

VALAIS BLACKNOSE SHEEP



Summer 2021

NEWSLETTER

Welcome

It has been a very busy few months and we have welcomed a huge influx of new members, more than doubling our membership in the last two months alone. Now with almost 500 members we would like to thank you again for your continued support and positive feedback. As a fledgling society run purely by volunteers your responses and comments are valued. Preparations are well underway for show season and we look forward to finally welcoming you back safely to our scheduled Society events.

We hope you enjoy our Summer newsletter and wish you every success if you are venturing out onto the 2021 show circuit.





Valais Blacknose Society Questionnaire Results

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We recently sent out a questionnaire to all members and would like to thank all who took the time to complete it. We received responses from over 50% of membership which is greatly appreciated. As a new Society, it is important to understand membership support requirements and where efforts should be directed and focused going forward. **Results** have been compiled into graphs and pie charts and are available for your perusal.

It's Showtime

Summer is finally here which means it's time to start preparing for show season. With **TWO** Society shows and several Agricultural shows hosting dedicated Valais Blacknose classes there are plenty of opportunities to get out there and show off your sheep.

Please be reminded that entries for both Society shows are now open and **close on July 16th**. Please visit the Society website to view our dedicated [show web pages](#) and a full list of [2021 shows](#).

Valais Blacknose Society National Show & Sale

7th August 2021

McCartneys Worcester Livestock Market, Worcester

Blacknose Beauties National Show & Sale

21st August 2021

H&H Borderway Mart, Carlisle

If you are new to showing or simply need some advice on how to prepare your sheep for the ring, then please see the '[Get Show Ready](#)' guide and our top 10 '[Showing Etiquette](#)' tips.







Valais Blacknose Society Sell My Livestock Portal

Back in April, the Society officially launched a dedicated Valais Blacknose Society (VBS) advertising portal on Sell My Livestock (SML) which is now growing in popularity: <https://sellmylivestock.com/portal/valaisblacknose>

To advertise you must be a VBS Gold Member and need a personal Sell My Livestock account to create your listing. The VBS portal can be accessed via the main SML website or 'The Society' tab on the VBS website.

When creating your listing please remember to include the key information outlined below to help us identify member ads and adhere to the VBS advertising criteria:

- The word 'Pedigree' in listing titles
- Society membership number
- Multiple images showing all angles of the sheep
- Pedigree certificate

Advertising criteria:

- Advertisers must be VBS Gold members
- All stock for sale must be registered pedigree animals and meet breed standards
- Wether & castrated Spitti male adverts permitted
- Lambs must be weaned prior to advertising
- Unsexed semen sales permitted
- No crossbreed adverts

All approved adverts will appear in the VBS portal and will feature a grey society banner for easy identification.

We hope you find this portal useful and please let us know if you have any feedback or suggestions for future improvements.

Scammers Beware!

Photo theft and online scams are a growing problem within our community and regrettably several of our members have recently been targeted. We'd like to ask our members to be vigilant and inform the Society, page admins and each other of any suspicious activity and remind everyone to seek appropriate consent should you wish to share or use photographs/videos which do not belong to you to avoid facing any potential legal action.

It's also important to be cautious when purchasing stock via Social Media adverts and any third-party sales websites. Please make sure you verify the breeder and never part with any money until you are happy with your purchase and remember if it sounds too good to be true then it probably is! For further guidance please see our [VBS Buyers Guide](#).



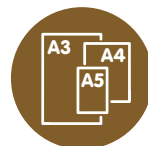
Here are **3 quick tips** on how to help protect your photos from theft on social media:



1. File size

Upload a smaller copy of your file than your original.

That way no one will have access to the full image but you.



2. Use a copyright notice

Add a copyright notice to your images, to drive home the fact the image can't be used without your permission and remember that by international law, images are copyrighted the second you take them with your camera/phone.

A copyright notice needs to include:

- The Copyright symbol © or the word "copyright"
- A statement of rights (e.g. "All Rights Reserved")
- The creator's name
- (Optional) The date or date range (of creation) marking the year(s)
- (Optional) Contact Information (so that interested parties can contact you to request permission to use your photos, this is often your email/website address)



3. Watermark your images

A watermark is a good way of protecting your images from unauthorised use and it also identifies you as the copyright holder but for them to be effective you need to make them large and central so that they can't be cropped out. It's also an idea to randomise your digital watermarking which involves changing the design or shape of your watermarks.



There are lots of helpful guides, software and plug in suggestions online to help you protect yourselves please take the time to do your research and stay vigilant.

Valais Blacknose Wool

A Valais's wool is an important characteristic and is uniformly white, well balanced over the whole body, thick and full on legs whilst natural and long on the head exhibiting the sheep's robust frame.

Fleeces vary greatly between individual animals and on average grow about 30cm (12 inches) each year. However, it rarely reaches that length as shearing is performed twice a year, resulting in 12.5 to 15 cm (5 to 6 inches) staple length. A minimum 10cm staple length is required for showing.

When shorn, fleeces based on 6 months growth approximately weigh:

Lambs 1-1.5 kg

Ewes 2.5 -3kg

Rams 2.5 – 3kg

The fleece in lambs is soft to touch but becomes coarser as the sheep matures. The Swiss grade approximately equates to 28-38 microns depending on age and gender. Fibre diameter generally finest in lambs and coarsest in adult males (average micron of 38 in mature sheep and 28 – 30 in lambs).





MacG
Aug'18

Use

Although thought to be mainly a carpet grade wool, Valais Blacknose wool can be blended with finer wools to achieve a softer fibre depending on the intended use and end product. It has also proved great for felting and is favoured for spinning due to its long staple length.



Flystrike

With the weather starting to warm up remember to take measures to protect your flock against fly strike especially if your sheep are in full show coats. Areas to watch are around the sheep's horns, their hooves, and around their rear ends. If you spot any signs of fly strike i.e., flies buzzing around and landing on an area of a sheep, lameness, stamping, nibbling/skin irritation, loss of wool or if you can already see eggs and/or maggots, immediately clean and treat the infected area accordingly. There are multiple products available i.e., Crovect, Spot on but CLiK Extra is longer lasting and provides 16 weeks' worth of protection.



QUESTIONS?

VBS operates a zero-tolerance policy and remind all to be respectful when communicating with Grassroots, council, and fellow members both face-to-face and online. Please note that VBS will not participate in or encourage any social media debates be that on our own or third-party pages. Should you have any specific questions, wish to raise topics or lodge a complaint please contact our council members directly by emailing:

info@valaisblacknosesociety.co.uk

