



# British Wool – Sale Report

## BW183 – 14<sup>th</sup> May 2024



### Key Points

British Wool sold a larger volume of wool in BW183 on 14<sup>th</sup> May but prices fell back by 2% to 3% for the majority of grades. Lots with good colour generally held firm but poor colour wools continued to struggle. Where demand was poor wool was taken back into stock – almost 20% of the wool offered was taken back in. Welsh Mountain along with Swaledale wool sold but only at prices which are significantly below the cost of collection and handling.

The offer amounted to 1,420 tonnes spread over 221 lots. After closing the book 180 lots with a total weight of 1,157 tonnes sold. This was 273 tonnes more than in the sale two weeks ago. The lots taken back into stock were a predominantly Fine, Mule Cotts, Oddments and Organic. British Wool has now sold 17.4m kg of the 2023 clip equivalent to 84% of its supply for the year. New season wool will not start to come onto the market until July.

The average price of 74.8p per kg was down 6% sale on sale but this reflected the inferior mix of wools sold versus last sale. The market is a long way from giving UK growers the return they need for their wool. UK Farmers require an average auction price of at least £1.20 per kg just to cover their costs of shearing.

The British Wool price index was down 3% sale on sale at 1.182.

- Total weight offered 1.420m kg      Total weight sold 1.157m kg
- Clearance 81.5%
- Average clean price £1.140 / kg      Average greasy price £0.748 / kg

The clearances by wool type were as follows.

- Fine wool            73%,
- Romney            96%,
- Medium wool      92%,
- Mule wool          69%,
- Hill wool           83%,
- Mountain wool    99%,
- Lamb                87%.

### Price movements for key wool types

Fine: Southdown/Charolais 2.5% dearer, Hoggs 1 - 3% Cheaper, Hoggs 2 - 3% Cheaper, Ewes 1 - Buyers Favour to 1.5% Cheaper, Ewes 2 - Buyers Favour to 2% Cheaper, Lt Grey - 2.5% Cheaper.

Medium: Hoggs 1 - 2.5% Cheaper, Hoggs 2 - 3% Cheaper, Ewes 1 - Buyers Favour, Ewes 2 - 1.5% Cheaper, Lt Grey - 2% Cheaper, Discoloured - 3% Cheaper.

Romney: Hoggs 1 - Fully 7% Dearer, Ewes 2 - Firm

Mule: Hoggs 1 - 1.5% Cheaper, Hoggs 2 - 2% Cheaper, Ewes 1 - Firm to 1.5% Dearer, Ewes 2 - 2% Cheaper, Cott Grades - 3% Cheaper, Lt Grey - 3.5% Cheaper

Cheviot: Hoggs 1 - 1% Dearer, Hoggs 2 - 3% Dearer, Ewes 1 - 1.5% Dearer, Ewes 2 - 2% Dearer, X Grades - Firm to 2.5% Cheaper

Blackface: Med No1 - 1.5% Cheaper, No2 - 3% Cheaper, Cotts -1% Cheaper

Welsh: No1 – Firm, No2 - Buyers Favour, Coloured Kempy - Buyers Favour.

Swaledale: Grey - Fully firm.