

IRISH VENDÉEN SHEEP SOCIETY



2023 NEWSLETTER

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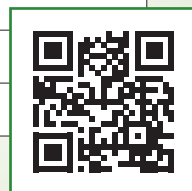
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Officials 2023

President	Geoff Ashton
Chairperson	Cheryl O’Brien
Vice Chairperson	Tom Medleycott
Secretary	Shay Kennedy
Treasurer	Geoff Ashton
Registrar	Ann Ford
P.R.O	Alan Crowe
Assistant P.R.O.	Ciaran Coughlan
Council	Anthony Gannon, Pat Oliver



Message from the Chairperson



I am honoured to have returned to the chair of the Irish Vendéen society. This is my third stint of two years, with my first being during the foot and mouth outbreak. I would like to note, that this year will be my last, as I am getting too old for this job!

This year our national hall of fame award went to Shay Kennedy our secretary who does a lot of work for the society. Other key officers in the society are Alan Crowe PRO and everything else he is asked to do! Tom Medlycott our vice-chairperson and website officer, Ann Ford our registrar and Geoff Ashton treasurer. As a society we all should be aware that all council members are voluntary. All council members work hard to keep organising activities for the society.

The Vendéen breed comes from the west coast of France where they choose both terminal and maternal traits of the breed. Vendéen crosses are easily lambed, born very vigorous and are easily fleshed. The Vendéen cross has medium bone and great muscle carcass that result in a high kill out percentage. They generally grade E, U, R with a fat score of 3. They make excellent lambs for export and butchers with their high kill out. They are a very active ram suitable for early and mid-season lambing.

Our premier sale in 2023 will as usual be held in Roscommon mart on Saturday the 15th of July. This is a key event at which you will see our top rams coming to the open market. We will also be running our usual sales around the country from the end of August until October.

I would love to see more people involved at council level but it is not just council members, but all members, that are needed to promote our great breed. Come out to our shows even with one animal, especially your local shows.

In May of this year, a very successful French trip took place visiting top breeders flocks and also attending a sale. A number of purchases were made during the trip which will be arriving in Ireland shortly. This should introduce some badly needed fresh blood lines.

I wish all members the best for the year 2023 with their sheep.

Cheryl O'Brien
Chairperson

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The Irish Vendeen Sheep Society

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2022 SALES REPORT

Irish Farmers Journal: Rams hit €1,100 at Vendéen Premier

John Lynch's Ballinascraw flock claimed the top price at this year's premier Vendéen sale in Roscommon Mart. Niamh Gunn reports.

The Irish Vendéen Sheep Society premier sale took place in Roscommon Mart on Saturday 9th July 2022. Top price of the day of €1,100, was fetched by Longford breeder John Lynch from Ballinascraw, Ballinalee, Co. Longford. The five-star ram lamb (Ballinascraw Armani) was awarded second prize in the production class by judge, Mr. Michael McHugh. Armani was bred by Kilbride Warrior and from Ballinascraw Penelope.

Closely following was the overall champion on the day, which went under the hammer for a price of €1,000. The ram lamb was bred by Cheryl O'Brien from Springvale, Kildorrery, Co. Cork, and was sired by All-Ireland shearling ram, Quitrent Seymore.

The reserve champion, a January 2022-born ewe lamb, bred by Brendan & Carmel Rooney, was awarded the next highest bid of €920 (a new female record for the Premier Sale).

A low turnout of hogget rams due to the success of last year's sale for ram lambs, resulted in hogget rams averaging €650/head.

Double five-star lambs achieved the highest average on the day at €800, with lambs from the open class achieving an average of €650.

EWES

In the female section, the hogget ewes achieved an exceptional average of €750, up €250 from last year's premier sale, with ewe lambs averaging just under €600. Cavan breeder Andrew Gilmore got a clean sweep of first, second and third place in the shearling ewe class.

First prize in the ewe lamb class went to David McMahon from Monaghan in the double five-star class, with Brendan and Carmel Rooney from Sligo taking the open class.

SHOW

A new addition to the premier this year was a novice class for breeders who have become members of the society in the last three years. Novice winner was David McMahon and his able young handler Jordan, with Cork-based breeder Tim Stevens awarded runner-up in this section.

Agriland: Stars shine at Vendeen Premier.

Kicking off the ram sales season is not an easy task but despite talk of traditional meadow season, turf, and GAA the Irish Vendeen society held their annual premier sale in Roscommon mart last Saturday. While the high-flying sale of last year was not reached the breed recorded a good sale of high quality Vendeens. The pre-sale show which was judged by the ever popular County Monaghan based Michael McHugh and commented on the high standard in every class.

A low turnout of hogget rams was testimony to the success of last years sales, Ciaran Coughlan from Febane in Offaly emerged the winner that sold later for €640, next up was the 5star/5star

2022 SALES REPORT

ram lamb class Cheryl O'Brien emerging with the winner in a strong show class. The open ram lamb class again saw the red ribbon go to county Cork breeder Cheryl O'Brien. In the females it was a worthwhile day for Cavan breeder Andrew Gilmore getting a clean sweep of first, second and third places in the shearling ewe class that later went on to sell for an average of €750. Ewe lamb classes went to David McMahon from Monaghan in the double 5-star class and with Brendan and Carmel Rooney from Sligo taking the open class.

A new addition to the premier this year was a novice class for breeders who have become breeders inside the last 3 years, Novice winner was David McMahon and his able young handler Jordan with Cork based breeder Tim Stevens awarded runner up in this section.

Champion on the day went to Ram lamb winner Cheryl O'Brien that would later go on to sell for €1000, Reserve champion this year went to the Ewe lamb of Brendan and Carmel Rooney who achieved a sale price of €920. Top price on the day went to Longford breeder John Lynch for his second-place ram lamb in the production class and sold for €1100.

Overall, the clearance was back but the double 5-star lambs achieving the best average on the day of €800, the lambs from the open class had a reduced but respectable average of €650, hogget ram average of €650. In the female section the hogget ewes average €750 and ewe lamb average just under €600. The sales committee have a number of regional in the week and months ahead.

Regional Sales

The regional sales kicked off in Tullow livestock mart with the Champion on the day going to Cheryl O'Brien and Reserve Champion to Robin Mooney. It was a great sale with nearly 90% clearance up to a top price of €680.

Next up was Ballinasloe where John and Bernie Lynch took the honours with their champion ram lamb. Brendan and Carmel Rooney had the Reserve Champion with their shearling ram. Prices for rams averaged nearly €570 with highs of €800 and €780.

In Roscommon, Brendan and Carmel Rooney were again on the podium as they scooped up the Champion with their ram lamb. Martin and Morgan Rabbitte took the reserve. We look forward to returning to Roscommon for our Premier Sale on July 15th 2023.

A new venue was trialled in Ballyjamesduff Co. Cavan. It was great to see the return of Vendéens to the north-east. On the day Andrew Gilmore took the honours on his home patch with his Champion ram lamb.

Our regional sales concluded on Wednesday 5th October in Tullamore. Shay Kennedy took the Champion with his hogget ram, with Ben and Robin Mooney coming in reserve.

Regional ram sales this year had some great successes with prices reaching €800 and averages up to €570. Congratulations to all our Champions, thanks to all of our members who supported the sale and to all of our buyers. We hope your rams were lucky and we look forward to seeing you all again later this year.

2022 SALES REPORT

In-lamb ewe sale report:

Saturday 29th October, 2022 saw the Irish Vendén Sheep Society return to Roscommon mart for our annual in-lamb ewe sale. This year the council and sales committee endeavoured to ensure that a large portion of the lots in the sale be made up of in-lamb ewes in order to meet the demand from potential buyers. On the day, 24 of the 40 lots were either, in-lamb senior or hogget ewes.

The day followed the usual format, with Mr. Andrew Gilmore judging the show classes. The sale Champion was awarded to a shearling ewe from the Quitrent Flock of Cheryl O'Brien and Reserve Champion to the McMenamin family with their ewe lamb. Testament to the high demand from buyers for in-lamb ewes, there was a 95% clearance on the day to an average of €600.

The Irish Vendén Sheep Society was also delighted to make a presentation to Maura the Roscommon Mart Manager on her retirement. The mart staff kindly accepted this in Maura's absence. We would like to thank her for all of her help and service over the years and wish her all the best in retirement.

