

# IRISH VENDEEN SHEEP SOCIETY



## 2022 NEWSLETTER

# Growvite

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## Officials 2022

<b>President</b>	Geoff Ashton
<b>Chairperson</b>	Joey Walshe
<b>Vice Chairperson</b>	Cheryl O'Brien
<b>Secretary</b>	Shay Kennedy
<b>Treasurer</b>	Geoff Ashton
<b>Registrar</b>	Ann Ford
<b>P.R.O</b>	Alan Crowe
<b>Assistant P.R.O.</b>	Ciaran Coughlan
<b>Facebook</b>	Pat Oliver, Alan Crowe
<b>Webmaster</b>	Tom Medleycott
<b>Council</b>	Anthony Gannon



# Message from the Chairman



As I sit writing to you for our annual newsletter publication, I am delighted to say that at long last we can look forward to a return to normal proceedings this summer. It promises to be full of agricultural shows and sheep sales in person, at full capacity and back better than ever. Our newsletter has become an integral part of our advertising and communication to breeders and farmers alike. Inside you will learn more about the breed, where you can find a ram and why you will see the benefits of using a Vendéen ram in your flock.

For those new to the breed the Vendéen is a French breed that comes from the West coast of France. In France, both terminal lines and maternal lines of the breed are selected, while in Ireland because of the practice of most commercial farmers to cross breed, the society and its breeders select for terminal meat traits. The sheep themselves are very distinguishable with their bulky looks, tight skins, and good wool cover including the crown of their heads that leaves lambs very warm and hardy even in harsh winter conditions. Vendéen crosses have remarkably low mortality rates at birth; they have great up and go and are easy to flesh. They are suitable for both intensive indoor and extensive outdoor lambing. The Vendéen cross has a medium bone and compact heavy muscle carcass that results in a high kill out percentage due to minimal waste. They tend to grade as E, U or R with fat class 3 when appropriately finished. They make excellent lambs for the export market with a high lean-to-fat ratio. Pure Vendéen rams have earned the reputation as hard workers and are proven to be exceptionally fertile. They are non-seasonal breeders and so are excellent workers all year round and make ideal terminal Sire's for early lamb production as well as for mid-season lambing.

It is with great excitement that I say we can look forward to holding our National Championships once again in Athlone Show on the 19th June 2022. Following on from the successes of the last number of Irish Vendéen Sheep Society premier sales, we will once again return to Roscommon for our 26th annual premier sale which will, as always, be a prime opportunity to buy the best genetics our breed has to offer in Ireland. We also have a list of regional sales occurring through September and early October which will be confirmed in the coming weeks.

The Vendéen breed continues to flourish as a terminal sire breed. We have significant numbers of rams being used on commercial farms, with many commercial buyers that are using Vendéens returning year on year to purchase more. This is a true sign that those who use them are convinced of the Vendéen's attributes.

I wish our members and those using Vendéen sheep all the best in their endeavours in 2022 and I look forward to seeing a strong turnout of Vendéen sheep at shows and sales this summer.

*Joey Walshe*  
Chairman



*Wishing every success to*  
**The Irish Vendeen Sheep Society**

*A.W. Ennis*

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# 2021 SALES REPORT

## **Irish Vendeen Sheep Society Premier Sale 10th July 2021**

Our 25th annual premier sale was held in Roscommon Mart on Saturday 10th of July. It was the largest sale and number of exhibitors the premier sale has had in recent years. The society was delighted to hold their first sale that only had DNA parentage verified sheep for sale.

The ram prices on the day were on average €150 more than the 2019 sale to settle at almost €800.

Strong prices were seen throughout the sale, but notably 6 lots crossed the €1000 mark. Sale champion, Noggus Warrior, bred by Ciaran Coughlan from Ferbane, Co Offaly, sold for €1,600.

John Lynch took the second highest price with Ballinascrew War and Peace at €1,450.

Quitrent Watkins bred by Cheryl O'Brien of Co. Cork took the third highest price with €1,200 for her second-prize winner in the production 5\*5\* ram lamb class.

Cheryl also took home the reserve champion for her ram lamb Quitrent Waldon who went on to sell to €800.

The top priced hogget ram on the day sold at €700, again from the Noggus Vendeen flock of Ciaran Coughlan.

Rooskey Venus, a hogget ewe bred by Cavan-based breeder Eileen Foster became the top price in the female section, selling for €800.

The Ballinascrew flock of John Lynch was again in the money with his hogget ewe, Ballinascrew Vicky selling for €780.

The production 5\*5\* class for ewe lambs, was won by the Killeen flock of Mark and Audrey Crowe from Co. Meath. She went on to sell to a new Vendeen breeder at €520.

Andrew Gilmore of the Co Cavan-based Valleyview flock took the open ewe lamb class 1st place. She sold for €500.

Overall, the average female price settled at €500.

The Irish Vendeen Sheep Society would like to thank their long-term sponsors Univet, which was represented by Mark O'Rourke at the sale. They would also like to thank all of the exhibitors, purchasers and Roscommon Mart for their continued facilitation of the annual premier sale and for helping to make the sale the success it was.

Irish Vendeen Sheep Society In-Lamb Ewe and Ewe Lamb Sale 30th October 2021

The Irish Vendeen Sheep Society held their 21st annual in-lamb ewe and ewe lamb sale on Saturday 30th October 2021 in Roscommon Livestock Mart. Following their hugely successful, all DNA parentage verified premier sale in July this year, the society was delighted to hold their first female sale where all lots were parentage verified by DNA.

# 2021 SALES REPORT

The sale was a great success with over 95% clearance and an average price of close to €600.

