

**JACOB SHEEP SOCIETY SOUTHERN REGION**

**SPRING NEWSLETTER**

**2013**

**Promotion opportunity for Jacob meat.**

As some of you may know the Society holds its Council meetings at the Carlton Club in London. At this month’s meeting, one of the senior managers enquired whether there was any possibility of getting some Jacob lamb for their restaurant. Apparently when she was alive, Lady Aldington had provided them with some from time to time. So if anyone is interested in selling some of their lamb to them please contact me and I will put you in touch. Very good advertising for the breed!

DAPHNE RICE.

**A DEFRA ISOLATION FACILITY**

 **Something to Consider?**

 An Isolation Facility can be a useful addition to your holding deal of the Summer transporting your sheep to the agricultural shows around the South.  **The rules state:** “Cattle, sheep and goats may attend shows without having to observe a movement standstill on the premises of departure provided that they have been:

**Isolated from all other non-show animals on their resident holding in a DEFRA approved isolation facility for six days before attending the show.**

On return to the premises of departure, the cattle, sheep and goats must be kept in a DEFRA approved isolation facility for six days. If they are not kept in such a facility for that period then a six day standstill will be imposed on that holding. Animals may return to their premises of departure between shows and move to a further show within six days provided that they are kept in a DEFRA



approved isolation facility on

those premises throughout the period they are there. Alternatively, cattle, sheep and goats can move direct from one show to another without triggering a movement standstill

An entire holding may be approved as an isolation facility if it is a single piece of land which meets the separation criteria” If you decide an Isolation Facility is for you,you should consult your local DEFRA office who will guide you on the steps you must take. This will include a visit from your vet to inspect the proposed isolation facility. There will be various restrictions imposed to ensure the animals in isolation are truly “isolated” from other animals on the holding.

Once you have an isolation facility approved you can use it year on year and do not have to renew it. There is no charge for anything including the vet’s visit.

You must not rely on the notes here as the rules may change so always read the official DEFRA guidance. That said these rules have been in place for many years now to help control the spread of disease, especially the dreaded Foot & Mouth.

**GARETH JONES.**

**Dolphin Sheep Fair Ardingly showground.**

A number of members in this region have asked if there might not be a show and/or sale either in this region or nearer than the established ones. The main JSS show is at Worcester in August and there is also the Melton Mowbray Rare Breeds Show in October but both are a long way to take sheep.To organise a stand alone Regional Show and Sale would be very expensive and time consuming. However there is the Dolphin Sheep Fair at the South of England showground at Ardingly in September and it might be possible to organise something through that. I would be interested to hear from anyone who has sold sheep there and what they think of it. Also we would need to find out how many members would be interested in selling their sheep that way. So please contact me if you have any information or would be interested and we will take it from there.

 **DAPHNE.**

**AGM PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION**

**A photography competition will be held on the Saturday of the AGM weekend in April. There will be three categories, “show time,” “the shepherding year,” and “lambing time,” and there will be a prize for the winner of each category. Entries should be brought to the AGM meeting on Saturday morning or can be posted to Clive Richardson, Glenhurst, Swarthmoor, Ulverston, Cumbria, LA12 0HQ beforehand if you are unable to attend. The results will be announced at the gala dinner that evening, and the winning photographs will all be published in the Jacob Journal.**

**It would be nice to have some entries from this region so get your camera out or look through your old snaps and see what you can come up with.**

**Details will be in the journal which is coming out at the end of the month but this gives you a bit more notice as the AGM is on the 12th to 14th April.**

***Editors note: Please could we also have some photo’s for the newsletter. Note there are none!***

**Trimming & Showing Sheep**

Trimming and showing sheep is hugely popular in the UK, but for the novices among us, there is little visual guidance available on the trimming process. The highly acclaimed VHS by John Randall, 'Preparing Sheep for Show' is unfortunately no longer available for purchase in the UK.

