September 2010

About the Flock

The Webbellis Flock was started with the purchase of three in-lamb ewes in January 2008 from Lindsay Dane's Great Fen flock. With access to extra local grazing and the purchase of 25 acres of adjoining arable land the flock is growing. Additional purchases have been made from Heathgate, Brant, East Dean, Smarden and Bruisyard stock. In 2010 thirty ewes are being put to the tup, and the flock will continue to grow as we put more land into grass.

Stock Rams

Two stock rams are used to cover our ewes with a home bred ram Webbellis Probyn (M53797) and ram lamb Webbellis Rendall (M54133) kept in reserve.

East Dean (Dean) (M54063) has just been bought from the well respected East Dean flock. Dean is out of a Colwood ram and the top performing ewe in the East Dean flock. He was the second highest Signet EBV rated ram (Index:207) of all the performance recorded Southdown ram lambs in 2009.

Holly Bar Furlong (M52778) came from the prize winning Holly Bar flock. He has some fine qualities and plenty of depth, he has produced some tidy lambs from our tegs. We will be using him on some of our bigger ewes.

Breeding, management and healthcare

Lambing takes place from mid February– mid March. Sponging to tighten lambing is being introduced this autumn. Ewes will also be scanned. Depending on the weather and ground conditions ewes are brought in around Christmas and fed hay & ewe nuts with rations increasing closer to lambing. Depending on grass growth and weather, ewes and lambs are kept in for up to three weeks after lambing. If it is in short supply, grass is topped up with ewe nuts and lambs will be creep fed if needed. One or two ram lambs from our better ewes are kept entire. As well as the Signet Sheepbreeder Scheme which requires weight recording at 8 and 20 weeks, lambs are weighed at monthly intervals and finished at around 40kg. Lambs for the freezer are butchered locally and sold privately.

All stock are vaccinated for Blue Tongue and are on Heptavac P. All stock will be scrapie tested. This autumn. Following EBLEX advice, worming is restricted to lambs; fly strike is managed with routine treatments of Vetrazin and Crovect.

Stock sometimes available; rams for hire; meat & fleeces for sale.

Patrick Goldsworthy - Webbellis Southdowns

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