Notable prices were achieved for a number of sheep on the day. Ciaran Coughlan's Landmark Sarah Biddy (originally bred by Ena Nagle - Landmark Flock), who was adjudged to be the 1st prize senior ewe and sale champion by judge Richard Allen, was knocked down at €900. The 1st prize hogget ewe and reserve champion, Ballinascrew Vera, bred by John Lynch, also made €900.

However, the top price of the day went to the stylish Noggus Violet, also from Ciaran Coughlan's Noggus Flock; when the hammer fell, she had reached €1020.

In the ewe lamb classes, the 1st prize 5\* ewe lamb Quitrent Westlyn, bred by Cheryl O'Brien made €640 and 1st prize non 5\* ewe lamb, Moneygold Waldhurga, bred by Brendan and Carmel Rooney, made €520.

A number of other lots sold for strong prices up to €700.

The Irish Vendeen Sheep Society would like to thank Univet for their sponsorship, Roscommon Mart for hosting the sale, the exhibitors and the customers on the day. They would also like to wish their customers every success with their new purchases.

## Regional Sales

**Our regional sales also had success with strong prices being paid for rams. The top prices paid exceeded €500. We look forward to our portfolio of regional sales across the country in 2021.**

Private sales were reported to have been very strong this year and make up a large portion of ram and ewe sales each year. Anyone interested in buying sheep privately can find contact details for our breeders in this newsletter and also on our website [www.vendeensheep.ie](http://www.vendeensheep.ie)



## JOHN LYNCH - HALL OF FAME

John Lynch along with his wife Bernie and son Stephen have been breeding pedigree Vendeen sheep since 1994. Their first Vendeen ram was purchased in 1990 from Fred Coulter in Northern Ireland for their commercial flock. His progeny was so exceptional that they decided to purchase a selection of pedigree ewes from James Napper in County Meath. This, in turn saw the emergence of the Ballinascrew Vendeen Flock. Since then only the highest quality rams have been used through natural service and artificial insemination. The Ballinascrew flock started showing pedigrees in 2004 and since then over 30 All - Ireland titles have been won. Numerous champions and top prices have been received at premier and regional sales including 5 premier sale champions in the past 6 years. John has had the honour of judging in the United Kingdom, Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland during his time with the Irish Vendeen Sheep Society. He is now serving his second term on the I.V.S.S council. The I.V.S.S recognise and thank John for his hard work for the society, his work within the breed over many years and for the quality of Vendeen stock which have been produced in the Ballinascrew flock. We are delighted in the Vendeen Sheep Society to nominate John for the 2020 Hall of Fame award.





# *Roast lamb with garlic and herbs*

This flavourful roast lamb can be a real treat from a typical roast dinner - try it with our mint sauce to bring out even more flavour!



## INGREDIENTS

1 boneless half leg of lamb, trimmed - around

1½kg / 3½lb

1 medium onion, roughly chopped

125ml / ¼ pint of water

2 large cloves of garlic, peeled

2 dessertspoons of root ginger, chopped

Grated rind of a small lemon

2 tablespoons of parsley, chopped

2 tablespoons of mint, chopped

1 tablespoon of rosemary, chopped

1 tablespoon of olive oil

## METHOD

Preheat oven to 180°C / 350°F / Gas Mark 4

Put the garlic, ginger, lemon rind, parsley, mint and rosemary in a food processor. Switch on for a minute or two until everything is finely chopped

Switch on again and add the oil slowly until you have a bright green mixture

Set the mixture aside. If you don't have a food processor, just finely chop everything with a knife

Place the joint in a roasting pan with the onion and water, put in the oven and allow 20 to 25 minutes per ½kg / 1lb

30 minutes before the end of cooking time remove from the oven; spread the herby mixture over the joint. Return to the oven and finish cooking

Keep an eye on the water level and top it up if necessary

When the lamb is cooked remove from the pan and keep warm. Discard the onion and remove excess fat

Boil up the pan juices and reduce to a syrup, this will make a rich, tasty sauce. This will take 2 to 3 minutes

Season and serve



# ELITE LAMB PELLETS



Pat O'Brien, Headford, Co. Galway farms 330 suffolk/mule cross ewes lambing in February and March and 40 spring calving suckler cows.

*"I find the Elite Lamb Pellets very good; lambs get onto it very quickly and intakes are very good but more importantly the weight gains and kill-outs are there to match it. We slaughtered our first batch of lambs as young as 10-11 weeks this year and they weighed 42-45kg and killed out over 50% dead weight. I'm very happy to date with this product and I certainly can't see us changing off it any time soon."*

Cheryl O'Brien runs both a pedigree and commercial flock of ewes in Springvale, Kildorrery, Co. Cork. The flock is a 50:50 split consisting of 60 pedigree Vendeen ewes and 60 commercial ewes mainly of Vendeen/Texel breeding.

*"I first started using Grennan's Elite Lamb Pellets in 2015. I'm using it ever since and I am very happy with the performance of my lambs. I find it very easy to transition from the creep to Elite Lamb Pellets as they are extremely palatable and the lambs really thrive. I will certainly continue to use this product as I find it gives good lamb performance and extremely good factory kill-out."*



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# SHEEP IRELAND



## Mighty Oak from Tiny Acorns!

Sheep Ireland was established to increase the profitability of the Irish Sheep Industry via improved genetics. Accomplishing this would not be possible without the engagement of pedigree breeders and the support of all the Pedigree societies. The results of this work can now be seen. Research has shown that by consistently selecting 5 Star rams to breed your replacement females and factory lambs, flocks could increase their profitability by up to €5/ewe/year.

