

FLOCK ASSESSMENT AND COMPETITION

- Each Region is expected to hold a Flock Assessment and Competition every other year.
- In line with our charitable status as a Society, the purpose is to encourage members to improve the overall quality of their flocks.
- While there is a competitive element to these assessments, the primary purpose is for the judges to offer constructive advice and guidance, particularly to newer or inexperienced members who can decide at the point of entry if they wish to be competitively judged and placed or just given advice and help by the judges.
- The regional membership or regional committee should select the two judges through the process of proposal, seconding and voting and agree judging dates. Alternatively, the Regional members/committee may select one judge and ask the nominated judge to select a co-judge of their choosing. Although one of the judges must be on the main judges' panel, the other may be a provisional judge.
- The Regional Council Member or an appointed committee member should plan the route for judges, make arrangements for overnight accommodation, and advise entrants of judging dates and approximate times.
- All Regions should charge an entry fee of £25 per flock with the aim of covering judges' travel costs from entry fees.
- All registered sheep in the flock should be presented for judging.
- Judges should use the standard comments sheet (available from the National Field Officer) to give comments for each section. The completed comments sheets should be forwarded directly to the owner of the flock, and the results only given to the Regional Council Member for the prize-giving and inclusion in the RCM's regional report for the Jacob Journal. Judges are asked to be constructive and encouraging in making their comments against each section on the sheet.
- Guidance on what judges may claim in expenses for travel or accommodation is obtainable from the treasurer. Expenses are not paid for attending prize givings.
- Flock assessments will be split into two categories: small flocks of 11 ewes or less, and large flocks of 12 ewes or more although RCMs may alter these numbers to try and ensure an even number of large and small flocks to judge. Checks may be made to ensure numbers of ewes presented for judging are consistent with the flock records held by Grassroots.
- If a flock does not have a ram(s), the comments box will be left blank and the other sections used to assess the placing of the flock. Not having a ram should not prejudice the flock in the overall placings.
- A minimum of three ewe lambs should be presented for judging or the box left blank as above and the other sections used to assess the placing of the flock.
- Judges should not handle the sheep during judging except in the cases of individual classes, i.e. best ram, best pen of ewe lambs, etc.

- The judges should be advised of any special regional prizes before judging i.e. best ram, best ram lamb, best pen of ewe lambs or shearling ewes. These should all be handled for judging.
- Further information on any aspect of organising, entering or judging flock assessments should be made to the National Field Officer.