PREMIER SALE CHAMPIONS – ROLL OF HONOUR

Year	Winner	Flock
1996	Michael Oliver	Knockbrack
1997	Michael Oliver	Knockbrack
1998	Adrian Fitzsimons	Decoursey
1999	Tom Duffy	Tallaght
2000	G&Y Johnson	Cottage
2001	M&A Crowe	Killeen
2002	Tom Duffy	Tallaght
2003	M&A Crowe	Killeen
2004	Ena Nagel	Landmark
2005	Cheryl O'Brien	Quitrent
2006	Ena Nagel	Landmark
2007	M&A Crowe	Killeen
2008	Cheryl O'Brien	Quitrent
2009	Cheryl O'Brien	Quitrent
2010	G&Y Johnson	Cottage
2011	Damien Conboy	Carrane
2012	Tom Duffy	Tallaght
2013	Cianan McKenna	Gilltown
2014	John Lynch	Ballinascrew
2015	John Lynch	Ballinascrew
2016	John Lynch	Ballinascrew
2017	Ena Nagel	Landmark
2018	John Lynch	Ballinascrew
2019	John Lynch	Ballinascrew
2020	N/A due to Covid-19	N/A due to Covid-19
2021	Ciaran Coughlan	Noggus
2022	Cheryl O'Brien	Quitrent

ROLE OF HONOUR

John Lynch – 5
Cheryl O'Brien – 4
Tom Duffy – 3
M&A Crowe – 3
Ena Nagel – 3
G&Y Johnson – 2
Michael Oliver – 2
Ciaran Coughlan – 1
Damien Conboy – 1
Cianan McKenna – 1
Adrian Fitzsimons – 1

RECORD PRICES

Male/Female:	Price (€):	Vendor:	Purchaser:
Male	€1760	Killeen (M&A Crowe)	Cottage (G&Y Johnson)
Female	€920	Moneygold (B&C Rooney)	Tober (J Walsh)

SHAY KENNEDY - HALL OF FAME AWARD 2023

Shay was invited to judge the Irish Vendéen Sheep Society's in-lamb ewe sale in 2004 at Trim livestock mart. At the sale, he bought four females and established the Windy Gap Vendéen flock. As they say, the rest is history! Shay has been breeding, showing and selling Vendéen sheep ever since. The flock has grown over the years by adding females from other breeders and now numbers twenty breeding ewes. Rams are reared with repeat commercial farmer customers in mind, however, rams from the Windy Gap flock have been purchased by other pedigree breeders over the years and have gone on to breed very well for them.

Shay actively shows both pedigree and Vendéen crosses at local shows. He believes that getting out and exhibiting is a fantastic showcase for the breed.

Shay was elected onto the society's council in 2012 and has served ever since. He is currently the society secretary and also serves on the sales committee. We thank Shay for his ongoing work for the Irish Vendéen Sheep Society and wish him well in his future breeding endeavours. We also congratulate him on receiving this prestigious award and are delighted to have such a deserving candidate for nomination.





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



**“Progress has little to do with speed,
but much to do with direction”**

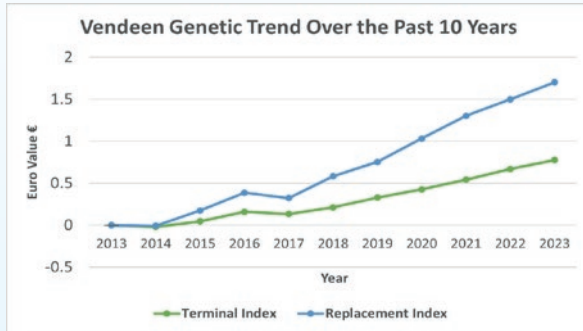
When Sheep Ireland was established in 2009, it was given the responsibility to increase the rate of genetic gain in the Irish Sheep Sector. To increase the rate of genetic gain, Sheep Ireland had to identify and promote the use of more profitable and genetically sustainable rams. To date, Sheep Ireland has achieved this objective and continues to do so. The progression of the sheep industry’s genetic trend over the past ten years alone has been impressive. An independent analysis carried out by AbacusBio (www.AbacusBio.com) demonstrated that permanent genetic improvement delivered by Sheep Ireland, from 2014 to 2020, has been worth €17m and will provide an additional €115m benefits over the next 20 years (as animal performance is now permanently higher). With the increased adoption of genomics by breeders in 2023, it is expected that the rate of genetic improvement will significantly increase as breeders can make more accurate breeding decisions leading to increased farmer confidence in the Indexes. More recent research has shown that selecting breeding animals for favourable maternal genetic attributes will result in favourable improvements in performance and profitability at farm level. Research conducted by Teagasc in 2022 has shown that 5-star ewes have greater reproductive performance on farm, across a range of maternal traits. 5-star ewes produce heavier and more lambs at birth with less assistance required with lambing compared to 1-star ewes. Lambs born from 5-star ewes prove more likely to survive to weaning and reach slaughter weight quicker than lambs born from 1 star ewes.

The progression of the Irish Sheep Industry would not be possible without the engagement of pedigree breeders and the support of all the Pedigree societies. Sheep Ireland and pedigree breed societies work tirelessly every year to ensure that breeders have access to elite genetics in the country to increase the genetic merit of their own flock. 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.

2023 was another year of progression for the Vendeen breed as the flockbook continues to grow with 52 flocks in the flockbook. 81% of the flocks in the IVSS are members of LambPlus in 2023 (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. Astonishingly, looking at the percentage of IVSS lambs born into LambPlus flocks, they account for 99% of the overall lamb birth notifications. This indicates that larger flocks are seeing the value in joining LambPlus, with a very high percentage of the animals being performance recorded. Using the FREE Sheep Ireland App, recording has never been easier to do.

SHEEP IRELAND

VENDEEN GENETIC TREND HEADING IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION



The increase in performance recording in Vendeen flocks has leached its way through to the breeding decisions IVSS breeders make each year. The rate of genetic gain in the Vendeen breed has increased year on year since 2017, as seen in the genetic trend of the breed over the past 10 years above. This is a result

of more data collection of the breed on various maternal and production traits. The flow of data into genetic and genomic evaluations takes time, true progress can be seen slowly over a period of years - its not something that is speedy with immediate results. The increased data collection year on year leads to more accurate genetic breeding values and as a result, breeders are placing more emphasis on the Euro-Stars of their stock rams and breeding ewes. The progression of the breed is clear to see in terms over overall breed genetic merit, with the Euro Value of both the Replacement and Terminal Indexes heading in the right direction.

GENOMICS

Over recent years the number of genotyped sheep has risen steadily, and there are now nearly

80,000 genotyped animals on the Sheep Ireland database, of which 2,500 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.

The number of purebred Vendeen animals with a genotyped sire and dam has increased every year since 2019, seen in the following graph. In 2022 alone, 100% of sires in the flockbook were

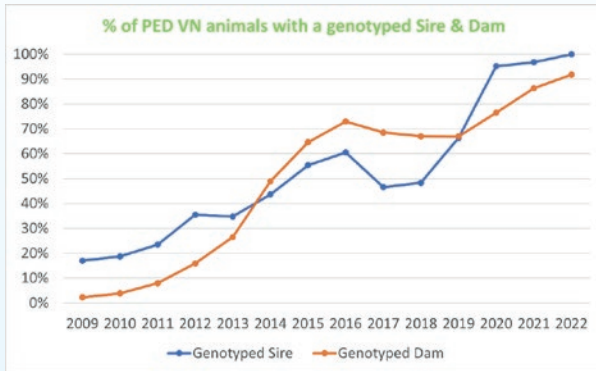
Parentage verification	Animals can be DNA Verified to their parents with 100% confidence
Parentage predictions	Where parentage errors are identified, the correct parents can be identified if they are also genomically tested
Scrapie	Every animal tested with Sheep Ireland also receives a Scrapie genotype 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 animals 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.
Genomic inbreeding coefficients	An inbreeding coefficient % is given to genotyped animals. This represents how inbred an animal is based on its genes alone.

genotyped with over 90% of dams genotyped. This means that the majority of the Vendeen flockbook is parentage verified, which is testament to the commitment of the breeders to genomic technology and improving the breed overall.