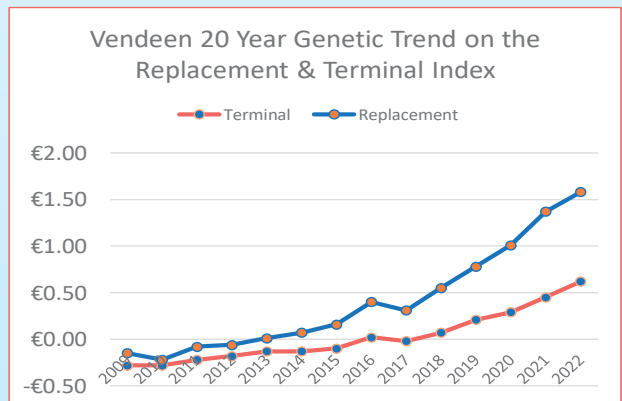
2022 was a strong year for the Vendeen as the breed continues to grow. 2021 saw a 33% increase in pedigree registered animals since 2018 (552 animals in 2021 vs 412 animals in 2018) with 48 flocks in the flockbook.

80% of the flocks in the IVSS are members of LambPlus (Performance recording), which is very encouraging for the breed. Growing the number of flocks involved in performance recording is something Sheep Ireland will continue to work with the IVSS on to get more flocks involved. Interestingly, looking at the percentage of IVSS lambs born into LambPlus flocks, they account for 93% of the overall lamb birth notifications. This tells us that larger flocks are seeing the value in joining LambPlus, with a very high percentage of the animals being performance recorded.

Sheep Ireland are also encouraging more commercial farmers to performance record their flocks. This will help them to identify their under-performing ewes/rams (the passengers), and the data will provide feedback into the national genetic evaluation resulting in more accurate Euro-Stars for all farmers the following year. With the FREE Sheep Ireland App, recording has never been easier to do. Get in contact with Sheep Ireland today if you are interested.

### Growing confidence from breeders

This increase in performance recording has filtered its way through to the breeding decisions IVSS breeders make each year. As more data is collected on the breed on all of the various bloodlines, the genetic breeding values become more accurate, and as a result, breeders are placing more emphasis on the Euro-Stars of their stock rams and breeding ewes. This is clear to see when looking at the genetic



# SHEEP IRELAND

trend for the breed. The rate of genetic gain has started to pick up since 2017, which can be seen in the illustration of the genetic trends above.

## Genomics

Over recent years the number of genotyped sheep has risen steadily, and there are now over 63,000 genotyped animals on the Sheep Ireland database, of which 2,000 are purebred Vendeen. This represents the largest genomics database of Vendeen animals anywhere in the world and gives IVSS breeders a real advantage compared to other countries. Genomics allows breeders to test for several things at once

- **Parentage:** Animals can be DNA Verified to their parents with 100% confidence, and where errors are identified, the correct parents can be identified if they are also genomically tested.
- **Scrapie:** Every animal tested with Sheep Ireland also receives a Scrapie genotype result. If the animal is fully parentage verified, this result can be used for DAFM export purposes.
- **Genomic Evaluations:** A lot can be understood about an animal's future performance by looking at its DNA. This is why after an animal has been genotyped, the accuracy of its Euro-Stars can increase by 15-20%. This results in fewer Euro-Star movements throughout the animal's lifetime.

## Genomics Subsidy

The IVSS decided to provide a €5 subsidy towards genotyping pedigree registered female ewe lambs. This demonstrates the breed society's commitment to the integrity of the flockbook and breed improvement and why it has the greatest number of genotyped animals relative to the size of the flockbook to any other breed. Furthermore, the LambPlus subsidy of €9.50 available to LambPlus breeders means that breeders can now genotype their female ewe lambs for only €10 per ewe, which is sensational value. Every IVSS breeder should avail of this offer and start building towards a fully genomically tested flock over the coming years.

### Where can I find Performance Recorded Vendeen Rams?

All performance recorded Vendeen ram lambs can be found on [www.ramsearch.ie](http://www.ramsearch.ie), or via the Sheep Ireland website. In addition, you can find all the details of the ram (i.e. Parentage, breeding values) and the breeder's contact details. This allows farmers to seek out the best genetics available early in the season and take advantage of the first pick.



**Vendeen rams will also be present at the Sheep Ireland Elite EuroStar Multi Breed Ram Sale, which takes place this year on Saturday 27th August 2022, in Tullamore Mart.**



## **VENDÉENS IN CLONFERT CO. GALWAY - BY SAM FINNY**

I farm here in east Galway on a suckler to beef and sheep farm. I run a flock of 400 ewes as well as 60 ewe lambs. The first batch of ewes start lambing in the first week of February. The second batch is then lambled from the 15th March and the ewe lambs are lambled from the first week of April onwards. The rams go out to serve the ewes in late August-early September and are withdrawn from the ewes in late September and are reintroduced with the second batch of ewes 22nd of October and the rams are introduced to the ewe lambs the first week of November. Some rams reintroduced to the first batch of ewes to mop up any repeats which will lamb with the second batch of ewes. All rams are removed the first week of December to prevent any lambing past the end of April.

We run a flock of lowland ewes most Suffolk cross ewes. We bought our first 2 vendéen rams from Anthony and Oisín Gannon in 2018 and they were put with 60 ewes, and we were very happy with the lambs they produced. We also run Charolais, Texel and Suffolk rams with the ewes. The vendéen lambs were born in February 2019 with the first batch of ewes. They were easily lambled, and most ewes lambled unassisted. The lambs were very lively and hardy at birth and very eager to suck shortly after birth. They were hardy enough to be let up to grass at 2-3 days old. These vendéen cross lambs thrive well and they easily finished for slaughter. They grade and the kill out percentage is very good. All of our lambs are slaughtered through the Offaly Quality Lamb Producer Group where the lambs are sent to ICM Camolin. The vendéen rams were also let out with half of the ewe lambs and they were easily lambled also. We found that the rams very active and hard-working sheep. That year, we picked out some Vendéen cross ewe lambs for breeding and they are working out very well.

