



British Wool – Sale Report

BW184 – 4th June 2024



Key Points

British Wool saw a stronger market in BW184 on the 4th of June. Bidding was hesitant at first but strengthened through the sale with good colour lots of core grades trading around 2% dearer. Poor colour wools continued to struggle but overall British Wool had to take less wool back into stock than in recent sales. Just 10% of the wool offered was taken back in and the index was slightly higher.

The offer amounted to 1,405 tonnes spread over 217 lots. After closing the book 185 lots with a total weight of 1,248 tonnes sold. This was 90 tonnes more than in the sale three weeks ago. The lots taken back into stock were a predominantly Oddments and Locks. British Wool has now sold 18.6m kg of the 2023 clip equivalent to 90% of its supply for the year. New season wool will start to come onto the market in July – supplies may however be limited at first due to the wet May and consequent late start to shearing in the UK this year.

The average price of 78.4p per kg was up 5% sale on sale and reflected a better mix of wool 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 up 0.2% sale on sale at 1.184.

- Total weight offered 1.405m kg Total weight sold 1.248m kg
- Clearance 88.9%
- Average clean price £1.174 / kg Average greasy price £0.784 / kg

The clearances by wool type were as follows.

- Fine wool 100%,
- Romney 100%,
- Medium wool 98%,
- Mule wool 91%,
- Hill wool 80%,
- Mountain wool 90%,
- Lamb 53%.

Price movements for key wool types

Fine: Hogs No1 – firm to buyers favour, Hogs No2 – fully firm, Ewes No1 – 4% dearer, Ewes No2 – 3% dearer.

Medium: Hogs No1 - 4% dearer, Hogs No2 - firm, Ewes No1 – 2.5% dearer, Ewes No2 - firm, Lt Grey – 1.5% dearer, Discoloured – buyers favour.

Romney: Hogs No1 – 2% Dearer, Ewes No1 – buyers favour, Ewes No2 – fully firm.

Mule: Hogs No1 – 2% dearer, Hogs No2 – firm, Ewes No1 – 2.5% Dearer, Ewes No2 – firm to 2% dearer, Cott Grades – firm to sellers favour, Lt Grey – buyers favour.

Cheviot: Hogs No1 – fully firm, Ewes No1 – 1.5% Dearer, Ewes No2 – 2% Dearer, Cross Grades – fully firm.

Blackface: Med No1 – 2.5% dearer, No2 – 2% dearer, Cotts Grades – firm.

Welsh: No1 – buyers favour to 1.5% cheaper, No2 – 1.5% dearer, Coloured Kempy – 2.5% dearer.

Swaledale: No1 – firm to sellers favour, Grey – 2% dearer.