



BLEU DU MAINE SHEEP SOCIETY
SPRING NEWSLETTER 2020

MESSAGE FROM YOUR CHAIR

I sit here in the middle of the Covid-19 pandemic and write unapologetically using all the clichés and new phrases we now see as normal.

We are living in unprecedented, extraordinary and positively scary times. As farmers in many ways we live in our own little bubble of relative safety but no one is unaffected by this crisis.

I cannot talk to you about shows we are going to be doing, events we will attend or even about meeting you all through the Summer.

Sheep however are oblivious to all of this and we all are resourceful and adaptable people, so adapt we must. Becky has done a marvellous job keeping our breed prominent. She and many members attended a record number of sheep events last year and added new ones including Expo at Carlisle. We rely on you as members to send us photos, articles and good news stories for us to promote on the website, on social media, advertising and other platforms.

At the time of writing a form of the Premier sale may well go ahead but not as we know it, with social distancing, one way systems, online bidding and probably limited people in the ring. I will keep you informed every step of the way and will try my best to speak to as many members as possible for your views and thoughts.

I urge you to look to every way possible to sell your stock as times are uncertain and ever changing. We are updating the sales page on your website to encourage and facilitate one to one sales. Look at Sell my Livestock, social media, newspaper advertising and online sales. Be prepared to have to adapt to changes and sell if the opportunity arises.

The AGM will almost certainly be virtual gathering via Zoom, we will keep you updated regarding this and the council has already had one successful meeting in this format.

Forward thinking to next year we plan a big 21st birthday for the Millennium Bleu with hopefully a couple of Open days. We will relaunch the National Show and will attend many NSA events.

Lastly, I must thank you all as members, the council, Becky for her enthusiasm, hard work and vision and Jane for her never-ending support.

I ask you all to keep safe and look forward to seeing you all soon.

Sally Shone

REGISTRATIONS

Whilst we appreciate registrations are not at the forefront of everyone's minds this year, we would like to remind you that due to the possibility of our Premier Sale still being held at Carlisle, all lamb registrations need to be completed by Friday 19th June. The Year Letter for 2020 is "T".

UPCOMING COUNCIL ELECTION

Three members are due to retire this August: William Baillie, Stuart Goldie & Simon Norman. All are eligible for re-election. If you are interested in standing for Council, the forms can be found on the website.

Please complete all sections and return with 150 words resume on why you wish to stand and what you feel your position on Council could bring to the breed and the membership to Becky by Friday 19th June 2020 either via email: breeddev@bleudumaine.co.uk or posted to: Whitefield Farm, Whitefield, Wiveliscombe, Somerset TA4 2UW.

If an election is required all election details will be sent to the membership the week concluding 26th June with votes to be returned by the 10th July to our Accountants to scrutineer, with an aim to hold the AGM virtually via Zoom on Thursday 23rd July 2020

2020 YEARBOOK

Thank you to everyone who has co-operated with the 2020 Yearbook, which is now with the printers and will be with you very soon. If you know of any potential new breeders who would benefit from receiving a copy, please do let Becky know.

MERCHANDISE

We are excited to be working with Marx Corporate to bring to the membership a line of merchandise via Stashshop. These items are fantastic quality with personalisation available.



OFFICE UPDATE

With immediate effect, Becky Hurd is taking over responsibility for Shows, Events, Promotion and Council Matters. You should continue to send your registrations to Jane.

The landline is now discontinued and the following contact details apply:

Becky Hurd	07388 848653	breeddev@bleudumaine.co.uk
Jane Smith	07813 108144	secretary@bleudumaine.co.uk

We wish everyone a safe and healthy summer!