# FACTORY GRADING SHEET

of Vendeen Crossbred Lambs

Supplier No. 3820277  
Cheque No. 561577  
Lot No. 49276  
Slaughter Date: 28 Apr 2022



Lot No	Kill No	Ear Tag	Grade	Fat	Cond	Wgt	Cold Weight	Pay Weight	Price	Value
49276	2068	IE 0438300 05106	U	3	-		21.1	20.5	€8.30	€170.15
49276	2067	IE 0438300 05104	U	3	-		21.5	20.5	€8.30	€170.15
49276	2066	IE 0438300 05102	U	3	-		18.3	18.3	€8.30	€151.89
49276	2065	IE 0438300 05108	U	3	-		21.3	20.5	€8.30	€170.15
49276	2064	IE 0438300 05113	U	3	-		20.5	20.5	€8.30	€170.15
49276	2063	IE 0438300 05114	U	3	-		18.5	18.5	€8.30	€153.55
49276	2062	IE 0438300 05107	U	3	-		20.6	20.5	€8.30	€170.15
49276	2061	IE 0438300 05112	U	3	-		19.4	19.4	€8.30	€161.02
49276	2060	IE 0438300 05101	U	3	-		23.1	20.5	€8.10	€166.05
49276	2059	IE 0438300 05111	U	3	-		20.1	20.1	€8.30	€166.83
49276	2058	IE 0438300 05110	U	3	-		19.7	19.7	€8.30	€163.51
49276	2057	IE 0438300 05109	U	3	-		22.7	20.5	€8.10	€166.05
12					-		246.8	239.5		€1,979.65
							Paid Weight	19.96	Avg Price\Hd	€164.97

## VENDEEN THE SHEEP TO MEAT



# CHERYL O'BRIEN - SOCIETY PERSON OF THE YEAR 2021

The Irish Vendéen Sheep Society would like to congratulate Cheryl O'Brien on her nomination as Society Person of the Year 2021. Cheryl hails from Kildorrery, Co. Cork and is the proud owner of the prizewinning Quitrent Vendéen flock. Cheryl has been a stalwart of the Irish Vendéen Sheep society since she first purchased Vendeens in 1989! Her first Vendeens were 4 ewes and 1 ram out of the North of Ireland. Cheryl has had many successes since then including breeding 5 All-Ireland Champions in one year. One of Cheryl's stand-out memories was winning her first prize with a ram lamb in Charleville Show in 1991, where he was sold afterwards for 300 punt! Over the years, Cheryl's Quitrent flock has produced 12 Overall All-Ireland Female Champions and 4 Overall Male Champions. She has had one RDS champion, champions at many other agricultural shows and sales throughout the country. Cheryl has won the show flock of the year no less than 6 times, the first in 1997 and the last one in 2019 (it hasn't been competed for since due to Covid-19, so Cheryl remains the reigning champion!)

Cheryl's greatest satisfaction is seeing other breeders buying her sheep and going on to have great success with them. As well as being one of the society's most successful breeders, Cheryl has given her time year on year both on the committee and helping to organise society events. Cheryl was first elected to the council in c1995 and has served multiple times as both

Chairperson and Secretary as well as other offices. Cheryl is currently Vice-Chairperson of the Irish Vendéen Sheep Society.



The committee were delighted for Cheryl to win the award of society person of the year. Despite her many years of service and dedication to developing the breed in Ireland, this was the first time Cheryl has won this award, one which she certainly deserves! We wish her every success in the coming years.

# QUITRENT VENDEENS

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The Irish Vendéen Sheep Society

*In Conjunction With*

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The Growvite All Ireland  
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The Irish Vendéen Sheep Society

With Guest Judge  
Susan Stoney

June  
**19th**  
2022



# Landmark Vendeens



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*LambPlus Recorded*

Visitors always welcome

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Landmark, Ballylough, Mitchelstown, Co. Cork

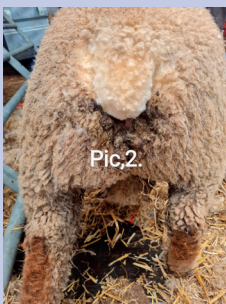
# SHOW TIME.

**The Vendeen breed were imported into Ireland in the mid-1980s and have been shown all over the country ever since. Showing has and still remains the best way of allowing the general public to see up close the virtues of the breed. In order to be successful in the show ring it is not enough to just pull your sheep out of the field because of competition from other breeds. To have success in the show ring you must first have a sound animal in all functional regard, teeth, toes, testicles and teats. The animal must be true to breed type and fed and presented for maximum visual impact. Each breed has their own standards and indeed each exhibitor has their own interpretation.**

The Vendeen breed has its own outline as to what is permitted and here, I hope to outline the basics to help new and inexperienced breeders have the confidence to attend future shows and sales. I will start with lambs, tails are docked at birth or shortly thereafter, later the wool can be squared and tidied for showing, using a suitable hand shears clip parallel to the ground across level with the bone on the tail, then you can clip up to the tail base to define tail shape and finally then clip wool on the tail to match the new shape of tail in proportion, see pic 1&2. On the head young lambs often have excess wool, this can be clipped and shaped, the wool on the jaws and forehead can be trimmed, not too bare but in proportion to face, it is a feature of the breed to have wool on head and jaws to protect young lambs from the cold. See pic 3&4. Excess wool on legs can be tidied and at the top of legs but not on the animal's body, best practice is to do small amount at a time, you can clip more off but not more on! It is similar for adult sheep and in summer shows adult animals are shown fully clipped.



