



LLANWENOG SHEEP BREEDERS SUPPORT GROUP

NEWSLETTER SPRING 2015

Dear Fellow Llanwenog breeder,

It's been some time since our last Support Group newsletter for which I apologise, and a lot has been going on. This newsletter is designed to keep you informed and to act as a conduit for your thoughts. If you have anything you would like raised please get in touch (llanwenogsg@gmail.com). As we are so scattered throughout the country it would be good to have some way of communicating easily with one another – the website (www.llanwenogsheepbreeders.co.uk) is only one way but we do try to put stuff on there that will be of interest to you so please do check it regularly. Likewise if you have something you want raised with other members then we can probably put it on the website and invite comment though at the moment we do not have the facility to have members post comments direct. Please also remember to regularly check the Society website (www.llanwenog-sheep.co.uk) as important events and deadlines are easily missed. Some of the content of this newsletter has previously been published on the website but is reproduced here in case you missed it...

Launch of Trevor Kelland Memorial Bursary

Following the death in 2009 of Trevor Kelland, a stalwart supporter of the Llanwenog, it was decided to establish this bursary, worth £150, in his memory. It will be awarded to a student or students at Bridgwater College who will carry out a research project on the performance attributes of the Llanwenog flock at the college. It was launched last year on Lambing Sunday in mid March and awarded jointly to Zac Gratton and David Curryer



2013/14 bursary winners: Zac - 4th from left, David – 3rd from right

TREVOR KELLAND MEMORIAL BURSARY 2015

For 2015, the fund has been split between two 2nd year Level 3 students.



Hannah Heriot (far left), is going to compare a matched group of 10 in-lamb Llanwenogs expecting twins with a similar group of Texel cross ewes. She will be comparing ease of lambing, mothering ability, lamb losses/mortality & lamb growth rates during the first month.

Charlotte Male (on right), will compare a group of Llanwenogs (20-30 expecting representative numbers of twins & singles) with a similar group of Texel crosses. She will monitor lamb losses from scanning to lambing, at lambing (live/dead) & up to two months of age. She will also compare lamb growth rates at one & two months old.

Three counties Rare and Minority Breeds Show June 15th 2014

This show represents the National Championship for members of the Llanwenog Sheep Breeders Support Group and where we give out prizes to our members. A number of cups are awarded and not just to the champion - there are cups for the best homebred ewe and ram as well so you never know, your name might end up on one of our trophies one day...

Last year Jill Bennett's yearling ewe narrowly beat Maggie Wilson's ram for the championship

Full results on the Society website. The closing date for entries for this year is 14th April so don't delay, enter today.



Flock Visit and AGM at Bridgewater College 12th July 2014



How many of you know how many kg of lamb per acre you produce? Well fortunately the students at Bridgewater College have been doing all the measurements and have worked it all out for their flock of Llanwenogs and Texel crosses and the good news is that the Llanwenog is pretty good at the job of producing lamb with minimum input. We all knew that anyway but it's great to have it confirmed with the stats to back it up. The students measured just about

everything, even how much feed wasn't eaten, and the figures show that the Llanwenog doesn't require as much feed to produce comparable weight of lamb as the cross-bred flock. There is still some work to be done but the results we were shown at the AGM and flock visit on 12th July were certainly good reading. The two students who were awarded the Trevor Kelland memorial bursary have done great work on the Llanwenog project. Our thanks to Steve Jones the farm manager at the college for welcoming us with coffee and cake and giving us a tour of the flock and part of the dairy herd. The college farms 400 acres has 220 ewes (half Llanwenogs, half Texel crosses) 240 milkers with 200 followers and aims to have a beef herd soon. They were badly affected by the flooding earlier this year and lost most of the wheat crop.



We enjoyed a buffet lunch at a nearby farm shop and then got down to business with the AGM. Our thanks to Charles Horton who stepped down as Chairman but remains on the committee, he is replaced by Maurice Greenslade. Lynn Zorab was elected to the committee. These meetings may seem dry and boring to some but it's a great opportunity to meet up with other Llanwenog breeders,



compare notes and make new contacts. There are more and more flocks in England and the support group aims to be exactly that – a support for English breeders whether it's help with finding suitable livestock or promoting the breed at shows and events. In order to do this effectively the group needs the support of the English breeders

Correspondence

The following is a selection of enquiries received via email, if you can help please get in touch llanwenogsg@gmail.com

Fly Strike: One of our members has been having problems with fly strike despite all efforts and treatments and not just the usual rear end areas but all over.

