

DORSET DOWN SHEEP BREEDERS' ASSOCIATION

Company Registration 84799

NEWSLETTER



DDSBA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – SATURDAY 11 MAY 2024
will be held at
The Fox & Goose Inn, Bristol Road, Brent Knoll, Somerset TA9 4HH
at 2:00 p.m.

A meeting of the Breed Council will be held in the morning to precede the AGM

OPEN DAY EVENT – SUNDAY 9 JUNE 2024

By kind invitation of Rachel Hall,
Gutchpool Farm, Gillingham, Dorset SP8 5QP

The programme will include grassland management and herbal leys
as well as Showing tips from Alex James.

Itinerary yet to be finalised.

DORSET DOWN WEBSITE

We would like to introduce Robyn Fayers. Robyn runs her own successful photography business based in Suffolk.

Some of you may have met Robyn at the annual breed sale last year when she kindly photographed the sheep forward at the auction. We would like to thank Robyn for generously offering her services at the event at no cost to the association.

The Breed Council has approached Robyn to undertake the task of updating the association website. Robyn has agreed to rebuild the site and will also post regular updates.

Robyn needs to build a photographic gallery of the breed for the website and with this in mind she has asked if members could send her suitable images of their Dorset Down sheep. The website gallery will need to reflect change to keep the site fresh therefore there is no stop date to receive your photographs.

A good variety of images is key. Sheep in their working clothes taken in their natural surroundings are of particular interest but equally, images of sheep prepared specifically for the show ring or winning line ups will not be discounted as these may be used in reporting show results.

The Breed Council are keen to demonstrate the viability of the Dorset Down breed to the commercial farming sector as well as their suitability to the smallholder.

Please send your photographs to robyn.fayers@hotmail.com

SHOWS 2024

Shows that have Dorset Down Classes
(Mixed Down Classes may not have a Dorset Down Judge)

16 – 18 MAY	DEVON COUNTY SHOW Westpoint, Clyst St Mary, Exeter, Devon EX5 1DJ	01392 446000
18 – 19 MAY	SMALLHOLDING & COUNTRYSIDE FESTIVAL Royal Welsh Showground, Builth Wells LD2 3SY (Breed Stand) Dorset Down Breed Classes introduced for 2024	01982 553683
25 MAY	SHROPSHIRE COUNTY (Mixed) West Mid Showground, Shrewsbury SY1 2PF	01743 289831
30 MAY-1 JUNE	ROYAL BATH & WEST The Showground, Shepton Mallet, Somerset BA4 6QN	01749 822200
6 – 8 JUNE	ROYAL CORNWALL (Mixed) Whitecross, Wadebridge, Cornwall PL27 7JE	01208 812713
7 – 9 JUNE	SOUTH OF ENGLAND (Mixed) South of England Showground, Ardingly, West Sussex RH17 6TL	01444 892700
14 -16 JUNE	ROYAL THREE COUNTIES (Breed Stand) Three Counties Showground, Malvern, Worcestershire WR13 6NW	01684 584900
5 – 7 JULY	KENT COUNTY (Mixed) Detling, Maidstone, Kent ME14 3JY	01622 630975
22 - 25 JULY	ROYAL WELSH Royal Welsh Showground, Builth Wells LD2 3SY	01982 553683
1 AUGUST	HONITON Stockers Farm, Gittisham, Honiton, Devon EX14 3AW	01404 41794
14 -15 AUGUST	GILLINGHAM & SHAFTESBURY Turnpike Showground, Motcombe, Dorset SP7 9PL	01747 823955
22 AUGUST	MELPLASH West Bay Showground, Bridport, Dorset DT6 4EG	01308 423337
7 - 8 SEPT	DORSET COUNTY Dorchester Showground, Dorchester, Dorset DT2 7SD	01305 264249

SMALLHOLDING & COUNTRYSIDE FESTIVAL – 18 & 19 MAY 2024

Royal Welsh Showground, Llanelwedd, Builth Wells, Powys.

The RWAS livestock committee have agreed to offer **dedicated Dorset Down Breed Classes** at this event from 2024.

NSA MALVERN SHEEP EVENT – 30 JULY 2024

Three Counties Showground, Malvern, Worcestershire WR13 6NW

We hope to have the **new Breed Stand** on exhibition for the 2024 events.

Come and visit us on the Stand.

Any offers of help would be greatly appreciated.

**REGIONAL FLOCK COMPETITION 2023
RESULTS**

South West Region (kindly judged by Mr A Gibbs)

Large Flock (25 Ewes and over)

1st CG Hyde & Sons 2nd NJ Bond 3rd RB Hebditch

Small Flock (24 Ewes and over 10 Ewes)

1st H Stamp 2nd R Hall 3rd H & B Brice

Novice Flock

1st H & B Brice 2nd M & S Carter 3rd J Wyre

Best Shearling Ewes

1st H & B Brice 2nd D & R Wilkins 3rd NJ Bond

Best Ewe Lambs

1st RB Hebditch 2nd H Stamp 3rd JDR Tory

Best Individual Stud Ram

1st JDR Tory 2nd R Hall 3rd H Stamp

**South West Region Champion Flock – CG Hyde & Sons
Reserve Champion Flock – NJ Bond**

Wales & Midlands Region (kindly judged by Mr S Stamp)

Large Flock (20 Ewes and over)

1st JI & JE Williams 2nd Dr J McMinn 3rd AW Evans

Small Flock (Under 20 Ewes)

1st J & N Hepburn 2nd D & V Fletcher 3rd EE & F Evans

Best Stock Ram

1st AW Evans 2nd Dr J McMinn

Best Ram Lamb

1st J & N Hepburn 2nd Mrs CJ & Mr TA Ward

Best Ewe Lambs

1st JI & JE Williams 2nd Mr CR & Miss EJ Burton

**Wales & Midlands Region Champion Flock – JI & JE Williams
Reserve Champion Flock – J & N Hepburn**

South East and Eastern Region 2023 (kindly judged by Mr B Lugsden)

Flock Ewes

1st MW Littmoden 2nd J Dain 3rd L Murphy

Shearling Ewes

1st MW Littmoden 2nd J Dain 3rd M Worsfold-Gregg

Ewe Lambs

1st S Woods 2nd J Dain 3rd K Catlin

Stock Ram

1st M Worsfold-Gregg 2nd K Catlin 3rd Gray Family

Ram Lamb

1st M Worsfold-Gregg 2nd MW Littmoden

South East and Eastern Region Champion Flock – MW Littmoden
Reserve Champion Flock – J Dain

NATIONAL FLOCK COMPETITION 2023

RESULTS

(kindly judged by our President Mr PR Vellacott)

National Champion Flock – CG Hyde & Sons

Reserve Champion Flock – JI & JE Williams

Thank you to all the judges who gave their time to bring forward the results of the Flock Competitions and to all the members who supported the events.

DORSET DOWN – ANNUAL BREED SALE 2024

Sedgemoor Auction Centre, North Petherton, Bridgwater, Somerset TA6 6DF

SATURDAY 6 JULY 2024

Guest auctioneer – Andrew Lane MRICS FAAV.

NUFFIELD FARMING SCHOLARSHIP 2024

Dorset Down breeder, Natalie Hepburn (Flock 945 Garlic Meadow) from South Wales, has secured a Nuffield Farming Scholarship for 2024. Her studies will see her travel to Brazil, USA, Ireland and throughout the Britain looking at farm diversification focusing on farms which take a product to market. If you have any suggestions for Natalie to visit, please get in touch with her. Congratulations Natalie on securing this Scholarship.