**Once clipping and tidying is done make sure the wool is clean this can be done using water all over the animal and using a suitable sheep shampoo, lather onto the surface of the wool, massage any hard pieces of dirt or dung until soft and can be removed using a comb or brush, don't over handle wool as it will loosen all the natural oil and open the wool, rinse off fully with water, don't attempt to dry wool with cloths, towels or dryers, let it dry naturally.**



Coloring is permitted in the Vendeen breed but is a personal choice, again good sheep supply shops will have a range of options, the perfect option is a tan or light golden color but again it's optional. Mix your preferred color and apply evenly using a sprayer, do not over apply,

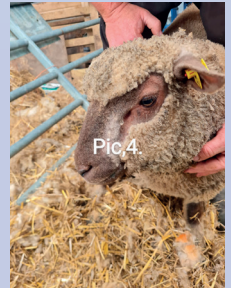
## SHOW TIME.



many color mixes are a very different color when dry, do well in advance and top up if required. It is advisable to do on a non-show sheep when trying a new color product or for the first time.

Next up is handling and showmanship. If you handle a lamb or sheep for the first time at the show day both you and your sheep will have a difficult time. Using a purpose made sheep halter usually made from a cotton type material, put the halter onto the animal well in advance of show day. The halter when fitted properly should have the lead rope coming out to the left of the animal, it should emerge from

behind the chin to the left, from the back and down. This will mean if the animal gets excited on the day the halter will not come off the animal. Do this well in advance, maybe for the first time just tie the animal to a gate to help them get familiar with the feeling, each time you do it interact more with the animal until you both learn to trust each other, some animals take more time than others. When you enter the show ring line up with the other sheep but not on top of another exhibitor, allow enough space so the judge can clearly see your animal's stance and legs, either standing or kneeling hold the animal by its chin not too close as to block the view of your animal, hold its head high and legs set four square like a table, use your spare hand to adjust legs if needed, keep an eye out for where the judge is at all time as if the judge approaches your animal you don't want it to get spooked.



Finally, it is important to present the handler! A judge is not going to pass any judgement on your appearance but advisable to be well presented as this is a shop window for your breed and your flock. Most breeds have a standard with white coats or society shirts, jackets or fleeces; the Vendeen breed requires exhibitors to present in society apparel (t-shirt, jacket or shirt and Vendeen tie). Like with most things in life the more you do something the better you will get at it, take notes, and ask plenty questions. Our established breeders are always happy to help and advise newer breeders. We wish you all every success in your show experience.



# IRISH VENDÉEN SHEEP SOCIETY SHOWS 2022

SHOW	DATE	SHOW CONTACT	IVSS CONTACT	TELEPHONE
<b>Dundalk</b>	Sun 12/6/22	dundalkshow.com	Pat Oliver	(083) 3596000
<b>Athlone (Growvite IVSS All-Ireland Championships)</b>	Sun 19/6/22	www.athloneshow.ie	Cheryl O'Brien	(086) 8525588
<b>Charleville</b>	Sun 26/6/22	www.charlevilleshow.com	Geoff Ashton	(085) 9775627
<b>Flavours of Fingal County Show</b>	Sat 2/7/22	Tony Corbally 087 2529991	Alan Crowe	(085) 7784875
<b>Clonmel</b>	Sun 3/7/22	www.clonmelshow.ie	Shay Kennedy	(087) 2802364
<b>Mullingar</b>	Sun 10/7/22	www.mullingaragrishow.com	Alan Crowe	(085) 7784875
<b>Erris (Belmullet)</b>	Sun 24/7/22	www.errisagriculturalshow.com	Tom Duffy	(086) 2621385
<b>Tinahely</b>	Mon 1/8/22	www.tinahelyshow.ie	Alan Crowe	(085) 7784875
<b>Bonniconlon (Co. Mayo)</b>	Mon 1/8/22	www.bonniconlonshow.com	Tom Duffy	(086) 2621385
<b>Tullamore</b>	Sun 14/8/22	www.tullamoreshow.com	Ciaran Coughlan	(086) 8229900
<b>Roscommon</b>	Sat 20/8/22	www.roscommonagriculturalshow.ie	Damien Conboy	(086) 8254459
<b>Virginia</b>	Wed 24/8/22	www.virginiashow.com	Ann Ford	(086) 0237721
<b>Limerick</b>	Sun 28/8/22	www.limerickshow.com	Geoff Ashton	(085) 9775627
<b>Royal Meath (Trim)</b>	Sun 4/9/22	www.royalmeathshow.com	Alan Crowe	(085) 7784875

## *Kilbride Vendéens*

- Ram Lambs & Shearlings for Sale
- 2022 Sires: Sessiagh Thangbrand & Quitrent Sherman (3/4 French)
- Fully recorded with LambPlus
- All stock genotyped
- Enquiries & Visitors Welcome

**Neil & Ann Ford**  
**Kilnacrott, Ballyjamesduff**  
**Co Cavan**  
**Tel: 086 887 4545**  
**Email: annford01@gmail.com**



## THE ROYAL STORY.

In 2017 the Royalflush flock of pedigree Vendeens was founded by Meath couple Stephen and Michaela Mulvey. It all started when Stephen was at his local sheep mart and saw his first Vendeens, 2 powerful rams. On return from the sales, he investigated the breed and decided he would get some pedigree registered Vendeen females to run alongside his existing pedigree Beltex flock. Females were sourced at society sales and a ram at the annual premier sale. Each year Stephen was impressed with easy births,



hardy lambs and top survival traits, but as time went by the lambs didn't resemble the type of sheep that first attracted him to the breed. Over the years Stephen tried a number of different rams with not much change in outcome.

In 2020 Stephen was getting disillusioned and called to another local breeder to try and understand what changes he could attempt to enhance flock performance; it was agreed to seek out a ram that had the traits and characteristics he wanted to address. The catalogues for the premier sale was studied and every bloodline was considered, a shortlist was decided on subject to visuals on the day. When the day came the list got short very quick following inspection, despite the 1st choice being late in the sale catalogues he decided to wait. Stephen and the other local breeder had decided to join forces on purchase of the desired ram, so the budget was not to be an issue. 3 lots had already gone through the ring from this vendor and had sold for an average of over €900 but as a pleasant surprise they secured their preferred choice was secured for €560.