The Smallholder Series is producing a new DVD on trimming and showing sheep which will demonstrate the process of selecting the right sheep, nutritional management, preparing and trimming your sheep, through to ring etiquette. They aim to cover a selection of all the main categories shown today including down, hill, longwool, primitive and hair breeds.

They are currently trying to ascertain how much interest there would be for this type of programme, and are trying to ascertain interest from breed societies. If you think you would be interested in purchasing such a video please let me know and I can then pass the information on.

**Daphne Rice**.

**New Committee members.**

I am delighted to say that we have 3 new members on the regional committee which met on 10th February to plan the year ahead. They are : Fiona Gordon from Maidstone, Lesley Pope from Tunbridge Wells and Rosemary Prosser from Abinger Common near Dorking.

Barley Gould has been nominated to take over as Regional Council member at the AGM in April. Lesley Pope is the regional representative on the Breed Promotion Committee, and Gareth Jones is the regional Field Officer. Rosemary Prosser is going to take on the task of updating the regional webpage. .

We try to have a member on the committee from each part of the region and we could really do with someone from the Wilts/Berks area as that is not currently represented. So if anyone from that part of the region thinks they would be interested please contact me. It is really not onerous and the more members we have the more the load can be shared!

**The current committee membership is:**

**Daphne Rice ( W Sx ) Regional Council Member (until April)**

**Barley Gould (Isle of Wight)**

**Fiona Gordon (Kent)**

**Gareth Jones (Hants)**

**Virginia Lloyd (Surrey)**

**Lesley Pope (Kent)**

**Stephanie Prideaux (Bucks)**

**Rosemary Prosser (Surrey)**

**Showtime**

**Now is the time to start thinking about the summer shows.**

There are 8 shows in this region with Jacob classes starting with **Surrey on 27th May**. It would be great to see some more entries for this particular show as in recent years numbers have dropped off. The prize money is really generous - £50 for a first – and if you take 3 or more sheep they pay you £30 for going. Sheep other than lambs will need to be shorn about now in order to have a bit of wool by the show but of course that doesn’t apply to lambs and there is also a class which is judged in the pen for a ewe with lambs. (That is for all breeds not just Jacobs.) So why not give it a go.

The other shows in the region are :

**Alton 7th July,**

**Kent 12th to 14th July**

**Singleton 21st July**

**New Forest 30th July to 1st August**

**Cranleigh 4th August**

**Edenbridge and Oxted 25th and 26th August**

**( This has Jacob classes for the first time)**

**Romsey 14th September**

**Newbury 21st and 22nd September.**

Details of all the shows are on the website : www.jacobsheepsociety.co.uk

In addition there is the **Findon Sheep Fair** on 14th September. This does not have Jacob classes at present but last year there were over 200 sheep exhibited and they are keen to encourage more.

Exhibiting at a show is not only an opportunity to showcase the breed but is also an opportunity for you to make contact with people who may be interested in buying your stock.

**EDENBRIDGE AND OXTED**

As we have only recently re-established the Jacob classes at Edenbridge and Oxted Show (August Bank Holiday) there are no special JSS prizes/Cups. Fiona Gordon has offered to provide a trophy (possibly two if they aren't too expensive) does anyone have a view of which classes they should be given to? If anyone hears of or sees a second hand cup/trophy in an antique shop that would be suitable could they let her know? Edenbridge is an excellent show for novice entries to start off with as it is at the end of the summer when all our sheep are looking their best and only a couple of days duration so not too demanding!

 **Fiona Gordon**

**JACOBS RETURN TO STONELEIGH.**

This year the Hatfield Show is being relocated to Stoneleigh, Warwickshire

Saturday 3rd and Sunday 4th August. There will be a range of Jacob Classes over

the two days. Further information can be obtained from the Show Secretary

Miss Julia Sibun,

11, Bleriot Road, Upper Rissington, Cheltenham. Glouc. GL54 2NN Tel. 01451

822640 or email julia@jsibun.co.uk

NEIL DICKENS.

