



British Rouge Sheep Society Newsletter

Winter 2018



Secretary

Pat Imlah

Mob: 07803897419

Tele: 01651 862920

secretary@rouge-sheep.co.uk

www.rouge-sheep.co.uk

Honorary President

John Smithson

Chairman

John Gate

Vice Chairman

Members of Council

Ian Teasdale

Ian McConnell

Co-opted

Sally Aspital



Hi All

Doesn't time fly, shows and sales have come and gone- turkey plucking again!!

2018 has been a very strange year for trading for all types of sheep mainly due to the extremes of weather. After buoyant finish lamb trade early in the year, breeding sheep trade was expected to be on a high, unfortunately that was not the case.

Trade at Carlisle was very mixed, there always appears to be a lack of commercial ram buyers, any suggestions to rectify this much appreciated. After Carlisle sale, I decided to take a trip over the water to Dungannon sale. Where trade was similar to Carlisle with skins and carcass selling the best. At this point, I must thank the NI club for their usual hospitality, especially George and Moore for accommodation & transporting me around for the 2 days seeing some great sheep both at the sale and on farm. Also thanks to the Workman's for the efficient way, my purchases were brought back.

At Langford Farm, due to a lot of late interest we have sold 12 2shear/ shearling rams and hired out several other rouges, hopefully putting more rouge x lambs on the ground. Of the 12 sold half were new buyers, some by seeing other cross lambs and some by the Rouge website. Unfortunately, all the buyers are commercial farmers, which does not help the Rouge membership, but we can only keep trying.

With regret, we have had to accept Damien Tumelty's resignation from council, due to home commitments. We wish him all the best for the future, and thank him for his time and work on council.

Finally, I would like to welcome Ian McConnell onto council and look forward to working with him.

Thanks also to everyone for your friendship, wishing you a Happy Christmas & Prosperous New Year. All the best for a successful 2019 lambing.

Regards

John Gate

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The Year
Letter for 2019
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Rules for Shows and Sales

INSPECTION POINTS

Your sheep will be rejected from Society Sales or Shows for any of the following points
THESE ARE ONLY GENERAL GUIDELINES

1. For having an undershot or overshot jaw
2. For having poor conformation, or for being underweight for age.
3. For having badly formed legs or feet (too twisted or too straight) or for poor locomotion.
4. For having black wool (including marks and spots in the fleece)
5. For not being true to type.
6. For having ill health, or for giving reasons to believe that the animal is not capable of breeding.
7. For NOT complying with the Society's rules for the showing and selling of sheep.
8. Members are respectfully reminded that teeth grinding is a severe contravention of desirable welfare practices. Disciplinary action will be taken against any member found to have carried out this practice.

PRESENTATION OF SHEEP AT SHOWS AND SALES

1. Sheep presented at Shows and Sales at one year of age or older must be shorn bare after the 1st January and before being presented at their first show of the current season.
2. Rouge lambs are not to be faked in any way by carding comb, shears, etc., except to tidy up head, throat and chest, square tails and take long ends off under the belly and around the legs. NO OTHER PART OF THE LAMB MAY BE TOUCHED. (see diagram)
3. Hair on faces and legs may be removed and the faces and legs may be washed and or lightly dressed with colourless oil, but may not be artificially coloured in any way. The use of hair removing substances is strictly forbidden.
4. All male sheep to have two correct testicles, no rigs or chasers to be shown or sold.
5. No lambs to be born before 1st January. If born before this day, they become a Shearling on reaching 1st January and must be tattooed/ear tagged with the appropriate letter. The Society reserves the right to make spot checks on lambing dates.

RULES GOVERNING THE SHOWING OF BRITISH ROUGE SHEEP

All persons exhibiting Rouge Sheep at shows where sheep are shown under the auspices of the British Rouge Sheep Society must be fully paid up members of the Society and sheep must be registered with the Society. No exhibitor shall present a sheep before a judge at any Show where the judge has or has had a financial or breeding interest in that animal at any time.

The Society may appoint an inspector to inspect lambs for dressing at the National shows and reserves the right to appoint an inspector at any show where sheep are shown under the British Rouge Society rules.

The Royal Highland Show
The Great Yorkshire
The Royal Welsh Show

The Royal Ulster Show – to be run under the rules and conditions of the Northern Ireland Rouge Club.

ANY LAMB INFRINGING DRESSING REGULATIONS WILL BE INELIGIBLE TO COMPETE WITHIN THE SHOW CLASSES OF THAT SHOW OR AT ANY SALE UNDER ROUGE SHEEP SOCIETY RULES. THE DECISION OF THE SOCIETY INSPECTOR SHALL BE FINAL.