18 ewes were sponged and ran with the lamb with 16 holding to 1st service. The lambs were born and reared in the same manner as the previous years but as time went by the progeny looked to have more of what attracted

Stephen to the breed. In late spring following a visit from the other shareholder in the ram it was decided to enhance feeding and management levels with a view to attending the premier sale. 3 lambs were entered in the sale including a lamb born a single on January 28th from a 10-year-old ewe.

Due to Covid-19 restrictions only one lamb per breeder was shown and both lambs took a ribbon which was an amazing achievement for a first-time exhibitor. The lambs all sold with a top price of €980 and with a €700 average. Stephen is very keen to encourage all new breeders to have the ambition to attend and do well in all society events and aim for the top, take advise from breeders you trust on ram/ewe selection, and on feeding and management regimes to deliver maximum performance. When looking for your next ram go after the ram with the breeding and traits you desire, spend what you have to in order to get that ram and don't overlook a ram that others pass by. Stephen now wants to do better and hopes the next ram he purchases can have the same influence on his breeding program that his 2020 purchase had.

# Lamb Curry

Make a large pot and freeze in edible portions for those evenings when you are very busy or you don't feel like cooking.



## INGREDIENTS

- 450g / 1lb of stewing lamb
- 1 large onion, chopped
- 1 clove of garlic, chopped
- 2 dessertspoons of curry powder
- 25g / 1 oz. of plain flour
- 1 medium apple, peeled and grated
- 1 litre / 1<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> pints of stock, or 2 beef cubes dissolved in 1 litre / 1<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> pints hot water

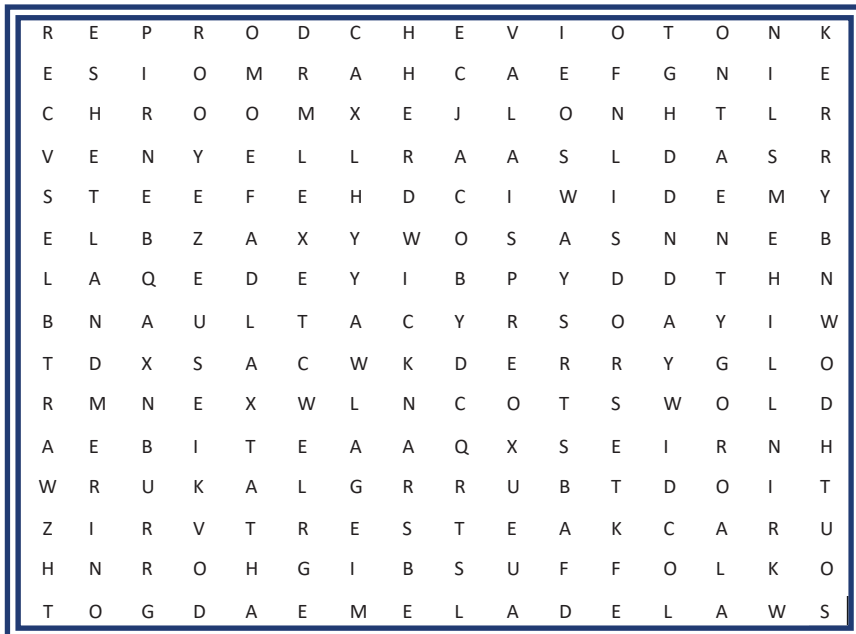
## METHOD

- Pre-heat the oven to 180°C / 350°F / Gas Mark 4
- Cut meat into one-inch pieces
- Fry the meat, onion and garlic over a low heat until the meat is brown on all sides
- Then place in a casserole dish
- Stir in the flour and curry powder to the juices

- remaining in the pan
- Cook for 2 to 3 minutes
- Add the stock and grated apple. Stir continuously to avoid lumps
- Bring to the boil and add to the meat mixture in casserole
- Cook in the pre-heated oven for 1<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> hours until meat is tender

# COMPETITION WORDSEARCH

See if you can find the 29 sheep breeds hidden in the diagram. They have been printed across (backwards forwards), vertically or diagonally but always in a straight line.



BELCLARE

BELTEX

BIGHORN

CHARMOISE

CHEVIOT

COTSWOLD

DORPER

DORSET

DRYSDALE

EXMOOR

GALWAY

GOTLAND

HERDWICK

JACOB

KERRY / HILL

LLEYN

MERINO

RACKA

SHETLAND

SOAY

SOUTHDOWN

SUFFOLK

SWALEDALE

TEXEL

VALAIS

VENDEEN

WENSLEYDALE

XALDA

ZWARTBLES

Send completed entries (by 10th October 2022) to:

Ann Ford, Kilnacrott, Ballyjamesduff, Co. Cavan.

[annford01@gmail.com](mailto:annford01@gmail.com).

One correct entry will win a "Vendeen" themed gift.