SHEEP IRELAND

GENOMICS SUBSIDY

The IVSS decided to provide a €5 subsidy towards genotyping pedigree registered female ewe lambs again for the second consecutive year. 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 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.

SHEEP IMPROVEMENT SCHEME (SIS) – GENOTYPED RAM TASK

The Sheep Improvement Scheme was launched this year by the Department of Agriculture. The SIS scheme provides financial support to farmers for taking extra steps to improve the welfare of their flock. Farmers receive €12 per breeding ewe for completing flock welfare measures. Under the genotyped ram action all applicants to the scheme will be required to purchase and use a genotyped ram in the first three years of the scheme. For Lowland flocks the ram must be 4 or 5 stars on the Replacement or Terminal Index and have a genomic evaluation with Sheep Ireland at the time of purchase, and be a type 1, 2 or 3 for Scrapie. For more information about the Scheme visit gov.ie – Sheep Improvement Scheme (www.gov.ie).

WHERE CAN I FIND PERFORMANCE RECORDED VENDEEN RAMS?

All performance-recorded Vendeen ram lambs can be found on 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. Farmers and breeders will also be able to see eligible rams for the SIS scheme. Visit www.sheep.ie to find out more about Sheep Ireland. Follow them on Facebook & Twitter for weekly updates.

Vendeen rams will also be present at the Sheep Ireland Elite €uroStar Multi Breed Ram Sale, which takes place this year on Saturday 26th August 2023, in Tullamore Mart.



MOST-IMPROVED LAMBPLUS FLOCK 2022



In 2022, the Irish Vendéen Sheep Society organised the first of what will be an annual award in conjunction with the Sheep Ireland LambPlus programme. Each year the most improved LambPlus flock will be determined, scored on improvements in terminal and replacement indices of the entire flock, as well as a breeders own recording scored by DQI. The trophy being awarded for this prize is the Neil Ford Perpetual Trophy. This trophy was initially sponsored by Neil and Ann Ford (Kilbride Vendéens) to be used for the six-counties show flock award. Unfortunately, this has fallen out of use in recent years due to low numbers of breeders in the North and it is therefore fitting that the trophy be re-purposed in this way.

We are delighted to congratulate the winner of the Neil Ford Perpetual Trophy, Cheryl O'Brien, on her hard work in improving her flock's indices and DQI. The runners up were 2nd Mark & Audrey Crowe and 3rd Kieran Smith.

Sadly, in October 2022, Neil passed away following a short illness. Neil's involvement with the Irish Vendéen Sheep Society dates back to his initial work with Myles Stoney that sparked his interest in Vendéens. Along with his wife Ann, Neil ran the Kilbride flock, which continues, under Ann's expert eyes, to produce top quality Vendéens, with top Eurostar ratings, to this day. It is only right to note the contribution that Neil and Ann have made to LambPlus performance recording and genotyping of lambs and as such, it is even more fitting that Neil's name be associated with an award pertaining to a breeder's improvement in LambPlus indices. Neil was a pioneer for genotyping and always strived to push breeders to improve data recording accuracy through its use. He will be a huge loss to us as a society and he will be sorely missed. The Irish Vendéen Sheep Society offer our sincere condolences to Ann, as well as Neil's daughter Nicola (Aran), son Andrew (Santina), brother Christopher, grandchildren Samuel, Liam, Jade, Luke, Ryan and Khloe, great-grandchildren Lenni-Mae, Nancy and Arlo, father in law Mike, brother in law David, relatives, neighbours and friends. May he rest in peace.

2022 PREMIER SALE



MARK KEENAGHAN - SOCIETY PERSON OF THE YEAR 2022

My name is Mark Keenaghan and I started sheep farming approximately eight years ago as a way to diversify my income and make use of my land. Since then, I have learned a lot about the challenges and rewards of raising sheep. I enjoy working with animals and producing quality wool and meat for the market.

I have always been interested in finding the best breed for my flock. I wanted a breed that was hardy, prolific, easy to manage and produced high quality meat. I was introduced to the Irish Vendéen Sheep Society by one of its members and attended my first sale in Roscommon where I purchased 3 in-lamb ewes from different breeders.

Not only does the society organise sales, it also organises shows, breeders' days and other events throughout the year. It encourages breeders to participate in the Sheep Ireland's LambPlus recording scheme to improve the genetic lines of the core stock.

Being a member of the society has many benefits for me as a sheep farmer. I get access to quality rams and ewes from registered pedigree breeders. I get advice and support from other members who share their experiences and knowledge. I get to showcase my flock at various events and compete for prizes and recognition and most importantly, I get to produce lambs that meet the market demand and earn me a good income. It was a great honour to be awarded the Society Person of the Year award for 2022.

If anyone is interested in joining the Irish Vendéen Sheep Society or learning more about the breed, I would suggest visiting their website at www.vendeensheep.ie or contact them by email or phone. You will be glad you did.



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BALLINASCRAW VENDÉEN



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BREED**

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BREEDER'S DAY - SATURDAY 20TH MAY 2023

On Saturday, 20th May, in Tullamore Mart, the Irish Vendéen Sheep Society held a breeder's information day. It was the first time in a number of years that the society held such an event. The last open day was on the farm of Gordon and Yvonne Johnson. Over the past couple of years, there has been an appetite from newer breeders (and some long-term breeders) for a show preparation demonstration and so it was decided to host an information day.

Things kicked off in Tullamore shortly after 2pm. There were a pen of five ewe lambs and two ram lambs provided by the Crowe family. Throughout the day, the ewe lambs were available for those attending to judge and rank 1st to 5th as part of the stock judging class.

The first presentation, made by Cheryl O'Brien, detailed how breeders should first select lambs for pedigree breeding. Cheryl discussed crucial attributes such as correct and functional feet, legs, teeth and testicles. Breeders should carefully inspect all lambs and cull early in the year, any lambs that have defaults that would make them unsuitable for pedigree breeding eg. over- or undershot jaws, extremely poor confirmation of legs or joints or rams with abnormal or missing testes.

Cheryl followed on with a demonstration and discussion of how to prepare sheep for show or sale. The advantage of such an event with a number of breeders present was that there was discussion throughout the demonstration with breeders asking questions and others assisting with answers and giving their own opinion.

Following the demonstration, Stephen Lyons from Univet (Growvite) gave a presentation about their product line. This followed much discussion between Stephen and the group on minerals, anthelmintic treatment and many other products. Stephen provided great insight on how Univet products provide solutions for farmers. Univet are a fantastic, ongoing sponsor of the Irish Vendéen sheep society and we thank them for their attendance on the day and for their sponsorship of our shows and sales.

Damien Conboy, a Vendéen breeder from Co. Roscommon, gave a presentation on behalf of J Grennan and sons, our other main sponsor. Grennan's manufacture and distribute, at both wholesale and retail level animal feeds, farm fertilisers and agricultural seeds. The focus of Damien's talk was how best to provide nutrition and feed to pedigree sheep so that they can perform both in the show ring and as a commercial breeding ram. Again, the advantage of such an event was that all present could gain knowledge from the questions that others asked Damien and the ensuing discussions.

While waiting for the food to arrive, Shay Kennedy gave a quick round up of the recent French visit for those who were unable to travel. It was nice to discuss what went well and where to make improvements for another trip. It was also very enjoyable reminiscing about the highlights of the trip.

Throughout the day, Ann Ford, the society's registrar was present to provide any help required with using the Sheep Ireland system or on any registration queries. Ann's tireless work on this front is noted and we thank her for her outstanding efforts.

Finally, while everyone tucked into the pizza, Shay Kennedy judged the ewe lambs for the stock judging. In the end, the scores were very close, but Brian Medlycott took the honours in the under-18's and Mark Keenaghan was the victor in the adult class. Grennan's kindly sponsored prizes for both classes.

Overall, it was a worthwhile day out, with lots of knowledge transferred among everyone present. We look forward now to seeing all of our breeders out at shows this summer, putting their new learnings into practice.

