk@whitefacedwoodland.co.uk

Committee Members:

Robert Crampton, Rooftops, 11 Moor Lane, Grassington, N Yorks BD23 5BD Phone: 01756 753779 e-mail: r.crampton11m@btinternet.com Paul Dixon, C/o William Sykes & Son, 38 Huddersfield Road, Holmfirth HD9 3JH Phone: 01484 683543, mobile: 07720 765094, e-mail: PaulDixon@whitefacedwoodland.co.uk

Jeff Dowey, Pikenaze Farm, Woodhead, Glossop, Derbyshire SK13 1JD Phone: 07931 143287

Rob Ford, Parkside, Park Road, Leek, Staffs ST13 8JT Phone: 01538 398290,

e-mail: RobFord@whitefacedwoodland.co.uk

Tony Redfern, 51 Fairybank Crescent, Hayfield, High Peak SK22 2HR Phone:07813 054283

Jill Thorp, Stott Hall Farm, Rishworth, Sowerby Bridge, Yorks HX6 4QY Phone: 07730 402812 e-mail: jillfalkingham@gmail.com

Paul Thorp, Stott Hall Farm, Rishworth, Sowerby Bridge, Yorks HX6 4QY Phone: 07712 232087 e-mail: paul_thorp@icloud.com

Tessa Wigham, Riggshield Farm, Irthington, Carlisle, Cumbria CA6 4PS Phone: 01228 675304, e-mail: Wighamtessa@aol.com

Chris Wray, Westfield House, Marton Road, Gargrave, N Yorks BD23 3NL Phone: 01756 749303 e-mail: wray.westfield@googlemail.com