The Society, its representatives or the disciplinary committee shall be absolved of any liability for any action taken as a consequence of their decision.

ERRORS OR OMISSIONS. The Society cannot accept responsibility for any error or omissions.

BREED PROMOTION

Just a reminder to all breeders who sell rams and ewes commercially, please share with your purchasers that there is prize money to be had at the following events in 2019

Royal Highland Show a Special Prize of £100 for the best Rouge Cross/s if placed first (from the classes 33, 35, 37, 38, 39 and 42)

Great Yorkshire a Special Prize of £100 for the best Rouge Crosses if placed first (from the classes 555, 556, 576, 577 and 578')

Royal Welsh Show a Special Prize of £50 for the best Rouge or Rouge Cross if placed first in class 1131.

Devon County a special prize of £50 for the best Pure or Cross Bred Rouge Ewe or Rouge Cross Lambs if placed first in class 320.

Along with £200 given to the Northern Ireland Club to be used in a similar way (being decided by the club)

Great Yorkshire Show



Judge Jayne Tannahill making her final decision for the Champion, her choice was the gimmer Bennachie Trina shown by new member Lillian Waddell & Laine Daff Renfrewshire. Reserve Champion went to the ram shown by Mr Carter Devon.



On the carcass front at the show a massive well done to Erica Avis, her first time entering the carcass competition. Achieving a 2nd and 3rd with homebred lambs from her rouge cross ewes. Best of all were the judge's comment "excellent eating quality ideal carcass for your high street butcher"

Royal Welsh Show

A great day for the Rouge Breed



When we were deciding what show to attend in 2018, we pondered about going to the Welsh because of distance, days away & cost.

When shearing the show team in March we thought we had the making of a good team for the royal shows, so we decided to do the Royal Welsh after the Yorkshire.

At the Yorkshire, it was a great surprise with Trina winning the Rouge, & my Bleu winning the Blue du Maine as well.

So on a high we went to the Welsh, where Trina won the gimmer class in the Any other Breed and was then awarded Champion of the section. Trina then went forward to the Continental Championship, of which she had a fantastic win to become the Supreme Continental Champion.

The interview was quite amusing, as when asked how many rouge we had, and the answer being one. The commentator then said, "Well it seems that is all you need".

With the bleu gimmer doing as well, winning the bleu national CH we came home on a high with a massive haul of trophies & rosettes,

To do what we did, I think was quite a feat "never to be repeated". As the two of us show for fun, all this at the 1st attempt. *By Lillian Waddell*



Another great day for the Rouge Breed

Great Achievement for team Tait

Export to Germany

Pleased to be sending another consignment of Rouge abroad. This time to eastern Germany. Here are pictures of the two ram lambs. The same chap is also having three ewe lambs. Safe journey kids. **#export #teamtait**



Carlisle Premier Sale 2018



The Rouge sheep society sale at Carlisle on Friday saw the 1st prize ewe lamb and Female Champion sell for the top price of 1000gns. This was Ian McConnell's substitute entry Ian's Unique sired by Ballylane Scotsman and out of the imported ewe Raaptoff Isciane. The successful bidder on this occasion was Messrs Christie from Ballymoney, County Antrim.

Five animals sold for the next best price of 600gns, the first of these was a shearling gimmer consigned by JR Wilkinson and Son's Langlands flock. Langlands Tinker was sired by Sunrise Regal and out of a homebred ewe. She was purchased on the day by Messrs Simpson and Calvin also from Ballymoney. In the ram section Glenkeen Tempo, a shearling ram consigned by John Harbinson sold for 600gns. Tempo was sired by Quarrymount Eric Cantona and has won 4th prize in the pre-sale show. He was purchased by Messrs Gate from Northwich, Cheshire.



The Male Champion and Reserve Overall Champion from Pat Imlah was another to go for 600gns. This was the shearling ram Bennachie True Gold sired by the Highland Show Reserve Male Champion Gerigne Fernand and out of Bennachie Penelope. True Gold was purchased by Messrs Summers and Son from Gainsbrough.

AJ Graham's ram lamb Tullyvallen U Topper sired by Prix Du Marolleau was the next to sell at the same money. This lamb was purchased by Messrs Haggerty from Ballymoney.

Pat Imlah's 2nd prize winning ram lamb Bennachie U R The Boy was the fifth and final animal to sell at 600gns. Another by Gerigne Fernand and out of the flock's show ewe Bennachie Pennie, a full brother to this lamb won 3rd prize at the Highland Show this year. U R The Boy was purchased by Messrs Brolly from Co Londonderry.

