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TENBURY SHEEP SALE – Saturday 16th August 2025

Nick Champion, Auctioneers report an entry of **2331 store sheep** forward for the first monthly prize store sheep sale at the sale field Burford on Saturday 16th August 2025. The severe drought reduced the number of store lambs which unsurprisingly were in proper store condition with not much meat amongst them, however, the trade far exceeded our expectations selling to a top of £180 and plenty of buyers present despite the loss of our Welsh customers due to the Blue Tongue restrictions. There was a generally good show of yearling ewes in front of a busy crowd of local buyers ensuring a firmer trade overall than reported recently at other local English markets. The cull and grazing ewes were as dear as ever, whilst the breeding rams met a tremendous trade with a new sale record of £840 for Texel shearlings.

Yearling & Two-Year-Old Ewes – 793.

The judges, **Dan and David Bradley, Knighton on Teme** made the following awards for the best pens of 20 yearlings:

Suffolk x – E H Handley & Sons, Sutton - £255 and Champion pen.

Texel x – M J Williams & D J Piggott, Hatfield - £232.

N C Mule – Oldfields Farm Partnership, Frith Common - £250, 2nd A J & J M Piggott, Bredenbury - £250.

Buyers were looking for the strongest well fleshed yearling ewes not requiring additional feeding prior to tugging with any barer sorts less in demand. The North Country and Cheviot Mules met a larger following and improved trade on the year, as did the strongest Suffolk x, whilst the Texel x were a more selective trade.

Best Suffolk x yearlings sold from £240 to £255 for the champion pen from Robert Handley with Edward Lewis selling his strong pen at £248. A nice pen of two-year-olds from Robert Handley made £248. Lighter weight Suffolk x yearlings sold from £170 to £220. Best Texel x sold from £222 to top at £242 from Stephen Jones with lighter ewes from £155 to £200. Best North Country Mule yearlings topped the sale at £265 from Les and Tim Yarnold with other best ewes from £245 to £260 with lighter sorts from £220 to £235. Cheviot Mules sold from £235 to £260 for a pen from Les & Tim Yarnold. Aberfields sold from £210 to £235 from M/s Lewis. Brian Jones sold his Cheviot x at £230 and Welsh Mules at £218. A pen of Jacobs from the late Paul Laight were enthusiastically bid for to make £170. Other exotic and traditional small breed yearlings sold from £120 to £130, and two-year-olds from £100 to £120. **The overall yearling average was £224.82 (£230.63 – 2024)**



Store Lambs – 1387.

A disappointing entry in terms of numbers as a lot of store lamb vendors have had to turn to buying concentrates for their lambs and as a result have been sending them for slaughter in increasing numbers. When it does rain, we will hopefully see more store lambs forward as there were certainly plenty of buyers in attendance despite the complete lack of grass and wilting root crops. The few pens of stronger well fleshed lambs were a storming trade despite the weakening slaughter trade at the back end of the week selling to £180 for a Blue Texel x tup lamb from Julian Wright. Phil Wildig sold his pen of 33 Texel/Suffolk x mixed lambs at £163 whilst Sue Breakwell sold her pen of Charollais x mixed lambs at £160. The better quality stronger mixed lambs in store condition mostly sold from £130 to a top of £136.50 for a nice pen of Texel x from Robert Barnett. The award for the first prize pen of store lambs went to David and Jane Spilsbury for their pen of Texel x mixed lambs which made £132.50. Suffolk x ewe lambs for retention sold from £137 to £138 for a pen from Tim Bunting. Wether lambs topped at £130 for a pen of small Blue Texel x from Mike Smith. Tup lambs in store condition topped at £135.50 for a Beltex x from S Ridge.

Best medium-term lambs sold from £115 to £130 with plainer and lighter weights from £105 to £115. Long-term small lambs sold from £85 to £100 with very small and hill lambs from £70.50 to £81. Better quality tup lambs generally sold from £110 to £135.50 with lighter weights, exotic and hill types selling from £69 to £94. **The overall average was £112.32** (£119.00 – 2024)

Stock Ewes – 40

A mixed entry topped at £175 for full mouth Suffolk x from A & M Westwood, with Keith Norwood selling his Cheviot Mules at £173. Other full-mouthed ewes sold to £142 for Ryeland, £130 for Clun Forest and £116 for Kerry Hill.

Cull & Grazing Ewes, Rams & Wethers – 68

A disappointing entry in terms of numbers met a flying trade with the meatier cull ewes topping at £190 for Shropshire's, Suffolk x from £161 to £180, Texel x from £142 to £158 and North Country Mules from £130 to £161. The plain lighter weight grazing ewes generally sold from £85 to £120 and the very plain and boner ewes from £20 to £70. Texel x wethers sold at £180 and Texel x rams sold at £142. **The overall average was £122.10** (£92.53 – 2024)

Breeding Rams – 18

Several customers looking for the strongest and smart rams with a Texel shearling from Tom & Ann Durston-Smith topping at a new centre record of £840 and other Texel shearlings selling to £651, £525, £441 & £231. Suffolk shearlings sold at £420 and £304.50. Shropshire shearlings at £210 and aged rams topped at £315 for a Blue Texel 3-year-old. A smart pen of 5 Charollais ram lambs from Francis Killick were strongly sought after selling at £525, £525, £504, £488.25 and £420.

Next sale: Saturday 20th September – Prize sale of Yearling Ewes, also Store & Ewe Lambs, Cull & Grazing Ewes, Breeding Rams. Entries now being taken.