**JSS Breed Promotion Committee Meeting**

**16th February 2013**

Well, I'm not quite sure how this happened – did I step forward or did everyone else step back? – but after Caroline Gould's resignation after several years service I am now your new Southern Region Breed Promotion representative.

First let me introduce myself – I am Lesley Pope and I am really a sheep novice as I have only been involved in any type of farming & shepherding for the last three years. I'm learning fast though!

I don't have Caroline's design abilities but I do have a strong interest in promoting the Jacob Breed as I sell meat boxes and I am particularly keen that everyone knows just what a fantastic meat breed this is.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any promotional ideas you would like put forward (not just for meat but anything which you feel can promote the breed better)

I must also thank Caroline for all her hard work – her designs for the society really are eyecatching and very successful.

This is a brief summary of the latest BP meeting – please do contact me if you want more information (lesley@albansbarnyard.co.uk)

**The Meeting**

It started with a round up news

from each JSS region – this mainly covered which regional shows would have Jacob classes and JSS stands & and their local open days. All these details are now on the JSS website.

More entries are needed

for the Woolcup. There will also be a stand at Woolfest on 28th/29th June – if you are crafty please look at the website for further details!
We then discussed the recent episode of Country File with Adam Henson's terrific endorsement of Jacob sheep (he picked them out as having superb flavour) & Lisa Adams (JSS breed Promotion Officer) asked the web team if this could go on to the website. The film clip is now available both on the website and facebook sites.

 **What are the Aims and Objectives of the Breed Promotion Committee**

This was discussed as it was felt that the committee needs to be more focused about what it is doing. It was agreed thatAims – are to market the breed both within the Society and to the wider public Objectives – these will be considered by all and revisited at the next meeting in October

R**egional promotional material**

Each region can spend some money, subject to the Chairman's agreement, on Breed Promotion activities such as show stands and display material and attendance at events e.g the charge for the stand at the Kent Show.

One particular idea which your regional committee are pursuing is the purchase of one or more Pop Up Boards. These roll up like blinds so they are easier to transport and store than fixed boards & they make setting up stands very quick. South West Region already have them (& they won a prize for their stand at one of the shows). The cost is in the region of £100 +VAT (including artwork) for a 1m x 3m board which collapses to about 1m x about 6" square. These can also apparently be wiped clean and reprinted if necessary.

Some regions are considering having TV/laptop's with video clips or changing images on their stands at larger shows as some other breed stands use them.
 **Meat promotion**

I raised the possibility of more point of sale items for meat sales such as JSS stickers for meat boxes & breed promotion & recipe leaflets. JSS obviously don't want to endorse or be liable for anyone producing poor meat so there was some discussion as to how this could be done. It was proposed that stickers etc should only be available to JSS members & only if they signed a waiver that it would only be used on pure bred quality Jacob meat. This will be discussed again at the next BP meeting.

Draft recipe leaflets were produced but it was felt that the design was not quite right yet. The recipes have all been tested now. The final design will have to be shown to the main committee for final approval.

It was pointed out that Jacobs are usually R grade carcasses & that generally when people have a choice on meat box schemes they prefer pure bred Jacob meat over Jacob X. We need to publicise this more!

 **Wool**
Lisa Adams (Chairman of B P Committee) is looking into arranging local wool collection schemes so smaller producers can get more from this. Also companies such as the Natural Fibre Company are always looking for high quality fleece

 **News**

BP is looking for any good local stories that can be publicised on the website or Facebook site. Also perhaps press releases with stories that can go to Local papers.
Janet East's article from Aug 12 'Smallholder' magazine is now on the website & there is also a link to it from the JSS facebook page
One of the regional reps informed us that some Northern commercial breeders are now crossing Jacob ewes with Beltex  (getting a black lamb) & then crossing with Beltex again (white lambs!) to get a good flavoursome carcass with good lambing percentages and good milky ewes
So there is a lot going on in the Breed Promotion area and lots of ideas to take forward!
Next BP meeting - 5th October

**Lesley Pope**

PS. It's well worth having a look at the updated Jacob Sheep Society website particularly the Breed promotion page and the Facebook link. Did you know you can get your email or website added to promote your meat or wool products - see the breed promotion pages!