The Rou-teX section topped at 400gns for John Harbinson's shearling ram Glenkeen Rou-teX Tommy Gunn sired by Clyde Wonderboy and out of Glenkeen Ray of Hope.

Averages: 1 Aged ram £546; 11 Shearling rams £456.76; 13 Lamb rams £631.04; 2 Rou-Tex Shearling rams £378; 9 shearling gimmers £351.17; 10 Ewe lambs £412.65

Northern Ireland Premier Sale



The NI Rouge Club held their Premier Sale on Monday 27th August in Dungannon Farmers Market. Judging was in the capable hands of Mrs Hillary Workman, Co. Monaghan who along with her husband Malcolm runs the Drumhirk Rouge Flock. Hillary found her Champion in the open ram lamb class with Robert Calvin's Ballyhivistock Upperclass a January born, Kinsella Nemo sired lamb which later went on to sell for the top price of the day 900gns sold to the judge. The Ballyhivistock pen had a great run despite being last in the ring with pen mates selling for 680gns, 500gns and 450gns. Reserve Champion went to the 1st prize Shearling ram from George Knox's Kinsella Flock which later went on to sell for 520gns the top price shearling ram. The 1st place Signet Recorded lamb from the Tullyvallen Flock sold for 500gns. Topping the female trade was a Shearling ewe from the Tullyvallen flock of AJ Graham selling for 600gns and pen mates at 450gns, 440gns and 400gns. Ewe lambs topped at 560gns for the 1st prize exhibit from the Tullyvallen Flock of AJ Graham.

Other leading prices -

Shearling Rams – *Glenkeen Flock 420gns, 300gns*

Ram Lambs – *Glengalliagh Flock 460gns, Tullyvallen Flock 450gns, Kinsella Flock 440gns, 400gns*



Starting them young!

Ballymena Sale



Champion and reserve came from the George Knox Kinsella Flock
Champion Ram lamb topped the sale at 480 gns

A Rouge Ram – Why not?

When chatting to sheep farmers who are using a Rouge ram in their flock the common response we hear when asked how they find them – they can't understand why Rouge rams are not more widely used among commercial sheep farmers and believe they are truly undervalued within the sheep sector.

Profitability in the sheep flock depends very much on the number of lambs sold per ewe each year, good lamb thrive and being able to reduce costs – labour and vet fees.

How can a Rouge Ram help?

- Increasing prolificacy – improved lambing percentage
- Improving biosecurity/Reducing the risk of introducing disease – being able to produce replacement ewes
- Ease of lambing
- Lively lambs, quick to feet and suckle
- Rouge cross ewes tend to have great milking and mothering ability
- Rouge rams are active and fit to an old age
- Rouge sired lambs are fast growing
- Rouge cross well with any breed of ewe

The quality of the Rouge cross can be seen in the winners of the recent Rouge Fat Lamb competition – congratulations to the Hall Family who also successfully sell their Rouge cross ewe lambs for breeding every year commanding some of the top prices!

Breeders in the press
The following article on Team Teasdale



Fourth generation farmer, Ian Teasdale, has only limited time to spend on looking after his flock, and that is one reason why he continued with the family tradition of breeding pedigree British Rouge sheep, when he took over High Farm in 2014.

The Rouge was bred in France as a dairy animal for producing Camembert cheese and therefore it will enhance milk production, when crossed with any other breed, said Mr Teasdale, who is based near Helmsley in North Yorkshire. As well as running the beef, sheep and arable unit, he also works as a self-employed agricultural engineer, specialising in combine harvesters.

Breeding sheep produced by his 35-strong 'Jet' pedigree Rouge flock are in demand from commercial farmers all over the country, with the Rouge particularly popular with Irish sheep keepers. A Rouge tup can be used effectively across a variety of breeds and one of Mr Teasdale's regular customers finds they make a good match with his Cheviot ewes.

The past couple of years have seen the emergence of the Rou-teX, which is created when a Beltex or Texel tup is put to Rouge ewe. Mr Teasdale was so impressed by the merging of the two breeds that he has experimented with his own flock. I used a Beltex sire on a batch of my Rouge females, with the aim of rearing some tup lambs for sale to commercial breeders. However, this latest attempt at cross-breeding left me with only one male; the rest were all gimmers. But I am not going to give up and I will be implementing the same policy for next year.

He also tried the cross the other way, by putting a Rouge tup onto a batch of Texel cross gimmer, with the aim of improving ease of lambing ease.

"I was pleased with the result and considered retaining some ewe lambs. However, the market trade was very good and I ended up selling the females, with a single lamb, at Darlington auction mart, where they topped £200 for the pair," he said.

