



British Wool – Sale Report

BW171 – 17th October 2023



Key Points

British Wool saw continued strong demand in BW171. Prices for Fine, Medium, Mule, Cheviot and Hill wools were 5% to 10% dearer and Mountain wools were fully firm. All registered buyers were active in the sale.

The offer amounted to 1,070 tonnes spread over 149 lots of which 1,023 tonnes (139 lots) sold. Across the catalogue as a whole British Wool achieved a 95.6% clearance. Just 10 lots were taken back into stock, seven of these were speciality types and the three remaining lots were mountain wool.

As has previously been stated the volume of wool available in the UK this year will likely be down by around 10% y-o-y. Lower fleece weights this season are the main cause (-8% y-o-y) with reduced sheep numbers compounding the pressure. The price improvements we have witnessed over the past few sales will be welcomed by British Wool's members but we still need to see significantly better returns to ensure that all growers present their wool for sale.

Given this supply constraint British Wool's offers are likely to be held around 1m kg per sale over the next few months. Thus far British Wool has sold 5.4m kg of the 2023 wool clip. This is likely to be around 25% of our supply for the year.

The British Wool price index was up 6% sale on sale and the average greasy price increased to 83.6p per kg.

- Total weight offered 1.070m kg Total weight sold 1.023m kg
- Clearance 95.6%
- Average clean price £1.266 / kg Average greasy price £0.836 / kg
- British Wool Index 1.260, +5.6% sale on sale

The clearances by wool type were as follows;

- Fine wool 100%,
- Romney 100%,
- Medium wool 100%,
- Mule wool 100%,
- Hill wool 98%,
- Mountain wool 82%,
- Lamb 100%.

Price movements for key wool types

Prices where comparable to BW170;

Fine: Hogs No1 – 7% dearer. Hogs No2 – 4% dearer. Ewes No1 and No2 – fully 7.5% dearer. Lt Grey – 10% dearer.

Romney: Ewes No1 – up to 6% dearer. Ewes No2 – 2.5% dearer.

Medium: Hogs No1 – 8% dearer. Hogs No2 – up to 6% dearer. Ewes No1 – 5% dearer. Ewes No2 – 7.5% dearer. Naturally discoloured – 5% dearer. Lt Grey – fully 5% dearer.

Mule: Hogs No1 – 5% dearer. Hogs No2 – 6% dearer. Ewes No1 – 6% dearer. Ewes No2 – fully 5% dearer. Cotts grades – 3% to 5% dearer. Lt Grey – fully 10% dearer.

Cheviots: Hogs No1 and No2 – 7% dearer. Ewes No1 – 6% dearer. Ewes No2 – 7% dearer. Cross Grades – 1% to 3% dearer.

Hill: Medium No2 – 3% dearer.

Blackface: Medium No1 – fully firm. Fine No1 – sellers favour. No2 – 1.5% dearer. Cotts – 2.5% dearer.

Welsh: No1 – sellers favour. No2 – firm. Coloured Kempy – firm.

Swaledale: No1 – 2% dearer. Lt Grey – fully firm.

A reasonable offering of lamb was sold sellers favour to slightly dearer.