



Dear Sir/Madam

## **BRITISH SHEEP BREED SURVEY 2020**

From 1971 to 2012, the Meat and Livestock Commission (MLC) and then English Beef and Lamb Executive (EBLEX) and Hybu Cig Cymru/Meat Promotion Wales (HCC), with the help of British Wool and in conjunction with MAFF and then DEFRA conducted intermittent surveys of sheep producers in Britain<sup>1</sup>. The surveys recorded the number of sheep within each breed, their distribution and mating structure.

The 2012 survey report<sup>1</sup>, which can be accessed at <https://www.signetdata.com/technical/publications/>, documented new breeds that were not recorded in the previous surveys, the changing influence of crossbred ewes and rise of certain terminal sire and lowland breeds. The breed structure of the UK sheep industry continues to change as we meet the changing demands of the industry.

**Enclosed is the 2020 survey – we want to compare the 2012 results with information from a new survey of the sheep sector to investigate the impacts of the last eight years. We would be grateful if you could return the completed survey to us by 11 January 2021 using the prepaid envelope supplied.**

This research will also assist British Wool in understanding how the breeding flock in the UK is changing over time. Each sheep breed produces wool of different style and by understanding the changes we are able to keep our grading system relevant such that we are best able to add value to producer's wool over the medium to long-term.

Results of the study will be made publicly available. Agriculture and Horticulture Development Board (AHDB), HCC and Quality Meat Scotland (QMS) have provided the funding, Signet/AHDB will oversee the data collection and write-up, with analysis completed by Dr Geoff Pollott of the Royal Veterinary College.

In accordance with the Data Protection Act 2018 ("DPA") and Market Research Society guidelines we will only use the information provided to us for the research purposes outlined above. All information provided by you will be treated in the strictest confidence. All data will be processed under appropriate security measures and you will not be identifiable as an individual in any resulting publications. Telephone and email addresses supplied for response verification purposes will be kept no longer than two years, postcode information will be held no longer than five years. You are under no obligation to provide this information, but we would appreciate your contribution to help the industry gain a better understanding of its development.

For information about how we process personal data, please see our privacy policy notice, which is on our websites: [www.britishwool.org.uk](http://www.britishwool.org.uk) and [www.ahdb.org.uk/Privacy-Notice](http://www.ahdb.org.uk/Privacy-Notice).

You may wish to follow the progress of the survey on the Signet website at <https://www.signetdata.com/technical/projects/sheep-breed-survey/>

Thank you

Yours faithfully

Emma Steele  
Beef & Lamb Knowledge Exchange Manager, AHDB

Laura Johnson  
British Wool

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Tel: 02476 478829 Email: [signet@ahdb.org.uk](mailto:signet@ahdb.org.uk)

<sup>1</sup>The breeding structure of the British Sheep Industry 2012, Dr. Geoff Pollott <https://www.signetdata.com/media/1823/breed-survey-2012.pdf>

If you no longer keep sheep please tick the box and return the whole form  
 If you have a sheep flock but do not wish to complete this form please tick the box and return the whole form



If you have any queries on how to fill out the form please email emma.steele@ahdb.org.uk or call 07392 319813  
 Please return the survey in the prepaid envelope or scan to emma.steele@ahdb.org.uk by January 11 2021

**To complete this form**

**County**

Enter the county where your farm is located here.

**Postcode**

Enter postcode here. This is important as it allows us to accurately map survey responses to an accurate location.

**Ewes put to ram, Rams used to mate ewes and LFA question**

(a) Use a separate line for each breed or cross of ewe in each age class and complete the details in all columns including “Rams used to mate ewes” and “Number of ewes on LFA land?” LFA = less-favoured area.

(b) For a crossbred ewe/ram give either the common name, if it is a well known standard cross or show the breed of the sire and dam of the ewe/ram (eg Suffolk x Welsh Mountain) putting the sire breed first.

(c) Always use the full name of the breed, eg. North Country Cheviot.

(d) If ewes of one age class or breed were put to rams of more than one breed, show this by giving the number of ewes mated to the different ram breed separately, as shown in the example below.

**Summary of rams used**

Use this section to list the rams used on the farm in Autumn 2020. Also show how many of these rams were homebred, AI rams or have EBVs.

**Ewe lambs on the farm but not mated**

Enter details in the same manner as described above for the “Summary of rams used”.

**Number of lambs sold from the 2020 lamb crop by month of sale**

Use this section to summarise the sale of lambs during 2020 which were born to your own breeding females tupped in 2019. Enter the number sold each month according to category of sale; finished (live and deadweight sales) or store.

Do NOT include sales of PURCHASED store lambs.

**Sheep sold for breeding in 2020**

Enter number of lambs (2020 born), shearlings (2019 born) or older animals, including draft ewes, sold as breeding stock during 2020.

**Breed Society question**

Indicate if you register lambs with a breed society, if so state which. Please also indicate if you sell rams, but don't register them with a breed society.

**Contact details**

If you wish, you can provide your contact details in the boxes provided, these would be useful if you make a query or we need to verify form details.

**Additional questions (reverse of main survey form)**

Please answer the questions by circling the most appropriate answers and leave any comments/queries or expansion of answers in the box provided. If you need more space, feel free to include an extra sheet of paper in your return, please state to which question you are referring.

**Details of sheep breeding stock – mating Autumn 2020**

**CONFIDENTIAL**

County		Warwickshire						Postcode (important)		CV8 2TL																															
Age class	Ewes put to ram				Rams used to mate ewes				Summary of rams used																																
	Name of breed or cross	Number of ewes	Of which, how many homebred	Number of ewes on LFA land	Date rams in	Date rams out	Name of breed or cross	Number of rams	Name of breed or cross	Total number of rams	Of which, how many:																														
Ewe lambs	North Country Mule	80	0	0	07/11/20	11/12/20	Southdown	3	Southdown	3	0	0	2																												
									Charollais	4	3	0	4																												
Shearlings	Charollais	5	4	0	30/07/20	20/09/20	Charollais	1	Texel	1	0	0	0																												
	North Country Mule	72	0	0	20/10/20	11/12/20	Charollais	2	Suffolk	2	0	0	1																												
Mature ewes	Charollais	20	15	0	30/07/20	20/09/20	Charollais	1	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="3">Ewe lambs on the farm but NOT mated</th> </tr> <tr> <th>Name of breed or cross</th> <th>Total number</th> <th>Of which homebred</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Charollais</td> <td>9</td> <td>9</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>				Ewe lambs on the farm but NOT mated			Name of breed or cross	Total number	Of which homebred	Charollais	9	9																				
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	Charollais	9	9																																						
North Country Mule	248	0	0	20/10/20	11/12/20	Charollais	2																																		
				20/10/20	11/12/20	Texel	1																																		
				20/10/20	11/12/20	Suffolk	2																																		
Total females put to the ram in 2019	Number of lambs sold from 2020 lamb crop by month of sale (Do NOT include purchased store lambs)											Lambs on hand at the end of December																													
		Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov		Dec																												
425	Finished			13	8		5	110	253	192	80	0																													
	Store																																								
Telephone number (optional)																																									
01234567891																																									
Email address (optional)																																									
aperson@myfarm.co.uk																																									
We would only use these to verify the form details if required																																									
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Do you register lambs with a Breed Society? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No																																									
Which breeds do you register? Charollais																																									
I do sell rams – but I don't register them with a breed society <input type="checkbox"/>																																									