Mr Teasdale, who sits on the British Rouge Sheep Society council, regularly shows his sheep at the Great Yorkshire and at the Royal Highland and has taken breed championships at both events. Another memorable moment was when one of the shearing rams took the supreme championship and a ram lamb was reserve male at the breed society's premier show and sale at Carlisle in 2016. He also supports his local show, the Rydale, which this year will take place on 31 July. Sheep to be presented at shows in the year of their birth must be lambed early and therefore the main flock is lambed inside in January.

The Rouge is a prolific animal and only one single lamb was born in the pedigree flock this season. The easy-lambing for which the Rouge is renowned means it is often chosen as a recipient for embryo transfer." It is almost unheard of for us to intervene at lambing time and we have never had to call in the vet to a purebred," said Mr Teasdale. "Their lambs are incredibly thrifty and up on their feet and suckling almost immediately after they are born. One of the tup lambs born during the evening this season was very small and I didn't expect that he would live through the night. But the following morning he was alert and had a full belly and it is difficult to pick him out from the rest of the group."

The ewes are fed on a mixture of home-grown, rolled oats, silage, flaked maize and minerals. The ewes and their lambs have access to a run-out area while they are housed, which he believes is essential for keeping their feet in good order. They are turned out as soon as possible and their lambs weaned at age 12-13 weeks. Youngstock that are not required for breeding are sold through Darlington auction mart.

The Rouge is a good converter of grass, he added.

“Some people who are unfamiliar with the Rouge imagine that they are not hardy, but that is certainly not the case,” he stressed. “Our farm rises to above 850-feet above sea-level and is in a very exposed location, but the sheep cope without any problems. Nevertheless, it has been a very difficult year and grass production was very poor in early spring; it is still not performing to its usual standard.

“The first Rouge was purchased by my father, John, and I saw no reason to switch breeds, when I took over the tenancy. It suits this farm, because it is comparatively maintenance-free breed and allows me to run my engineering business with minimal interruption. I have recently taken on some extra land and the farm now totals just over 220-acres, so I will be able to expand the flock,” said Mr Teasdale.



Not to be outdone by dad the Junior Team Teasdale made the media



Show Flock Winners

Champion Show Flock

Fairyglen Flock owned by the Kerr Family



2018 was a real roller coaster ride for the Fairyglen Flock! Starting with the 150th Anniversary Show at Balmoral where we took the Overall Champion with Fairyglen Rhiana a 2015 homebred ewe. Next stop The Royal Highland show where again we were awarded overall champion with Fairyglen Prada a 2014 homebred ewe. For us it was a big achievement to win two Royal shows with two different sheep. The pressure was then on in the Interbreed Championships, where we were pulled into the final line up of the accredited sheep.

Of course, between the two show dates, there was an even bigger event for our family – the birth of our granddaughter Anna on the 29th May – needless to say her first “show cation” was off to The Highland at just 3 weeks old.

The finishing touch from the Highland was receiving our champion medal in the post. It will always remind us of those hectic happy times we had showing our sheep there.

Now it is back to the drawing board and waiting to see what will be produced from the various rams that have been used this season to further promote the breed.

Here's to a good 2019 lambing season to all! *By Joan Kerr*

Reserve Champion Show Flock

Jets Flock owned by the Teasdale Family

Balmoral

Champion: Fairyglen Flock owned by the Kerr family

Reserve Champion: Tullyvallen Flock owned by the Graham family

Royal Highland Show

Champion: Fairyglen Flock owned by the Kerr family

Joint Reserve Champion: Ian's Flock owned by the McConnell family &

Bennachie Flock owned by the Imlah family.

Great Yorkshire Show

Champion: Jets Flock owned by the Teasdale family.

Reserve Champion: Millcroft Flock owned by the Carter family

From the office

Well that is my second year completed as Breed Secretary, and I have really enjoyed it. I will be running the year-end at 31st December 2018 I will also be setting up the flock return to be done in January 2019

It has been a busy year with the new website, which has generated several enquiries. I try to put people in touch with breeders, which are closest to them. I even already have one chap looking to buy females at Carlisle next year.

There is the facility to put up your own advert with sheep for sale on the website, one or two of you have used it this year.

I have tried to kept the breed in the media by updating the face book page regularly, **However I can only continue to promote the breed with your help I need stories from you.** Anything that I can post however small. Pictures from farms, lambing sheds, shows, sales. Stories from your own experiences or from buyers.

I would like to thank you all for your help and support, and look forward to the year ahead. Have a Merry Xmas & Happy New Year 2019.

Have a great lambing

Regards
Pat