Flock	Surname	First name	Address	Address	Address	County
ACS	Anderson	Cyril	Springfield	Lismacaffrey		Co. Westmeath
AGG	Ashton	Geoff. & Ann	Glenogra	Meanus	Kilmallock	Co. Limerick
BSC	Bowers	Shane	Shrubbywood Farm	Coole		Co. Westmeath
BTK	Bowers	Thomas	Killtoom	Castlepollard		Co. Westmeath
BCB	Brady	Colm	Burreen	Virginia		Co. Cavan
CJT	Cannon	Joseph	Timolin	Banagher		Co. Offaly
CMC	Conboy	Martin & Damien	Carane	Ballintubber		Co. Roscommon
CCN	Coughlan	Ciaran	Noggus	Ferbane		Co. Offaly
CAD	Crowe/Brady	Alan/Darielle	Killeen Road	Dunsany		Co. Meath
CMK	Crowe	Mark & Audrey	Killeen Road	Dunsany		Co. Meath
DRC	Deasy	Raymond	Currykirwan	Mayoabbey	Claremorris	Co. Mayo
DVC	Dolan	Vincent & John	Carrick	Banagher		Co. Offaly
TGD	Duffy	Tom	Tallagh	Belmullet		Co. Mayo
EMD	Edgeworth	Mike	Bush Farm	Dunmore East		Co. Waterford
FAD	Fitzsimons	Adrian J.	Ashgrove Park	Newry	BT34 4LR	Co. Down
FEK	Flood	Enda	Galestown	Dromore	Oldcastle	Co. Meath
FNK	Ford	Ann	Kilnacrott	Ballyjamesduff		Co. Cavan
FER	Foster	Eileen	Roskey	Beglieve	Bailieborough	Co. Cavan
GAB	Gannon	Anthony & Oisín	Banlivar	Banagher	Birr	Co. Offaly
GAV	Gilmore	Andrew	Cortubber	Kingscourt		Co. Cavan
GJB	Gray	James	Behy	Drumlish		Co. Longford
GNC	Gunn	Niamh	Creehy	Milltown	Belturbet	Co. Cavan
HJI	Hannon	James	Islandmore	Kilmaine		Co. Mayo
JSW	Jennings	Sonny	Cahergal	Tuam		Co. Galway
KME	Keenaghan	Mark	Endrim	Ferbane		Co. Offaly
KMC	Kelleher	Michael & Therese	Knockenpower Lower	Colligan	Dungarvan	Co. Waterford
KSW	Kennedy	Shay	Churchtown Hill	Carrick-on-Suir		Co. Waterford
KMT	Kiely	Michael	2 Fairgreen	Ballymote		Co. Sligo
KMM	Kilgore	Maureen	The Meadow	Golden Acres	Ballymague, Buttevant	Co. Cork
LJB	Lynch	John	Ballinascrew	Ballinalee		Co. Longford
MMA	Mannion	Martin	Clooneyourish	Athleague		Co. Roscommon
MSS	Mannion	Stephen	Stonepark House	Galway Road	Roscommon	Co. Roscommon
DMB	McCabe	David	Roskey	Beglieve	Bailieborough	Co. Cavan
MAR	McDermott	Anthony	Lannette	Killanny		Co. Louth
MAM	McGrane	Alan	Hurle	Collon		Co. Meath
MME	McGrath	Michael	Edmondstown	Monelia	Mullingar	Co. Westmeath
MDK	McMahon	David	Kennellyduff	Carrickmacross		Co. Monaghan
MES	McMenamin	Emmett	Sessiaghoneill	Ballybofey	Lifford	Co. Donegal
MEH	Meade	Eamonn	Posseckstown House	Nobber	Kells	Co. Meath
MTK	Medlycott	Tom	Knockraheen	Roundwood		Co. Wicklow
MPS	Monaghan	Pdraig	Elly Point	Clogher	Ballina	Co. Mayo
MBS	Mooney	Ben & Robin	Dunbur Farm		Wicklow	Co. Wicklow
MSR	Mulvey	Stephen & Michaela	Abhaile	Jarretstown		Co. Meath
NEL	Nagle	Ena	Landmark	Ballydeloughy	Dunboyne	Co. Cork
OCQ	O'Brien	Cheryl	Springvale	Kildorrery	Mitchelstown	Co. Cork
OSD	O'Connor	Siobhan	Kiltoome	Trim		Co. Meath
OJL	O'Shea	Jamie	The Cottage	Laharn	Milltown	Co. Kerry
ODG	O'Sullivan	David	Glenmore	Lauragh	Killarney	Co. Kerry
POR	Oliver	Pat	Ongenstown	Bohermeen	Navan	Co. Meath
PDR	Phelan	Declan	Ballymullen	Abbeyleix		Co. Laois
RMC	Rabbitte	Morgan & Martin	Castle Ellen	Athenry		Co. Galway
RBM	Rooney	Brendan	Drumfad	Moneygold	Grange	Co. Sligo
SBC	Sheerin	Brendan	Castletown	Kilpatrick	Navan	Co. Meath
JSC	Smyth	John T (JT)	Carrowreagh	Ballyhaunis		Co. Mayo
SKC	Smith	Kieran	Cloanaminda	Glenamaddy		Co. Galway
STB	Stevens	Tim	Ballylickey Lodge	Ballylickey	Bantry	Co. Cork
TRD	Tubman	Raymond	Derreen Lodge	Mohill		Co. Leitrim
WJT	Walsh	Joey	Yellow Bog	Kilcullen		Co. Kildare

BERS 2023

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	061 399755	087 9775627	gashton8@gmail.com	Glenogra
	083 0787290	087 9836950	sineadcbowers@gmail.com	Coole
		086 3099250	tg81bowers@gmail.com	Kiltoom
	049 8547368			Burreen
	090 66 62790	087 7458710	jcannon590@gmail.com	Timolin
	0906 454066	086 8192511 (Martin)	dconboy@grennagri.com	Carane
C15 F6D2	085 7784875	086 8229900	ciarancoughlan17@gmail.com	Noggus
C15 F6D2	046 9025162		crowead@gmail.com	Dunsany
		087 2856203	mark.crowe@ucd.ie	Killeen
		087 6660563	raydeasy1982@gmail.com	Curry
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		086 8260184	dunmore.east@hotmail.com	Dunmore East
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A82 TR96	049 8540063	086 3301310	annford01@gmail.com	Kilbride
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		087 2198913	sjennings@bimeda.com	Windmill View
		086 8269249	markjkeenaghan@gmail.com	Endrim
X35 FF20	087 1745880	087 4645715	theresekelleher101@icloud.com	Colligan View
E32 XA62	051 646141	087 2802864	shaykennedy10@gmail.com	Windy Gap
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		083 1308835	maureen.kilgore@gmail.com	Meadow
	043 23255	086 8061568	s.lynych323@hotmail.com	Ballinascraw
		086 8254459	mannon.m@hotmail.com	Athleague
F42 H529		083 0623874	steven.mannion@ymail.com	Stonepark
		087 4693509	davidmccabe1@hotmail.com	Beglieve
		086 3032603	amcdermott@mitchellmcdermott.com	Riverbank
	041 9826640	087 3557560	alzermcg@gmail.com	Mellifont Hill
		087 1347366	mikeymcgrath9@gmail.com	Edmondstown
		087 3388907	jordanmcmahon23@yahoo.com	Kennellyduff
		087 9454747	martin.mcm@hotmail.com	Sessiagh
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		083 4159473	tommedlycott@gmail.com	Knockraheen
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	022 25214	086 8525588	cherylobrien1@yahoo.com	Quitrent
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		087 9297068	jamie.oshea@hotmail.com	Laharn Pure
		085 2076973	davidgosullivan@gmail.com	Glan View
C15 EI96		083 3596000	opat999@gmail.com	Rioga
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		086 8617129		Caislean
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	027 51621	085 2563109	timski26@aol.com	Ballylickey
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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, many color mixes are a very different color when dry, do well in advance and top up

SHOW TIME.



