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Livestock Markets

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SOUTH MOLTON ANNUAL SHEEP FAIR REPORT
18TH AUGUST 2026

1498 BREEDING SHEEP

FOR UP TO DATE PRICES, TRADE OR TO BOOK YOUR STOCK IN CONTACT:

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BREEDING SHEEP (1498)

Stags Auctioneers at South Molton Market report a smaller than usual number entry at the annual Sheep Fair sale of Breeding Sheep. A total of 1498 sheep were forward this year and met an overall clearance rate of 84% which when considering the severe lack of grass and ongoing Bluetongue issues was actually a better than expected clearance rate. All sheep that were catalogued were forward and to the vendors credit were all looking really well, and all except one pen were Bluetongue vaccinated. Trade was always going to be steadier than earlier breeding sales given the ongoing dry weather, although it did rain on the morning of the sale.

BLACKFACE SHEARLING EWES (369)

The sale kicked off with the breeding ewes where prices topped at £282 for a pen of Suffolk Mule Shearlings from Mr J Simons of Chard; who also sold another pen of 20 at £270. A total of 369 forward Suffolk Mules averaged £262.17 which is up £45.89 on the year. With other prices including £275 for a pen of 20 from Messrs MJ & DM Lake of South Molton; £270 for a pen of 35 from Messrs JWJ Milton of West Anstey; £268 and £265 for 2 pens from Messrs H & M Thorne of Warkleigh and £260 for 2 pens from Messrs WH & JC Hayes of Twitchen.

WHITEFACE SHEARLING EWES (269)

Texel Mule Shearlings topped at £270 for a pen from Mr NA Cooke of Torrington; next best was £265 for a pen from Messrs RJ & J Ridd of Barnstaple; then Messrs H & M Thorne of Warkleigh had 3 pens at £245, £242 and £242. Cheviot Mules sold to £245 for a pen from Mr GR McLeod of Swimbridge. A total of 269 Whiteface Shearlings averaged £231.43 which is up £22.46 on the year.

MULE SHEARLING EWES (608)

The biggest entry was the Mule Shearlings which topped at £268 for a pen of 22 from Messrs H & M Thorne of Warkleigh. The same vendor had other pens at £262, £255 (4 times) and £252. Next best at £265 was a pen of 20 from Ashley Game Farm LTD of Wembworthy who also had other pens at £260, £248, £242 (twice) and £240 (twice). Mr DJ Woollacott of South Molton had pens to £252, £248 and £235. Messrs DWC & MJ Elworthy of Umberleigh had pens to £235, £232 and £230; and Messrs MJ & DM Lake of South Molton sold his pens at £230. A total of 608 Mule Shearlings averaged £244.12 which was up £27.84 on the year.

OLDER BREEDING EWES (239)

Older ewes sold to a top of £200 for a pen of 20 Full Mouth Mules from Mr GR McLeod of Swimbridge who also had other pens at £195, £180, £175, £172 and £170 (twice). Other Full Mouth Mules sold to £190 for a pen from Messrs A & C Rowland of Bampton who also had pens at £180. Suffolk Mules sold to £195 for a pen of 23 Full Mouths (odd one had lost sides) for Mr CA Govier of Wiveliscombe who also had a pen of 17 Texel x similar ages at £190. A total of 239 older breeding ewes averaged £187.84 which was up £10.96 on the year.

EWE LAMBS (10)

One pen of 10 Easycare Ewe Lambs (not Bluetongue vaccinated) sold to £100 for Mr RH Stevens of Umberleigh.

RAMS (13)

A smaller entry of rams and a phenomenal trade. A packed shed full of buyers which resulted in a very strong clearance rate. Strongest demand for those with the longest vaccine history and those with plenty of power whilst remaining good on their legs. An overall average of £676 which is up £138.76 on the year. Topping the ram entry at £750 was seen for both Mrs K Hill of Sampford Arundell for her 2T Suffolk ram and also for Mr D Smith of Chulmleigh for his 2T Suffolk ram.

BLUETONGUE UPDATE

Free Farmer Information Evening

Join North Devon+ and Torch Farm & Equine Vets for a practical information session covering the latest updates on Bluetongue

- Movement rules and restrcitions
- Testing requirements and vaccines
- **Impacts on livestock businesses**
- Update on Animal Health and Welfare Pathway (AHWP)

EVENT DETAILS

Tuesday 25 August 2026

6:30pm – 9:00pm

(Refreshments and registration 6:30-7:00pm)

Filleigh Village Hall, Filleigh, Barnstaple EX32 0RS

🌭 Complimentary pasty, tea and coffee provided

Book Now!

Book your FREE place Click here

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DELIVERING POSITIVE CHANGE

MARKET VETS

IVC EVIDENSIA FARM

RAM FERTILITY CLINIC

Discounted Ram Fertility testing for peace of mind pre-tupping after a difficult few weeks

Tuesday 25th August 2026

Stags Livestock Market

South Molton

£49 per Ram

Please call the practice for more information or to book a space

01769 572176

STAGS

Additional dates to follow depending on demand

Fertility assessed on the day of examination and does not guarantee future fertility