Surname	First Name	Address 1	Address2	Address 3	Address 4	Eircode
Anderson	Cyril	Springfield	Lismacaffrey		Co. Westmeath	
Ashton	Geoff. & Ann	Glenogra	Meanus	Kilmallock	Co. Limerick	
Bowers	Shane	Shrubbywood Farm	Coole		Co. Westmeath	
Bowers	Thomas	Kiltroom	Castlepollard		Co. Westmeath	
Brady	Colm	Burreen	Virginia		Co. Cavan	
Browne	Noel & Patricia	Clonmore	Tullamore		Co. Offaly	
Burke	Ian					
Cannon	Joseph	Timolin	Banagher		Co. Offaly	
Conboy	Martin & Damien	Carane	Ballintubber		Co. Roscommon	
Coughlan	Ciaran	Noggus	Ferbane		Co. Offaly	
Crowe	Alan	Killeen Road	Dunsany		Co. Meath	
Crowe	Mark & Audrey	Killeen Road	Dunsany		Co. Meath	
Deasy	Raymond	Currykirwan	Mayoabbey	Claremorris	Co Mayo	
Dolan	Vincent & John	Carrick	Banagher		Co. Offaly	
Duffy	Tom	Tallagh	Belmullet		Co. Mayo	
Edgeworth	Mike	Bush Farm	Dunmore East		Co. Waterford	
Fitzsimons	Adrian J.	Ashgrove Park	Newry	BT34 4LR	Co. Down	
Flood	Enda	Galestown	Dromore	Oldcastle	Co. Meath	
Ford	Neil & Ann	Kilnacrott	Ballyjamesduff		Co. Cavan	A82 TR96
Foster	Eileen	Roskey	Beglieve	Baileiborough	Co. Cavan	
Gannon	Anthony & Oisín	Ballivor	Banagher	Birr	Co. Offaly	
Gilmore	Andrew	Cortubber	Kingscourt		Co. Cavan	
Gray	James	Beihy	Drumlish		Co. Longford	
Gunn	Niamh	Greeny	Miltown	Belturbet	Co. Cavan	
Hannon	James	Islandmore	Kilmaine		Co. Mayo	E31 XE82
Jennings	Sonny & Shane	Cahergal	Tuam		Co. Galway	
Keenaghan	Mark	Endrim	Ferbane		Co. Offaly	
Kelleher	Michael & Therese	Knockenpower Lower	Colligan	Dungarvan	Co. Waterford	X35 FF20
Kennedy	Shay	Churchtown Hill	Carrick-on-Suir		Co. Waterford	E32 XA62
Kielty	Michael	2 Fairgreen	Ballymote		Co. Sligo	
Kilgore	Maureen	The Meadow	Golden Acres	Ballymague, Buttevant	Co. Cork	
Lynch	John	Ballinascrew	Ballinallee		Co. Longford	
Mannion	Martin	Cloneyourish	Athleague		Co. Roscommon	
Mannion	Stephen	Stonepark House	Galway Road	Roscommon	Co. Roscommon	F42 H529
McCabe	David	Roskey	Beglieve	Baileiborough	Co. Cavan	
McDermott	Anthony	Lannette	Killanny		Co. Louth	
McGrane	Alan	Hurcle	Collon		Co. Meath	
McGrath	Michael	Edmondstown	Monelia	Mullingar	Co. Westmeath	
McMahon	David	Kennellyduff	Carrickmacross		Co. Monaghan	
McMenamin	Emmett	Sessiaghoneill	Ballybofey	Lifford	Co. Donegal	
McMunn	Gerry	Caltragh	Dromard	Sligo	Co. Sligo	
Meade	Eamonn	Posseckstown House	Nobber	Kells	Co. Meath	
Medlycott	Tom	Knockraheen	Roundwood		Co. Wicklow	
Monaghan	Padraig	Elly Point	Clogher	Ballina	Co. Mayo	
Mooney	Ben & Robin	Dunbur Farm		Wicklow	Co. Wicklow	
Mulvey	Stephen & Michaela	Abhaile	Jarretstown	Dunboyne	Co. Meath	
Nagle	Ena	Landmark	Ballydeloughy	Mitchelstown	Co. Cork	
O'Brien	Cheryl	Springvale	Kildorrery		Co. Cork	
O'Brien	Conor	Caherelly East	Grange	Kilmallock	Co. Limerick	
O'Connor	Finbarr	Larch Grove	Elphin		Co. Roscommon	
O'Connor	Siobhan	Kiltroom	Trim		Co. Meath	
O'Shea	Jamie	The Cottage	Laharn	Miltown	Co. Kerry	
O'Sullivan	David	Glenmore	Lauragh	Killarny	Co Kerry	
Oliver	Pat	Ongenstown	Bohermeen	Navan	Co. Meath	C15 EI96
Phelan	Declan	Ballymullen	Abbeyleix		Co. Laois	
Rabbitt	Morgan & Martin	Castle Ellen	Athenry		Co. Galway	
Rooney	Brendan	Drumfad	Moneygold	Grange	Co. Sligo	
Sheerin	Brendan	Castletown	Kilpatrick	Navan	Co. Meath	
Smith	Kieran	Cloonaminda	Glenamaddy		Co. Galway	
Stevens	Tim	Ballylickey Lodge	Ballylickey	Bantry	Co. Cork	
Tubman	Raymond	Derreen Lodge	Mohill		Co. Leitrim	
Walshe	Joey	Yellow Bog	Kilcullen		Co. Kildare	

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0906 454066

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097 82057

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051 646141

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046 9052134

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086 3099250

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086 8229900  
085 7784875  
087 2856203  
087 6660563  
087 7956754  
086 2621385  
086 8260184  
048 41769969

087 7924291  
086 3301310  
087 4693509  
087 9502614  
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087 4645715  
087 2802864  
083 8364441  
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087 2401817  
086 8346017  
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086 3691615  
085 7544277  
087 4084800  
086 398 5139  
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087 9550874  
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087 9297068  
085 2076973  
083 3596000  
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## Flock

ACS  
AGG  
BSC  
BTK  
BCB  
BNC

CJT  
CMC  
CCN  
CAD  
CMK  
DRC  
DVC  
TGD  
EMD  
FAD  
FEK  
FNN  
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GAB  
GAV  
GJB  
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HJI  
JSW  
KME  
KMC  
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MMA  
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MBS  
MSR  
NEL  
OCQ  
OCC  
OFL  
OSD  
OJL  
ODG  
POR  
PDR  
RMC  
RBM  
SBC  
SKC  
STB  
TRD  
WJT

