



British Wool – Sale Report

BW172 – 7th November 2023



Key Points

Demand remained strong and prices for British Wool strengthened in BW172. Prices for Fine, Medium, Mule, Cheviot and Cheviot Cross were 3% to 5% dearer. Blackface and Welsh Mountain were 2% dearer and Swaledale was fully firm where sold.

The offer amounted to 1,136 tonnes spread over 155 lots of which 1,099 tonnes (150 lots) sold. Across the catalogue as a whole British Wool achieved a 96.7% clearance. Just 5 lots were taken back into stock, all of which 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%. Lower fleece weights this season are the main cause with reduced sheep numbers compounding the pressure. 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 6.5m kg of the 2023 wool clip. This is likely to be around 30% of our supply for the year.

The price improvements we have witnessed over the past two months 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. Farmers are still some way off being able to cover their costs of shearing.

The British Wool price index was up 3% sale on sale and the average greasy price increased to 86.7p per kg.

- Total weight offered 1.136m kg Total weight sold 1.099m kg
- Clearance 96.7%
- Average clean price £1.304 / kg Average greasy price £0.867 / kg
- British Wool Index 1.296, +3.2% sale on sale

The clearances by wool type were as follows;

- Fine wool 100%,
- Romney 100%,
- Medium wool 100%,
- Mule wool 100%,
- Hill wool 100%,
- Mountain wool 80%,
- Lamb 100%.

Price movements for key wool types

Prices where comparable to BW171;

Fine: Hogs No1 – 2.5% dearer. Hogs No2 – 2% dearer. Ewes No1 – 3% dearer. Ewes No2 – 5% dearer. Lt Grey – 1.5% dearer.

Romney: Ewes No1 – 4% dearer. Ewes No2 – 2% dearer.

Medium: Hogs No1 – 6% dearer. Hogs No2 – 5% dearer. Ewes No1 – 4% dearer. Ewes No2 – 3% dearer. Naturally discoloured – 1.5% dearer. Lt Grey – 2.5% dearer.

Mule: Hogs No1 – fully 2% dearer. Hogs No2 – 1.5% dearer. Ewes No1 – up to 5% dearer. Ewes No2 – 4% dearer. Cotts grades – 3% to 6% dearer. Lt Grey – 4% to 7% dearer.

Cheviots: Hogs No1 – fully 4% dearer. Hogs No2 – 5% dearer. Ewes No1 & No2 – 2% dearer. Cross Grades – 5% dearer.

Hill: Medium No2 – 4% dearer.

Blackface: Fine No1 – 5% dearer. No2 – 2.5% dearer. Cotts – sellers favour.

Welsh: No1 – firm. No2 – 3% dearer. Coloured Kempy – 2.5% dearer.

Swaledale: No1 – firm. Grey – sellers favour.