**OPEN DAY**

Sunday 9th of June **2013**

RED BARN FARM

STEWKLEY

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

LU7 0HD.

 Neil and his wife Pam have kindly invited us to visit them for our flock/farm visit this summer. Neil Says

“We have kept Jacob Sheep for twelve years. We maintain a flock of twelve breeding ewes, always 2 or 3 shearlings for replacements and two rams,one of which we loan out to local people with just a few Jacob ewes to be covered. We usually have a couple of dozen lambs some of which we sell to local people and others we slaughter for meat that we again sell locally. We attend an average of six to eight shows a year and have had several successes.

In 2012 our Red Barn Flock won the JSS Southern Region large flock competition. We also keep a small flock of Black Welsh Mountain sheep and some pigs that we fatten for sausages and again sell locally.”

So Please put the date in your diary there will be more details to follow with booking form .

**Wool cup**

The wool cup competition is held every year at the national AGM. It is lovingly organized by Dianne Hall, and of course was started by Lady A. The entries can be made by any member from their Jacob wool. In any way, useful of decorative, there can be a small element of different fibres and you don’t have to do it all yourself, you can for instance have it spun, by another. There are two cups one for the regional entry which is for three pieces made by members of that region, and the individual cup, entries include the regional entries if they haven’t won the regional cup.The judging is undertaken by the local (to where the AGM is held.) Spinners, Dyers, and Weaver’s guild. These clever people Have a great passion for their craft. And take their duties very seriously; I have a great respect for them as there is a lot to judge. As everybody has a different opinion, some seek perfection and uniformity. And others an overall effect and we all have different likes and dislikes. So what will win at one wool cup won’t win at the next! The winning is not all though. The things I’ve made and entered are all useless! (Last year I won the individual entry with the crown jewels.) The crown is sitting on a shelf gathering dust! Soon to be relegated to the dressing up box. Whereas there was a Lady from Wales (I think) last year who had crocheted a lovely Tunic/ gillet in her hand spun wool and came nowhere in the competition. Was wearing it on the Sunday lunch time, so she’s the long term winner as I’ve gained no warmth! So get creating as the dead line for entries has now passed but I understand that if you speak nicely to Dianne Hall and all will be well! **BARLEY GOULD**

**SCHMALLENBERG SURVEY.**

The National Sheep Association (NSA) is urging farmers to complete a lambing survey.

The survey is particularly aimed at judging the impact of the schmallenberg disease and helping to develop a better understanding about it.

They also want to capture the effect the poor weather and other disease threats such as liver fluke are having on the lamb crop. Once you have finished lambing you can fill the survey in online at [www.surveymonkey.com/s/WWHBNC5](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/WWHBNC5)

It should take no more than 10 minutes to complete. You will need information on the number of ewes and losses between tupping and lambing. You don’t have be a member of the NSA to complete the online survey. The more who do the better.

This initiative is supported by arrange of organisations including EBLEX, AHVLA and the NFU.

Source The Small Shepherds Newsletter.

**Questionaire**

We have sent out a questionnaire with this newsletter. Please take the time to fill it and return it.

So we have a better understanding of what you want from your Region.

Please return your questionnaire by 30th April 2013.

**One last date for your diary**

**We will be holding our regional AGM at Abinger common village hall on Sunday the 20th October.**

**Adverts**

At the last regional committee meeting we discussed having Adverts on the regional web page and in the regional newsletter. We decided for many reasons, that it was not practical. But we will send out adverts relating to sheep, farming and smallholdings to other JSS southern region members via a ROUND ROBIN email. If submitted to the newsletter editor BARLEY110@aol.com . You must include an email address for replies.

The editor takes no responsibility for the content of the adverts. If you do not wish to receive these adverts please email the editor and I will remove your name from the mailing list. The adverts will be sent out with the heading **ADVERTS JSS SOUTHERN REGION.**

THAT’S ALL FOLKS!