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 2023

SHOW: Athenry **Sun 28th May**
www.athenryagrishow.com **IVSS CONTACT:** Morgan Rabbitte • 087 349 0219

SHOW: Dundalk **Sun 11th June**
dundalkshow.com **IVSS CONTACT:** Alan Crowe • 085 778 4875

SHOW: Teagasc Sheep 2023 Gurteen
Agricultural College **Sat 17th June**
www.vendeensheep.ie/event-details/vendeen-all-ireland-championships-sheep-2023-gurteen-college
IVSS CONTACT: Shay Kennedy • 087 280 2364

SHOW: Athlone **Sun 18th June**
www.athloneshow.ie **IVSS CONTACT:** Cheryl O'Brien • 086 852 5588

SHOW: Charleville **Sun 25th June**
www.charvilleshow.com **IVSS CONTACT:** Cheryl O'Brien • 086 852 5588

SHOW: Corandulla **Sun 25th June**
corandullashow.com **IVSS CONTACT:** Shay Kennedy • 087 280 2364

SHOW: Flavours of Fingal County Show **Sat 1st July**
flavoursoffingal.ie **IVSS CONTACT:** Alan Crowe • 085 778 4875

SHOW: Clonmel **Sun 2nd July**
www.clonmelshow.ie **IVSS CONTACT:** Shay Kennedy • 087 280 2364

SHOW: Mullingar **Sun 9th July**
mullingaragrishow.com **IVSS CONTACT:** Alan Crowe • 085 778 4875

SHOW: North Sligo (Grange) **Sat 5th Aug.**
northsligoagrishow.ie **IVSS CONTACT:** Carmel Rooney • 086 340 5656

SHOW: Bonniconlon **Mon 7th Aug.**
www.bonniconlonshow.ie **IVSS CONTACT:** Ciaran Coughlan • 086 822 9900

SHOW: Tinahealy **Mon 7th Aug.**
tinahealyshow.ie/agricultural-show **IVSS CONTACT:** Tom Medleycott • 083 415 9473

SHOW: Tullamore **Sun 13th Aug.**
www.tullamoreshow.com **IVSS CONTACT:** Ciaran Coughlan • 086 822 9900

SHOW: Roscommon **Sat 19th Aug.**
roscommonagriculturalshow.ie **IVSS CONTACT:** Damien Conboy • 087 212 4036

SHOW: Virginia Show **Wed 23rd Aug.**
www.virginiashow.com **IVSS CONTACT:** Ann Ford • 086 023 7721

SHOW: Royal Meath (Trim) **Sun 3rd Sep.**
royalmeathshow.com **IVSS CONTACT:** Alan Crowe • 085 778 4875



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HALF-BROTHERS OF PREMIER SALE CHAMPION
2021 FOR SALE

Ciaran Coughlan, Noggus, Ferbane, Co. Offaly.

Tel: 086-8229900



MAUREEN KILGORE – MEADOW VENDÉENS

Maureen is an Irish Vendéen sheep breeder from Co. Cork. Her father had been using Vendéen rams for his commercial flock and they were very happy with them as stock rams. She bought her first Vendéen ewes from the Ena Nagle's Landmark Vendéen flock and has added to it over the years. Maureen has bought stock rams from the Ann Ford's Kilbride Vendéen flock. Maureen is currently working on the Silvopasture system and has a strong belief in its use for both pedigree and commercial sheep farming systems.

INTRODUCTION TO SILVOPASTURE

Silvopasture is a form of agroforestry that combines grazing livestock with the farming of crops and trees where trees are grown in a grazed pasture in a regular or varied pattern. Sheep can be farmed alongside trees in a sustainable ecosystem in this way. Silvopasture has been found to: extend the grazing season, allow higher grass utilisation, increase biodiversity, improve carbon sequestration, reduce water runoff, 'mine' phosphorus from a greater volume of soil.

BENEFITS FOR YOUR SHEEP



Silvopasture can bring a number of benefits to your sheep. Trees provide shelter for animals resulting in greater weight gains and reduced losses during lambing. Sheep enterprises utilising silvopasture paddocks do not see a reduction in farm output/animal weight gain or overall productive output. Trials

carried out in AFBI, Loughall found that the grazing season for sheep could be extended by 15 weeks. The trees also provide food for sheep, they can graze the tree fodder, the lower branches of trees provide nutrition and additional vitamins and minerals such as cobalt and zinc through browsing. Leaves contain protein and may also contain tannins which have anti-parasitic properties and may reduce worm burden in your sheep. Trees can dry up wet or waterlogged pasture reducing hoof damage and scald.

ECONOMIC CONSIDERATIONS SHEEP SILVOPASTURE

There are no real negative economic effects from putting a couple of hectares of silvopasture on your sheep farm. Silvopasture can reduce lambing losses by up to 50%:

- the provision of leaf minerals such as cobalt through ewe gestation means a healthier and stronger lamb at birth and less vulnerable to weather, disease and predation.
- shelter also reduces weather-related losses by reducing the risk of hypothermia and starvation in lambs.
- tannins in the leaves of trees can reduce worm burden in lambs resulting in greater weight gain and reduced weaned lamb losses.
- sheep sheltered from trees have a lower feed need than unsheltered sheep as they are warmer and a 10 to 15% increase in weight gain may be seen.



Killeen and Dunsany Vendéen flocks

“Breeding for performance and quality”



*High index terminal and
maternal traits*



*Excellent survival, growth
rates and factory grading!*

Ram lambs and females for sale:

Ballinascrew Armani (top price ram at 2023 Premier Sale), Windy Gap Vivian, and Noggus Rock (son of all Ireland champion senior ram 2017, Quitrent Odo).

Contact: 046-9025162

Mark at 087-2856203; mark.crowe@ucd.ie

Alan at 085-7784875; crowead@gmail.com

Ross at 085-8420952; crowera@gmail.com



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Breeding Vendéens since 1998