## Prefix

Springfield  
Glenogra  
Coole  
Kiltroom  
Burreen  
Clomore  
  
Timolin  
Carane  
Noggus  
Dunsany  
Killeen  
Curry  
Carrick  
Tallagh  
Dunmore East  
De Courcy  
Knocklough  
Kilbride  
Rooskey  
Ballivor  
Valley View  
Behy  
Creeny  
Islandmore  
Windmill View  
Endrim  
Colligan View  
Windy Gap  
Thunderhead  
Meadow  
Ballinascrew  
Athleague  
Stonepark  
Beglieve  
Riverbank  
Mellifont Hill  
Edmondstown  
Kennellyduff  
Sessiagh  
Caltragh  
Highcastle  
Knockraheen  
Shanelly  
Seaview  
Royalfush  
Landmark  
Qitrent  
Caherelly East  
Larchgrove  
Dunganny  
Laharn Pure  
Glan View  
Rioga  
Ratish  
Castle Ellen  
Moneygold  
Caislean  
Cloonminda Lane  
Ballylickey  
Derreen Lodge  
Tober



# Lamb cutlet casserole

Lamb is often overlooked but it is a delicious meat, packed full of flavour, for a similar price to beef. Slow cooking really tenderises the meat and spreads the flavour throughout the dish.



## INGREDIENTS

8 lean lamb cutlets  
2 large onions, peeled and sliced thickly into rings  
5 potatoes, peeled and thinly sliced  
5 carrots, peeled and thinly sliced  
275ml /  $\frac{1}{2}$  pint of vegetable stock  
1 dessertspoon of plain flour  
2 dessertspoons of Worcestershire sauce  
1 dessertspoon of vegetable oil  
1 teaspoon of dried mixed herbs  
Salt and pepper, to taste

## METHOD

Pre-heat the oven to 160°C / 325°F / Gas Mark 3

Partially cook the potatoes in boiling water for 5 minutes and then slice thinly

Heat the oil in a frying pan and cook cutlets over a low heat for 5 to 10 minutes until browned, turning once. Place on a warm plate

Add the onions to the pan and cook gently for 2 to 3 minutes until browned

Drain off all but 1 tablespoon of juice from the pan. Scatter the flour in the pan and cook for 1 minute stirring constantly

Add the stock, Worcestershire sauce and mixed herbs. Cook until thickened. Season to taste

### TO ASSEMBLE:

Lightly grease a casserole dish. Lay half the potatoes and carrots on the base and then top with lamb cutlets. Pour over the thickened stock and onions. Lay the rest of the potatoes and carrots on top

Cook in the oven for 45 minutes until cutlets are tender and the potatoes on the surface are golden



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**Contact:** 046-9025162

Mark at 087-2856203; [mark.crowe@ucd.ie](mailto:mark.crowe@ucd.ie)

Alan at 085-7784875; [crowead@gmail.com](mailto:crowead@gmail.com)

Ross at 085-8420952; [crowera@gmail.com](mailto:crowera@gmail.com)



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## Membership Fees:

Please consider paying your annual subscription by Direct Debit as this saves on administration time and also ensures that your name is not taken off the Members List because you have forgotten to pay! Membership subscription for 2016 is €40.00.

If you are interested in becoming a member, please contact Geoff Ashton at the address given below for further information.




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Baseball Cap				.....
<b>TOTAL:</b>				

Please send completed form and payment to:

**Geoff Ashton. Hon. Treasurer. I.V.S.S.. Glenoara. Meanus. Co Limerick.**





# Breed Standard



## HEAD

- The head shows much character and presence
- The head and cheeks carry wool
- The ears are large and fine.

## FACE

- The face is brown and there is no wool on the face
- The nose is reasonably long and the muzzle broad

## BODY

- The body is long with a broad back, well sprung ribs, strong loin and deep gigot.
- The adult male weighs between 110 and 140kg
- The adult female will weigh between 80 and 110kg
- The legs are of medium bone and lightly covered
- The Vendéen is not a long legged breed but it should not be too close to the ground

## WOOL

- The fleece is of excellent quality, being of fine down type and very uniform in fibre length, with no coarse kempy wool on the lower part of the hindquarters.
- The staple length is 5 to 7cm and the average fleece weight is 3.5kg per sheep.
- The ewe is similar to the ram except the head is feminine and stylish.



# Irish Vendéen Sheep Society

## SALES 2022

Venue	M/F	Day	Contact
26th Premier Sale, Roscommon	M&F	Sat, 9th July	Pat Oliver: 083 359 6000
Mid Kerry Co-Op, Milltown	M	Fri, 26th August	Cheryl O'Brien: 086 8525 588
Tullow	M	Tue, 6th Sept.	Cheryl O'Brien: 086 8525 588
Ballinasloe	M	Thurs, 8th Sept. (6pm Evening Sale)	Ciaran Coughlan: 086 822 9900
Roscommon	M	Sat, 24th Sept.	Cheryl O'Brien: 086 8525 588
Ballyjamesduff	M	Wed, 28th Sept. (Evening Sale)	Pat Oliver: 083 359 6000
Tullamore	M	Wed, 5th Oct.	Ciaran Coughlan: 086 822 9900
Roscommon in lamb ewe	F	Sat, 29th Oct.	Pat Oliver: 083 359 6000



**LambPlus Eurostar Multi-Breed Ram Sale:**  
Tullamore, Saturday 27th August 2022.  
Contact Sheep Ireland for information



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Vendéen The Sheep to Meat  
[www.vendeensheep.ie](http://www.vendeensheep.ie)  
Irish Vendéen Sheep Society