



British Wool – Sale Report

BW181 – 9th April 2024



Key Points

British Wool saw selective bidding in the auction on 9th April. Sought after grades saw prices hold firm whereas other types received no bid. As with the last few sales British Wool was prepared to meet the market to a certain extent, with the index falling back by 1.3%, but opted to take wool back into stock rather than accept a more significant price reduction. 20% of the wool offered was taken back in.

Poor colour wools remain out of favour. The demand for Welsh Mountain wool we saw last sale was maintained but these types, along with Swaledale wools, are still trading significantly below the cost of collection and handling.

The offer amounted to 1,209 tonnes spread over 178 lots. Of this, 975 tonnes spread over 142 lots sold. This was 200 tonnes more than in the sale two weeks ago. The 36 lots taken back into stock were a broad mix of types including Fine, Medium, Mule, Hill, and Oddments. Most of the Mountain Wools in the offer sold. British Wool has now sold 15.3m kg of the 2023 clip equivalent to 74% of its supply for the year.

The average price was 75.5p per kg with the mix of wool sold similar to last sale. The market is a long way from giving UK growers the return they need for their wool. UK Farmers require an average auction price of around £1.20 per kg just to cover their costs of shearing.

The British Wool price index was down 1.3% sale on sale and the average greasy price was 75.51p per kg.

- Total weight offered 1.209m kg Total weight sold 0.975m kg
- Clearance 80.6%
- Average clean price £1.135 / kg Average greasy price £0.755 / kg
- British Wool Index 1.2549, down 1.3% sale on sale

The clearances by wool type were as follows.

- Fine wool 66%,
- Romney 66%,
- Medium wool 92%,
- Mule wool 75%,
- Hill wool 91%,
- Mountain wool 94%,
- Lamb 100%.

Price movements for key wool types

Fine: Ewes No1 – 3% cheaper. Ewes No2 – 2% cheaper.

Medium: Hoggs No2 – 4% cheaper, Ewes No1 – 3% dearer, Ewes No2 – firm, Discoloured – 4% cheaper, Lt Grey – 5% dearer.

Mule: Ewes No1 – fully 1% dearer, Ewes No2 – 2-3% cheaper, Cotts grades – 1-2.5% cheaper. Lt Grey – sellers favour to 1.5% dearer.

Cheviot: Hoggs No1 – 3.5% cheaper, Hoggs No2 – 2% cheaper, Ewes No1 – 1.5% cheaper. Ewes No2 – 2% cheaper, Cross Grades – firm to 1.5% cheaper.

Hill: Medium – fully firm.

Blackface: Medium No1 – sellers favour, No2 – 2.5% cheaper, Cotts – 1.5% cheaper.

Welsh: No1 – 5% dearer, No2 – 3% dearer, Coloured Kempy – fully 1% dearer.

Swaledale: No1 – 2.5% cheaper, Grey – sellers favour.