Llanwenogs in America: an enquiry as to where to get Llanwenogs in the US. I know from personal experience that it can be very cold in winter and extremely hot in summer, quite unlike wet west Wales. She was very taken with the Llanwenog fleece though I don't know where she came across it.



Machinations of a Vaccinator Gun: Has anyone else had problems with what should be a very useful piece of kit? I watched the video on how to use it, I put it together very carefully with the steriliser bit on the end and the vaccine bottle on the top. It looked so easy on the video - just set the dosage and go, as it were. Things seemed to be going fine until we noticed the level of vaccine in the bottle was not going down as it should, unless this was a miraculous bottle. Then the needle bent, I never knew my ewes were so thick skinned. The project was abandoned in favour of the use of a syringe. My assistant has promised never to let me be tempted to try again.

Sales: Remember that the website has a sales section, particularly useful if you don't want to go to Llanybydder on the August bank holiday weekend with just a few sheep. We are also hoping to promote the breed at the Melton Mowbray Show and Sale in September.

Shows in 2015

If you have never entered a show it's worth considering it. Even if you only have a small flock of sheep you will probably have one you are especially proud of so why not show it? Don't be put off by those who are very busy trimming and brushing and make you feel inadequate - they were novices at one point and most experts are happy to impart a few helpful hints, but not just before entering the show ring. Try to find a neighbour who can help you get started or try YouTube. You don't really need to do a lot - if you have a good animal the judge can see it. It does help if your sheep will walk on a halter. Here is a list of some of the shows taking place in 2015 and if you don't feel up to entering you can still have a good day out...



22 March	Springtime Live (Yorkshire)	23 May	Shropshire County
9 - 10 May	Nottinghamshire County Show	23 -24 May	Hertfordshire County
16 -17 May	Royal Welsh Spring Festival	25 May	Sherborne Castle Country Fair
21 -23 May	Devon County	25 May	Northumberland County

27 – 28 May	Staffordshire County	20 -23 July	Royal Welsh
27 – 30 May	Royal Bath & West	25 July	Mid Devon
27 – 28 May	Suffolk	28 – 30 July	New Forest & Hampshire
4 – 6 June	Royal Cornwall	6 August	Honiton
12 - 14 June	Royal Three Counties	12 August	Okehampton
23 – 24 June	Cheshire County	20 August	Chagford
1 – 2 July	Royal Norfolk	27 August	Monmouth
4 – 5 July	Cotswold	4–6 September	Chatsworth Country Fair
10 – 12 July	Kent County	5 September	Moreton-in-Marsh Show
11 July	Newport Show	5–6 September	Dorset County Show
14 – 16 July	Great Yorkshire	11–12 Sept	Melton Mowbray Show & Sale
19 July	Singleton Rare Breeds Show	19-20 Sept	Berkshire County

Some of these shows have classes for Llanwenogs though usually they are entered in “Any other native breed” or “Hill and Heath Breeds”. We award our own prizes at the Royal Three Counties Rare and Minority Breed Show (14th June). Please let us know of your successes as you may win the Whiteparish shield awarded to the flock with the most points won by entering shows in England.

Don't forget the Llanwenog Show and Sale Llanybydder 22 August.

Upcoming events:

Spring Flock Visit Sunday 24th May: 2015 Margaret Brain has kindly invited us to visit her Whiteparish Flock in Wiltshire. Margaret is president of the Society this year and it is 10 years since she last hosted a visit so she is keen to see as many as possible on May 24th. We are invited to arrive for coffee from 10.30 onwards followed by a tour of the flock about 11 a.m. Margaret and Maurice are very generously offering lunch after which Maurice hopes to give a Lucerne demonstration (weather permitting). There will certainly be plenty of opportunity to catch up with friends and meet new people. Further details will be on the website closer to the visit but if you plan to come please let Margaret know. (dmargaretbrain@live.com) phone 01794 884355, post code SP5 2SJ



Support Group AGM: Philip and Sally Hodges have very kindly offered to host the AGM on Saturday 11th July starting at 11.30 with the AGM followed by sandwich lunch at a local pub. We will then tour the flock and finish with a BBQ hosted by Philip and Sally. Philip has actively promoted the Llanwenog for many years and is a very experienced judge. Many of us will have his rams' genes in our flocks as the Charndon name is well respected. It is hoped that due to the central location, near Bicester just off the M40, that many of you will be able to attend. Please try to come along and tell us what you want the support group to do for you. Further details on the website.

Philip Hodges judged and presented the prizes at the Royal Three Counties Show last year



May I wish you a successful and uneventful lambing and may all your lambs be bright.

Alison Ayling (Secretary, Llanwenog English Breeders Support Group)

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