2022 TULLAMORE SHOW



2023 IRISH VENDÉEN SHEEP SOCIETY SIRE DIRECTORY

PEDIGREE ID	NAME	ORIGIN FLOCK	DOB	No. Offspring 2023	Replacement Stars	Terminal Stars	Sire/ Dam	Pedigree ID	Origin Flock
LJB19021	Ballinascrew Torres	Ballinascrew	10/05/2019	24	1	1	Sire Dam	LJB18003 LJB18006	BALLINASCRAW BALLINASCRAW
LJB22021	Ballinascrew Armani	Ballinascrew	29/12/2021	20	5	3	Sire Dam	FNK21008 LJB16021	KILBRIDE BALLINASCRAW
LJB22003	Ballinascrew Aramis	Ballinascrew	22/12/2021	4	5	5	Sire Dam	MES19021 LJB20018	SESSIAGH BALLINASCRAW
LJB20027	Ballinascrew Vincenzo	Ballinascrew	11/04/2020	3	3	3	Sire Dam	FDR19001 LJB15024	REDHILLS BALLINASCRAW
LJB22019	Ballinascrew Astronaut	Ballinascrew	26/12/2021	2	5	3	Sire Dam	FNK21008 LJB14006	KILBRIDE BALLINASCRAW
LJB22020	Ballinascrew Aristocrat	Ballinascrew	29/12/2021	1	5	5	Sire Dam	FNK21008 LJB20026	KILBRIDE BALLINASCRAW
GAB21003	Ballivor Walnut	Ballivor	20/12/2020	4	5	5	Sire Dam	TGD19129 CCN17028	TALLAGH NOGGUS
STB22011	Ballylickey Achilles	Ballylickey	08/01/2022	13	5	5	Sire Dam	MES20012 NEL19013	SESSIAGH LANDMARK
CMC22018	Carane Alvin	Carane	19/12/2021	17	3	2	Sire Dam	CCN18029 CMC15004	NOGGUS CARANE
CMC19011	Carane Turner	Carane	17/12/2018	5	1	2	Sire Dam	CMK18011 CMC13013	KILLEEN CARANE
DVC16007	Carrick Pat	Carrick	29/12/2015	9	4	3	Sire Dam	GAB15003 CCN14013	BALLIVOR NOGGUS
SKC22005	Cloonminda Lane Astronaut	Cloonminda Lane	03/01/2022	1	2	4	Sire Dam	CCN18029 SKC19003	NOGGUS CLOONMINDA LANE
MME21017	Edmondstown Williams	Edmondstown	09/01/2021	9	4	4	Sire Dam	TGD181639 MME18019	TALLAGH EDMONDSTOWN
KME20007	Endrim Vija	Endrim	01/01/2020	2	4	5	Sire Dam	OCQ15046 MES17042	QUITRENT SESSIAGH
FR57086171108	French Ai B7398	Rault Jean-Paul - French Ai	01/01/2017	1	2	1	Sire Dam	FR10551450060 FR57000410320	INZO GAEC CHIRON
HJI20009	Islandmore Virgilio	Islandmore	02/02/2020	1	4	1	Sire Dam	CMC19006 RBM18021	CARANE MONEYGOLD
FNK21008	Kilbride Warrior	Kilbride	07/02/2021	23	5	5	Sire Dam	OCQ18047 FNK19001	QUITRENT KILBRIDE
FNK21009	Kilbride Waylon	Kilbride	08/02/2021	17	4	3	Sire Dam	OCQ18047 FNK18007	QUITRENT KILBRIDE
FNK20015	Kilbride Ventura	Kilbride	24/02/2020	16	5	4	Sire Dam	FPL14005 NEL13035	LANMORE LANDMARK
FNK22017	Kilbride Arlo	Kilbride	24/01/2022	2	5	5	Sire Dam	OCQ18047 FNK17004	QUITRENT KILBRIDE
CMK22025	Killeen Archimedes	Killeen	06/02/2022	15	3	5	Sire Dam	KSW20008 CMK20021	WINDY GAP KILLEEN
CMK22002	Killeen Archer	Killeen	21/12/2021	9	5	5	Sire Dam	KSW20008 CMK16012	WINDY GAP KILLEEN
BTK21013	Kiltoom Warrior	Kiltoom	10/01/2021	5	5	5	Sire Dam	OCQ20041 GAV16021	QUITRENT VALLEY VIEW
FEK22005	Knocklough Atticus	Knocklough	09/02/2022	9	3	1	Sire Dam	FNK21009 FEK20026	KILBRIDE KNOCKLOUGH
NEL21004	Landmark William Bidy	Landmark	09/12/2020	6	5	5	Sire Dam	CCN19019 NEL17007	NOGGUS LANDMARK
MAM22007	Mellifont Hill Apollo	Mellifont Hill	08/01/2022	15	5	5	Sire Dam	OCQ21078 MAM20011	QUITRENT MELLIFONT HILL
RBM20002	Moneygold Valery	Moneygold	14/01/2020	29	1	4	Sire Dam	CMK18011 RBM18018	KILLEEN MONEYGOLD
RBM22001	Moneygold Aaron	Moneygold	28/12/2021	1	3	5	Sire Dam	RBM20002 RBM19009	MONEYGOLD MONEYGOLD
12459	Noggus Whiskey King	Noggus	21/12/2020	42	3	3	Sire Dam	FR57000491022 FR57000491288	GAEC CHIRON GAEC CHIRON
FR53500711257	Noggus Willy Wonka	Noggus	01/01/2021	40	2	3	Sire Dam	FR33011891105 FR53500771218	EARL DU GROS ROCHER SCEA BOYE
CCN21045	Noggus World Class	Noggus	05/01/2021	25	4	4	Sire Dam	OCQ20014 CCN19005	QUITRENT NOGGUS

PEDIGREE ID	NAME	ORIGIN FLOCK	DOB	No. Offspring 2023	Replacement Stars	Terminal Stars	Sire/ Dam	Pedigree ID	Origin Flock
CCN17029	Noggus Rock	Noggus	17/03/2017	14	2	5	Sire Dam	OCQ15046 CCN16004	QUITRENT NOGGUS
CCN18024	Noggus Springsteen	Noggus	19/01/2018	7	2	1	Sire Dam	OCQ15046 TMP13002	QUITRENT PIPER HILL
CCN22034	Noggus Apache	Noggus	08/01/2022	5	5	5	Sire Dam	CCN20025 NEL18026	NOGGUS LANDMARK
OCQ19032	Quitrent Tahbert	Quitrent	15/12/2018	32	5	2	Sire Dam	F33127050008 OCQ16014	LEFEUVRE GAÉTAN QUITRENT
OCQ18037	Quitrent Seymour	Quitrent	09/12/2017	29	3	5	Sire Dam	F57000350527 OCQ15003	GAEC VAL DU JAUNAY QUITRENT
OCQ21065	Quitrent Waldon	Quitrent	17/12/2020	27	2	4	Sire Dam	OCQ18037 OCQ17047	QUITRENT QUITRENT
OCQ22046	Quitrent Alberto	Quitrent	24/12/2021	24	5	5	Sire Dam	OCQ21022 OCQ20068	QUITRENT QUITRENT
OCQ21022	Quitrent Wartun	Quitrent	11/12/2020	23	4	5	Sire Dam	OCQ20013 OCQ16010	QUITRENT QUITRENT
OCQ22042	Quitrent Amos	Quitrent	15/12/2021	21	2	5	Sire Dam	OCQ18037 OCQ19074	QUITRENT QUITRENT
OCQ20041	Quitrent Vanir	Quitrent	28/12/2019	18	5	5	Sire Dam	OCQ18015 OCQ15003	QUITRENT QUITRENT
OCQ18047	Quitrent Sherman	Quitrent	09/12/2017	15	5	5	Sire Dam	F57000350527 OCQ15037	GAEC VAL DU JAUNAY QUITRENT
OCQ19044	Quitrent Tydeus	Quitrent	17/12/2018	15	4	3	Sire Dam	F33127050008 OCQ16060	LEFEUVRE GAÉTAN QUITRENT
OCQ21078	Quitrent Wicasa	Quitrent	30/12/2020	14	5	5	Sire Dam	OCQ18037 OCQ18071	QUITRENT QUITRENT
OCQ16013	Quitrent Pablo	Quitrent	10/12/2015	13	1	1	Sire Dam	B7338 OCQ12007	GAEC CHIRON-FRENCHAI QUITRENT
OCQ19024	Quitrent Toland	Quitrent	14/12/2018	13	2	2	Sire Dam	OCQ17019 OCQ16034	QUITRENT QUITRENT
OCQ22037	Quitrent Alberic	Quitrent	14/12/2021	13	5	4	Sire Dam	OCQ21022 OCQ17053	QUITRENT QUITRENT
OCQ22073	Quitrent Asher	Quitrent	27/12/2021	8	1	5	Sire Dam	OCQ18037 OCQ19065	QUITRENT QUITRENT
OCQ20017	Quitrent Valo	Quitrent	13/12/2019	7	4	5	Sire Dam	OCQ18015 JGS15027	QUITRENT COTTAGE
OCQ20053	Quitrent Vincenzo	Quitrent	30/12/2019	6	2	5	Sire Dam	OCQ18037 OCQ16034	QUITRENT QUITRENT
OCQ22089	Quitrent Apollo	Quitrent	20/03/2022	6	3	5	Sire Dam	OCQ21022 OCQ20025	QUITRENT QUITRENT
OCQ18005	Quitrent Stafford	Quitrent	07/12/2017	3	4	5	Sire Dam	F57000350527 OCQ14042	GAEC VAL DU JAUNAY QUITRENT
PDR21005	Ralish Wakanda	Ralish	04/01/2021	3	5	4	Sire Dam	CCN20025 TGD19123	NOGGUS TALLAGH
FDR19001	Redhills Trouble	Redhills	10/01/2019	2	5	2	Sire Dam	TGD16285 CCN17037	TALLAGH NOGGUS
MSR22010	Royalflush Aaron	Royalflush	26/12/2021	7			Sire Dam	OCQ20017 LJB14007	QUITRENT BALLINASCRAW
MES19021	Sessiagh Thangbrand	Sessiagh	01/02/2019	20	5	5	Sire Dam	MES17046 MES15018	SESSIAGH SESSIAGH
MES20012	Sessiagh Valen	Sessiagh	08/01/2020	19	5	5	Sire Dam	RBM19017 MES15018	MONEYGOLD SESSIAGH
TGD181639	Tallagh Sean	Tallagh	24/01/2018	14	4	2	Sire Dam	FPL11009 TGD16277	LANMORE TALLAGH
TGD19129	Tallagh Thor	Tallagh	07/01/2019	5	5	5	Sire Dam	MPS16003 TGD14643	SHANELLY TALLAGH
GAV18009	Valley View Soldier	Valley View	15/01/2018	3	1	1	Sire Dam	HJD15223 NAT10009	DRUMEDEN TEMPLEMICHAEL
KSW20008	Windy Gap Vivian	Windy Gap	30/12/2019	19	4	4	Sire Dam	LJB19008 KSW17004	BALLINASCRAW WINDY GAP
KSW21007	Windy Gap Wise Guy	Windy Gap	24/12/2020	13	5	5	Sire Dam	LJB19008 DVC15001	BALLINASCRAW CARRICK
KSW16019	Windy Gap Playboy	Windy Gap	20/01/2016	11	5	4	Sire Dam	OCQ14030 TGD13594	QUITRENT TALLAGH

OPERATION: RETURN TO THE SHOW RING!

