



PRESS RELEASE

Excitement builds for 2023 Blacknose Beauties National Show & Sale

The immensely popular Blacknose Beauties National Show & Sale returns once again to H&H Borderway Mart, Carlisle on Friday 18th and Saturday 19th August. The pinnacle of the Valais Blacknose show calendar, this two-day show and sale attracts enthusiasts from across the world, providing UK breeders with an opportunity to showcase some of the finest animals in the country - all aiming for the highest possible accolade of 'Blacknose Beauties Overall Supreme Champion 2023'. The mainline sponsor for this year's event is pedigree feed merchants [Galloway and Macleod](#).

Last year saw new winners crowned for the first time in the show's history. Welsh breeders Gerallt and Kerry Jones were awarded their first Overall Supreme Champion title with their aged ewe Snowdonia Halo. Overall Reserve Champion went to Jamie Wood of the Northumberland flock with his junior ram lamb Prendwick Johnny Depp.

Two full days of exciting competition, demonstrations and trade stalls provide something for everyone to enjoy. This year sees the return of the ever-popular young handler class, which is a show highlight and confirms the Society's commitment to encouraging the next generation to become involved with this fascinating breed.

Friday's schedule will include the grading of sheep, carried out by certified UK grading judges using an adopted points system from Valais, Switzerland. Grading is carried out to ensure that highest breed standards are maintained in the UK and the ultimate reward for any breeder is for their sheep to be awarded the coveted 'maximum points'. Also on Friday Cammy Wilson, well-known for his popular You Tube channel 'The Sheep Game', will demonstrate the unenviable task of shearing Valais Blacknose sheep in full fleece. Friday finishes with an evening BBQ, which is open to the public.

Competitions run all day on Saturday, culminating with the much-anticipated sale. Last year, 83 Valais Blacknose sheep went under the hammer with Peak District breeders Heather and Julian Adams's shearling ram Deepdale Impact topping the sale, selling for 6,500gns. Following at 6,400gns was ram lamb Lyngarth Juggernaut, aged ram Crookedstane Henry at 5,500gns, and ram lamb Daffodil Hill Jackpot at 5,500gns. The highest female price went to Emily and Henry Duncan of the Whitehall flock, Dumfriesshire with shearling ewe Whitehall Jasmine selling at 5,500gns and their aged in-lamb ewe Whitehall Holly achieving 5,000gns.

Alongside this year's event, the Society is also launching a raffle to raise funds for the [Charlie Dallas Lancaster Foundation](#) (C.D.L. Foundation), who provide help and support to organisations and individuals working within the Mental Health and Suicide prevention sphere. Tickets will be available for purchase at the show, with all proceeds being donated to the C.D.L. Foundation. In addition, 25% of proceeds from the VBS 2023 calendar sales will be donated.

Commenting on the upcoming Show & Sale, VBS Chairman Raymond Irvine said: "Blacknose Beauties 2023 will be our biggest event to date. With our membership now exceeding 800 and the increasing popularity of the breed, we are anticipating strong competition and an exciting sale. We are grateful for the continued support of our members, sponsors, traders and volunteers and are looking forward to welcoming everyone back to Carlisle to Blacknose Beauties in August."

Notes to Editors

History of the Valais Blacknose

The Blacknose sheep originates from the Valais canton of Switzerland. Native to the Upper Valais region, the Blacknose graze in the Alps in the summer months June-September. Though housed through the winter, the Blacknose is a sturdy breed which is well adapted to the harsh conditions of the mountains.

There is evidence that the Blacknose has existed since the 15th century, however they have changed greatly in appearance over the years and once resembled the likes of a Scottish Blackface. Over time, characteristics have evolved to the majestic sheep we see today.

In Valais, it is reported that there are in the region of 13,700 registered Blacknose sheep in the breed flock book. As a large, relatively slow-maturing breed, Valais Blacknose ewes in Switzerland are usually not bred until they are over 12 months of age, normally lambing for the first time at 18-24 months old. They are also non-seasonal breeders, with a reproduction rate of 1.6 lambs per year, however it is recommended to breed naturally once a year.

Typical Breed Characteristics:

<https://valaisblacknosesociety.co.uk/the-breed/>

Valais Blacknose Society

The Valais Blacknose Society (VBS) was founded in January 2021 following the merger of the Valais Blacknose Sheep Society UK and the Valais Blacknose Breed Society, both of which were established in 2015 soon after the first imported sheep arrived in the UK. The Society currently has over 800 members. Since the flockbook was established in 2015 there has been an almost 800% increase in animal population. To date there are over 9000 registered live Valais Blacknose sheep in the UK.



Blacknose Beauties 2022 Supreme Champion: Snowdonia Halo, Gerallt and Kerry Jones, Snowdonia Valais Blacknose



Blacknose Beauties 2022 Sale Topper: Deepdale Impact, Heather and Julian Adams, Deepdale Valais Blacknose