



British Wool – Sale Report

BW182 – 23rd April 2024



Key Points

British Wool saw very selective bidding in the auction on 23rd April. Better colour combing types saw prices move up by 3% to 5% but the majority of grades saw prices fall back by 3% and there was little to no interest in oddments this sale. British Wool was prepared to meet the market to a certain extent, with the index falling back by 3%, but where demand was lacking wool was taken back into stock. Almost 30% of the wool offered was taken back in.

Lots with good colour results generally sold well but poor colour wools remain out of favour. Welsh Mountain along with Swaledale wools, are still trading significantly below the cost of collection and handling.

The offer amounted to 1,244 tonnes spread over 194 lots. 82 lots received no bid in the auction. After closing the books 135 lots sold with a total weight of 884 tonnes. This was 90 tonnes less than in the sale two weeks ago. The 59 lots taken back into stock were a broad mix of types including Fine, Romney, Medium, Mule, Mountain, and Oddments. British Wool has now sold 16.2m kg of the 2023 clip equivalent to 78% of its supply for the year. New season wool will not start to come onto the market until July.

The average price of 79.7p per kg was up sale on sale but this reflected the better mix of wools sold versus 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 at least £1.20 per kg just to cover their costs of shearing.

The British Wool price index was down 3% sale on sale at 1.219.

- Total weight offered 1.244m kg Total weight sold 0.884m kg
- Clearance 71.1%
- Average clean price £1.203 / kg Average greasy price £0.797 / kg

The clearances by wool type were as follows.

- Fine wool 87%,
- Romney 61%,
- Medium wool 87%,
- Mule wool 58%,
- Hill wool 89%,
- Mountain wool 72%,
- Lamb 60%.

Price movements for key wool types

Fine: Hoggs No2 – 2% cheaper. Ewes No1 – buyers favour. Ewes No2 – fully firm.

Medium: Hoggs No2 – 2% dearer, Ewes No1 – 2% cheaper, Ewes No2 – 3% cheaper, Discoloured – 1.5% cheaper, Lt Grey – firm.

Romney: Hoggs No1 – 3% cheaper.

Mule: Hoggs No1 – firm to 2.5% cheaper. Hoggs No2 – 2.5% cheaper. Ewes No1 – 1.5% cheaper, Ewes No2 – 2% cheaper, Soft Cotts – firm, Cotts – 2% cheaper. Lt Grey – 1.5% dearer.

Cheviot: Hoggs No1 – 4% dearer, Hoggs No2 – 1% dearer, Ewes No1 – fully firm. Ewes No2 – buyers favour, Cross Grades – buyers favour to 3% cheaper.

Blackface: Medium No1 – firm, Fine No1 – 2% cheaper, No2 – 3% cheaper, Cotts – 3.5% cheaper.

Welsh: No1 – fully firm, No2 – 3% cheaper, Coloured Kempy – 3% cheaper.

Swaledale: Grey – fully 5% dearer.