We made the long-awaited return to agricultural shows during the summer of 2022. This was of course following the global Covid-19 pandemic, which prevented large, public gatherings nearly two years. Thankfully, due to the hard work of frontline workers, we were able to return to normality last year. The showing season consisted of 11 shows across the length and breadth of Ireland, with 11 different Vendéen breeders exhibiting throughout the year. We look forward to even greater numbers of breeders turning out in 2023!

The highlight of the show season was undoubtedly our All-Ireland Championships, held at Athlone agricultural show. The classes were judged by Irish Vendéen breeding legend, Mrs. Susan Stoney, formerly Bobsgrove Vendéens. Susan and her late husband Myles were instrumental in importing the first Vendéen sheep to Ireland in the 1980's and were founding members of the Irish Vendéen Sheep Society. The Irish Vendéen Sheep Society extend our gratitude to Susan for her fantastic judging on the day.

For the first time, the Irish Vendéen Sheep Society held an open class for novice members. This class was for any new member, who had the society in the previous three years, and will be running again at the 2023 All-Ireland Championships. Alan Crowe of Dunsany Vendéens won the class with his Killeen Caesar AI sired shearing ewe.

The other usual classes were also on the schedule for the day and the results were as follows:

Senior Ram	1	C Coughlan
	2	S&M Mulvey
	3	M&A Crowe
Shearling Ram	1	C Coughlan
	2	S Kennedy
	3	C O'Brien
Ram lamb	1	C O'Brien
	2	C Coughlan
	3	C O'Brien
	4	J Lynch
	5	M&A Crowe

Senior Ewe	1	C O'Brien
	2	J Lynch
	3	J Lynch
	4	C O'Brien
	5	C Coughlan
Shearling Ewe	1	C O'Brien
	2	J Lynch
	3	S&M Mulvey
	4	C O'Brien
	5	S&M Mulvey

Ewe lamb	1	C O'Brien
	2	C Coughlan
	3	J Lynch
	4	S Kennedy
	5	C O'Brien
Male Champion	1	C Coughlan
	2	S&M Mulvey
Female Champion	1	C O'Brien
	2	C O'Brien
Overall Champion	1	C Coughlan
	2	C O'Brien

Other shows in 2022 included Bonniconlon, Charleville, Clonmel, Dundalk, Fingal, Mullingar, North Sligo (Grange), Royal Meath (Trim), Tullamore and Virginia. Champions of these shows were picked up by: A Gilmore (2), B&C Rooney (2), C O'Brien (2), S Kennedy (1), S&M Mulvey (1), S O'Connor (1) & M McGrath (1).

SHOW FLOCK AND NOVICE SHOW FLOCK OF THE YEAR AWARDS

Following the show season each year, show flock points are awarded to breeders for prizes 1st to 5th in classes containing three or more sheep exhibited, by two or more breeders. Champion and reserve champion of each show receive points also. Following the 2022 show season, the scores were very close, with three breeders over 50 points! The runners up for the show flock of the year 2023 were 2nd Andrew Gilmore and 3rd Stephen and Michaela Mulvey. The show flock of the year award however, returned to the Quitrent Vendéen Flock, Cheryl O'Brien. The novice show flock of the year went to the Dunsany Vendéen Flock, Alan Crowe. Congratulations to all of our exhibitors and to the prize winners. We look forward to seeing more Vendéens out in 2023 and in particular, we look forward to our All-Ireland Championships in Gurteen College at the Sheep 2023 event. We will be welcoming two judges from the French Mouton Vendéen; Sébastien Heas and Loïc Chiron.



BREEDER FOCUS – THOMAS BOWERS

About 20 years ago my father purchased a vendéen ram from Éamon Meade in Kells. The vendéen ram was put mainly on Suffolk Cross ewes and we were very impressed with their ease of lambing and hardy lambs. The lambs had excellent conformation and growth which was very important as most of the finished lambs were sent to a local butcher.

This sparked my interest in the breed and in October 2019 the Kiltoom vendéen flock was established with the purchase of 4 females at the ewe and inlamb ewe sale in Roscommon mart. In 2020 a further 10 females were purchased from Daniel Fay in Cavan.

At the Premier sale in July 2020 Quitrent Vanir was purchased and he has a replacement and terminal index in the top 1% of the breed. In subsequent premier sales Windy Gap Wise Guy and Noggus Apache were purchased all with indexes in the top 5% of the breed. The crossing of Vanir's females to the new rams have meant a high percentage of 5 star lambs being born in the flock.

Still only the best quality females regardless of there stars will be kept for replacements. When selecting males and females I look for good legs and mouths then quality and then good stars.

VENDÉE 2023 – A JOURNEY IN THE MAKING

On the ninth of May, 2023, eleven bleary-eyed Irish Vendéen sheep breeders met up in Dublin airport to catch the 06:35 flight to Nantes for what would be an action-packed, four day trip, the first such tour in around seventeen years! On arrival at Nantes airport, we collected our transportation and, with both vehicles expertly piloted by the Crowe brothers, we set off for the first visit of the week, the farm of Sébastien Heas. What first struck the group was how green the landscape was in the Vendée, Loire-Atlantique and Deux-Sèvres regions. Reminded very much of the green fields and hedgerows of rural Ireland, it quickly became clear to us why the Vendéen sheep are well suited to the Irish landscape and weather conditions.

On arrival at the Heas homestead, we immediately got the feeling we were among Vendéen breeding royalty. Hanging with pride on the outside of the old farmhouse, are a multitude of plaques received as show prizes for Vendéen classes the length and breadth of France, some even dating back as far as 1981! A testament to Sébastien and his father Gaec's work for the Vendéen breed over the last four decades. Sébastien displayed a fine selection of classy ewe lambs, ram lambs and shearling rams for sale, a number of which are destined to arrive on Irish soil this autumn to bolster the ranks of the Irish flock book. We were also shown Sébastien's stock rams, many of which would catch your eye among any group of sheep. Before leaving, we were each kindly gifted a Mouton Vendéen t-shirt and treated to a delicious lunch of traditional French cuisine in a local restaurant.

The next destination was almost a two-hour drive down to the wild Atlantic coast, to the farm of Loïc Chiron. The Chiron name is another that will be familiar to any breeder interested in French Vendéen genetics. Gaec Chiron, and now his son Loïc, have been at the top of the Vendéen breed in France for decades and a quick glance at the ram catalogue from Insem Ovin or the Mouton Vendéen SCI sale in any year will find you many examples of Chiron Vendéen breeding. Loïc brought out a group of nearly 50 ewe lambs of exceptional quality for us to peruse. Bursting with feminine class, many of these ewe lambs displayed near perfect Vendéen features. Again, following the visit a number of these ewe lambs are bound for the Emerald Isle. Just as our day was ending, Loïc treated us to one of the trip highlights as we saw his stock rams on our way out of his farm. We all agreed that the quality of these rams displayed how good the Vendéen breed can be, and showed us what we should all strive to achieve in our own breeding.

Day two of the trip started with a lengthy journey away from

the ancestral home of our beloved Vendéen's to the Insem Ovin AI centre on the outskirts of Limoges in the region of Haute-Vienne. Initially greeted with a fine spread of a delicious breakfast courtesy of Mouton Vendéen, we started our tour of the station by learning about the Insem Ovin, whose mission is to provide the best genetics available to breeders and the different breeds of rams they keep. Following this introduction, we garbed up as if for an edition of Ghostbusters and went in to see the rams. Each year, the top 12 performing Vendéen rams from both rounds of SCI selection are selected by the AI station and brought to Limoges where their semen is tested for quality and is ultimately made available to breeders in France and abroad. Any Irish breeders interested in these rams should check out the Insem Ovin website where the full catalogue of available rams can be found: <https://www.insemovin.com/?lang=fr>. Before leaving, the staff gave us a quick peek at the six ram lambs brought in from the first SCI selection of 2023. Given the quality of these rams, we are eagerly awaiting their semen becoming available and the potential for us to import these top-class genetics. Our day out concluded over a few beverages and some high-class French cuisine, although many of those opting for the steak were careful to ask for it "bien cuit!" (well-done).

