

Lleyn producing top quality prime lambs at Kinnerton



The Wood family at Kinnerton pride themselves on producing top quality lambs that meet market requirements; lamb production from the less favoured areas on the farm relies on the Lleyn ewe to deliver a fast-growing top quality prime lamb when crossed with Beltex x Texel rams. Their aim is to produce lambs that finish between 42 and 46kg with muscling and meat yield that catch the eye of discerning buyers

Kinnerton farm is situated a few miles north east of the Shropshire market town Bishops Castle. The farm is between 820 feet and 1600 feet above sea level and all is classified as Less Favoured Area, soil types vary from boulder clay interspersed with quartzite rock with areas of light loam and outcrops of peat.

A flock of 500 Lleyn ewes graze less favoured area land. Simon Wood commented “the Lleyn is extremely hardy and we put a strong focus on lambing ease and health in the Lleyn flock, also the ability to convert hill land grass into milk resulting in excellent growth rate of the lambs.”



When purchasing ewes from Lleyn Society sales the Woods look for well grown sheep with good skins. The ewes lamb outside in the last week of March and into April, Simon Wood said “the strong maternal traits of the Lleyn ewe suits our system as they lamb easily producing lambs that are very quick to suck, the Lleyn produces top quality milk which is crucial to lamb survival and growth rate”. Lambs reared from the flock is around 170 percent which Simon Wood is delighted with as the Lleyn flock at Kinnerton is a hill flock producing quality prime lambs. Simon Wood said that “the Lleyn ewe has lifted the prolificacy of our hill flock to a manageable level and this has increased the profit margins from the less favoured area land on the farm”

The Lleyn flock winter on a dairy farm and green crop and only receive a small amount of concentrate a month before lambing. Condition scoring pre tupping is important to make sure the Lleyn ewe is in the right condition, this helps achieve a short lambing period with very few returns. Ewes are wormed twice a year in spring and autumn and also vaccinated with Heptivac-P and treated for fluke once a year.



The future for Philip and Simon Wood is definitely Lleyn as the breed is suited to the farm and always performs well, the lambs from the Lleyn flock are a credit to these dedicated farmers on a less favoured area farm and are in high demand from buyers in the local livestock markets.

Robert Smith

(Photos: Robert Smith Photography)