



British Wool – Sale Report

BW163 – 16th May 2023



Key Points

British Wool saw demand strengthen during BW163 which was the penultimate auction of the 2022 season, combing types again saw solid demand with firm prices, carpet types saw increased demand with prices firm to dearer comparative to BW162. The mix of lots sold was however better than last sale which resulted in the headline average price increasing by 3.5% sale on sale.

British Wool prices are still around 10p per kg lower than 12 months ago and this will feed through to the returns that we are able to offer our members for their wool. UK wool growers need higher prices if farmers are to cover their costs and a consistent supply of British wool to market is to be sustained.

British Wool's offer in BW163 amounted to 1,530 tonnes spread over 250 lots. 216 lots with a total weight of 1,342 tonnes sold, achieving a clearance of 87.7%. Organic certified wool continues to attract a significant premium.

- Average clean price £1.155 / kg Average greasy price £0.776 / kg
- British Wool Index fell by 1.5% to 1.050 vs. 1.066 in BW162.

The clearances by wool type were as follows;

- Fine wool 95%,
- Medium wool 98%,
- Mule wool 95%,
- Hill wool 100%,
- Mountain wool 63%,
- Lamb 100%.

Price movements for key wool types

Prices where comparable to BW162;

Fine: Hoggs No1 – sellers favour. Hoggs No2 – buyers favour to 2.5% cheaper. Ewes No1 – fully firm. Ewes No2 – firm. Lt Grey – firm.

Medium: Hoggs No1 – fully firm. Hoggs No2 – buyers favour. Ewes No1 & No2 – fully firm. Naturally discoloured – 2.5% dearer. Lt Grey – firm.

Romney: Ewes No1 – 2.5% dearer. Ewes No2 – buyers favour.

Mule: Ewes No1 – fully firm. Ewes No2 – firm. Cottis – firm to 2% dearer. Lt Grey – up to 2% dearer.

Cheviots: Hoggs No1 – firm. Ewes No1 – fully firm. Ewes No2 – firm. Cross Grades – fully firm.

Hill: Medium – firm to sellers favour.

Blackface: Fine No1 – buyers favour. No2 – buyers favour. Cottis – 1.5% cheaper.

Welsh: No2 – 1% cheaper. Coloured Kempy – 1.5% cheaper.

Swaledale: Lt Grey – buyers favour.