The events of day three were undoubtedly the primary reason we had chosen to travel in May, as it was the day of the first 2023 SCI ram sale, the equivalent to our own Premier Sale. We were sure to be there early in order to thoroughly examine the available stock. Forty-seven rams were presented for sale across three pens, ranging in performance indices and age. While all of the sheep had a touch of class about them, there were a number of lots, from top pedigrees, that caught the eyes of many breeders. As the French buyers trickled into the barn on the Boye farm, the atmosphere began to build. The French breeders themselves were extremely welcoming and friendly with many introducing themselves and conversing with the Irish contingent. Prior to the beginning of the sale, aperitifs of exquisite French pineau were offered, followed by a barbeque of fresh sardines and Vendéen lamb chops. It was only once everyone present had been well fed and watered (with the pineau oiling the purse strings perhaps!) that the sale did begin. Contrary to the typical marts we are accustomed to, these SCI sales are orchestrated not by traditional bidding, but by private tender. Two or three rams would be run into the ring at once and if someone wished to bid, they simply wrote their name, the lot number and their tender price (minimum bid of €500, maximum of €1200) on a

FOR SEVENTEEN YEARS

piece of paper. Mr Boye then collected these and the top price tender was determined. Should more than one prospective purchaser have bid the same top price, these individuals would draw stones from a small cloth bag. The bag contained white stones and one black stone, simply whoever pulled the black stone, bought the sheep. Priority was however, given to the French breeders that provided rams to the SCI in 2023, which is understandable given the work put in by these breeders to deliver these rams and their commitment to the breeds genetic improvement. We all certainly enjoyed our (expensive) day out with no less than eight rams purchased by Irish breeders at an average price of €1037.50. The sale was a great success overall, with 45 of 47 being sold to an average price of €942.

The final day found us checking out of our hotel in the morning so we could travel to the Agricultural High School in Melle (Agricultural Lycée Régional Jacques Bujault), Deux-sevres. The organic farm, run by the school, breeds top quality Vendéen sheep. We first observed ewes housed for imminent lambing which, giving the organic status of the flock, were being fed grass silage, silage containing lucerne and a mix of organically grown maize, barley and oats. As with the other farms, we were shown a fine selection of ewe and ram lambs that were available for us to buy and again a number of these were sold to some of the Irish breeders. Following the completion of business, we again saw the stock rams out at pasture. On each farm, it was interesting to see the sires of lambs we had picked out to buy. Clearly, the group had a great aptitude for stock judging, as on each farm the adjudged top lambs were often the progeny of the superior stock rams! We then had a quick look at a selection of Parthenaise bulls that remained on the farm for export following the bull sale at the Parthenaise cattle test centre, hosted on the college farm. We also saw a selection of cows and calves, including the 2019 Paris champion cow! After a fantastic lunch provided by the college canteen, we were each presented with pasta and beer produced entirely from the products of the college's own farm!

Our final destination before our departure was the farm of Ludovic Menard. Another top breeder in France and a provider of rams to the SCI centre. Ludovic is another breeder whose flock needs no introduction. A fine selection of ram lambs were on offer and again a few are heading for the boat! It was also fantastic to see the system on this farm as ewes have lambs every ten months, with four different groups lambing at different times of the year! The ewes and young lambs are housed until after weaning, which at first confused some of us, but following discussion with Ludovic, we learned that

wolves have caused major predatory problems since their return to France in the 1990's, preying on sheep and young lambs kept outside. It was humbling to see the challenges faced by French farmers and these difficulties were extremely thought provoking for those of us present. Alas, it was then time for us to leave. We had a quick aperitif kindly provided by Ludovic before we hit the road back to Nantes airport.


The final port of call was to return to Nantes airport. The rental cars were dropped back to Europcar, (with an additional 1,025 km on the clocks from when our quest began!), and we headed to catch our flight. The final task facing our travel weary group was to divvy up the on farm sheep using the fairest system possible, as a number of breeders all had their eyes on the same lambs! The group democratically decided to use our own amalgamated version of the Mouton Vendéen lotto system and the NFL draft! We drew names from a hat, with each breeder then selecting their first choice, before the names were replaced in the hat for picks 2, 3... etc. It was only after the completion of this lengthy process (thankfully Ryanair were running late) that we realised we had been entertaining half of Nantes International Airport!


The Irish Vendéen Sheep Society Council, as well as the society members who travelled, thank the breeders of Mouton Vendéen and staff of Insem Ovin who kindly took the time to show us their sheep. We also thank the staff and volunteers of Mouton Vendéen for hosting us at the SCI sale for what was a fantastic day. Finally, but certainly the largest thank you, is offered to Penelope Fournier of Mouton Vendéen. Penelope took the time to carefully arrange our itinerary, provide hotel recommendation and travel to each farm with us, answering every question we had, no matter how difficult! We are extremely grateful for all of her help throughout the week and even now, as she strives to arrange the safe transport and delivery of all 43 sheep purchased on our trip. The hospitality extended over the entire visit was second to none, and made for an incredible week! All-in-all, the journey to France proved extremely fruitful for our group, with great camaraderie among everyone travelling. The trip also provided a fantastic learning opportunity for all, but in particular the newer breeders; with many a car journey spent discussing all things Vendéen sheep, allowing for excellent learning opportunities. We look forward to visiting again and indeed doing further business with Mouton Vendéen in the near future. We also look forward to the arrival of Sébastien Heas and Loïc Chiron, as they will be travelling to Gurteen College to judge our All-Ireland Championships this year!

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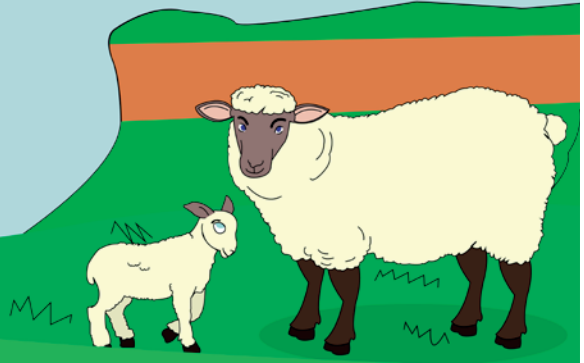
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BREED STANDARD



HEAD

- The head shows much character and presence
- The head and cheeks carry wool
- The ears are fine and of medium length

FACE

- The face is grey/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 ewe is similar to the ram except the head is feminine and stylish
- The adult male will weigh 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 typically 5 to 7cm and the average fleece weight is 3.5kg per sheep
- There shall be no black pigment within the fleece on the body



Irish Vendéen Sheep Society

SALES 2023

Venue	M/F	Day	Contact
27th Premier Sale, Roscommon	M&F	Sat, 15th July	Shay Kennedy: 087 280 2364 Alan Crowe: 085 778 4875
Mid Kerry Co-Op, Milltown	M	Fri, 25th August	Cheryl O'Brien: 086 8525 588
Tullow	M	Thu, 5th Sept.	Cheryl O'Brien: 086 8525 588
Ballinasloe	M	Thurs, 7th Sept. (6pm Evening Sale)	Ciaran Coughlan: 086 822 9900
Ballyjamesduff	M	Wed, 27th Sept. (Evening Sale)	Ann Ford: 086 023 7721 Alan Crowe: 085 778 4875
Tullamore	M	Wed, 4th Oct.	Shay Kennedy: 087 280 2364
Roscommon in lamb ewe	F	Sat, 28th Oct.	Shay Kennedy: 087 280 2364 Alan Crowe: 085 778 4875



LambPlus Eurostar Multi-Breed Ram Sale:
Tullamore, Saturday 26th August 2023.
Contact Sheep Ireland for information



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Irish Vendéen Sheep Society