

# Lagas Lleyns

## Foreward for Online Sale 2024

Welcome to our first attempt at selling Rams online through the Your Bid platform. We are very much virgins at the job and our marketing skills and budget are limited, however we think we have some decent tups to sell.

The reasons we have chosen to try this option are that the Aberdeen Lleyne sale has stopped, Kelso has proved to be difficult for the breed for the last 2 years which creates a situation where your fate is totally dependent on the ballot, and young people like to do their business online so one has to move with the times.

We still want to support the Society sales so 24 registered tups will be split between the Stirling and Carlisle Society sales with some registered tups plus the best of the unregistered tups being the offering forward for this online sale. The unregistered tups forward will only be the ones that have failed for cosmetic reasons like brown hair, black spots and horns, which can be some of our best commercial tups.

As to the history of Lagas Lleyns we bought our first Lleyns in 1997 building up to a steady 750 pure ewes for the last 20 years with the best performing 500 going to the Lleyne tup and the remainder being crossed. We have been relatively successful at society sales over the years and tend to purchase the tups we think our flock needs which can sometimes be expensive.

We have Signet recorded the flock since 1999 and have added in the Dam Efficiency calculation since 2013. The reason we did this was we weren't happy with how the Signet system was rewarding the maternal traits and in our opinion was being too generous to the big hard single lamb, so since 2014 we select our ewes to go to the Lleyne tup on appearance and Dam Efficiency, which is a very simple system where the ewes and lambs are weighed at weaning and the percentage you see on the information sheet is the weight the Ram's mother has reared each year as a percentage of her own body weight.

Dam Efficiency is now a major factor influencing what tup lambs we select for shearling retention at weaning time, along with how well they have done on permanent pasture, how correct they are on their legs and how clean they are around the bum.

Our feeding regime is the tups were out wintered with silage plus 1/2Kg of cobs being offered most days during the teeth of the winter. They have then been on grass since it started to grow with 1kg of Kelso tup nuts being introduced since the first of July. We run the 50 tups together so we have to feed something to the tups destined for the society sales to compete.

Our culling policy is to not keep lambs out of ewes that have prolapsed or taken mastitis as we believe part of the problems are genetic. The flaw to the system is when an older ewe develops a problem and we could have kept lambs from her earlier crops. We also don't know the history of the tups we purchase.

The flock is EAE & MV accredited and the tups are Heptavac P vaccinated and will be treated with Cydectin shortly before the sale. We don't use Footvax as the feet of our sheep seem quite good.

We will be travelling up and down Scotland during September so will be offering free delivery for any tups purchased for the Scottish Mainland and Shetland. For further afield it would be up for negotiation, but we would definitely take them as far as Andrew Ewing's lairage facility in Annan.

The Tups will be available to view on 04/09/2024 6-8-pm or virtually any time by appointment for customers taking the trouble to travel to Orkney, so for a view appointment or more information phone me Home 01856751213 Mob. 07745272765

Regards

Michael Cursiter