



# **MY IVA PROJECT**

Grace Whitcombe

# Topics

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- ▶ **'Researching the suitability of Llanwenog sheep as a dam of a Mule Ewe when crossed to Bluefaced Leicester.'**
- ▶ **Also; 'Exploring 'easy-care' systems and the performance of the Llanwenog breed as a terminal sire in relation to other recognised sires'.**





# LLANWENOG

SHEEP SOCIETY · CYMDEITHAS DEFAID



I have decided to use the Llanwenog sheep breed as the principal topic for my investigative project in the land based sector.

This historic breed needs to be highlighted and promoted, which is why, in my project I have researched various ways of developing this breed and ensuring that it continues to be considered as a cost effective, easily managed and productive breed with outstanding tasting meat.



# Llanwenog

Pure bred/Pedigree

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- ▶ **Economic** – medium sized ewe averaging 60kg; requires smaller volumes of forage than large ewes, therefore less expense in forage and able to run more ewes per acre. Ewes are long lived, and lambs are known to grade well (R/U).
  - ▶ **Easy to manage** – docile, therefore making routine tasks significantly easier. Also being fine boned with narrow heads results in minimal lambing assistance required. Ewes have good mothering instincts and good quantity/quality of milk for offspring to grow and develop.
  - ▶ **Excellent quality meat** – excellent commercial product, with carcasses grading at R/U and the dead weight between 16-20kg. Quality of meat is high - being fine grained, great taste and being favoured by many chefs and butchers.
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# Llanwenog

Pure bred/Pedigree

- ▶ As a pure bred ewe, the Llanwenog won the national lambing competition by averaging two lambs per ewe, a notable achievement for any breed. It is not uncommon however, for the breed to achieve over 200 % scanning percentages, illustrating the breeds consistency and prolificacy.
- ▶ Exceptional mothering instincts
- ▶ Good wool coverage
- ▶ Hardy characteristics - resilience



# Llanwenog – Terminal Sire

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- ▶ Throws lambs able to withstand harsh weather conditions – perfect for outside lambing
- ▶ Easy lambing – fine boned, narrow head
- ▶ Thrifty
- ▶ Resilient
- ▶ Good wool coverage
- ▶ High live lamb % using Llanwenog sire
- ▶ Produces lambs that finish, grade, and weigh well.



# Llanwenog x Bluefaced Leicester Mule

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- ▶ Due to the slender silhouette of this breed minimal lambing assistance was required; therefore minimal fatalities experienced
- ▶ Healthy crop of lambs
- ▶ Thrifty
- ▶ Resilient
- ▶ Over a lamb and a half % per ewe achieved
- ▶ 100% of ewes had milk
- ▶ More ewes per acre compared to large commercial breeds such as; Texel, or Charolais ewes
- ▶ Excellent mothering instincts.



# Results

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## Texel Lambing Results

Scanning %	Lambing %	Turn-out %	Selling %
180%	160%	150%	150%

## Charolais Lambing Results

Scanning %	Lambing %	Turn-out %	Selling %
220%	200%	180%	180%

## Llanwenog Mule Lambing Results

Scanning %	Lambing %	Turn-out %	Selling %
185%	180%	175%	170%

The results obtained above prove how impressive the Llanwenog mule is, each ewe rearing over a lamb and a half. The comparative results above show data from Charolais and Texel rams breeders; not commercial flocks. The flock husbandry and attention to detail with the Charolais and Texel flocks would be to a very high standard as shown in the figures. Whereas, the bigger, commercial flocks would not have as many man hours to dedicate per ewe. On a commercial fat lamb producer's business, the figures from the ram breeders would vary as their production would be on a larger scale.

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# Overview

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- ▶ I believe that the Llanwenog is an up and coming breed; especially as dam of a Mule Ewe as I have documented previously. As farmers it has never been more crucial to move with the times; therefore explore fresh breeding in an attempt to improve your business and most importantly the profitability of your stock.
- ▶ Llanwenogs allow you to run more ewes per acre, however maintaining or even improving the quality of the offspring that you produce. With good mothering instincts, easy lambing and 'milkiness', there is no question that the Llanwenog x Bluefaced Leicester is a Mule to be desired.

