

· Ffermio ·

When the TV Cameras came to
Penycoed Flock No 337



On a wet day in December, whilst sitting at my work desk I got a call from Dad, who was extremely excited “Just a quick one Anns”, now anyone who knows my Dad will know he doesn’t do short conversations, about 10 mins later he stated “the TV cameras are coming” to say I was confused (again if you know my Dad) was an understatement. I then get a call from Aled asking “has Taid gone mad what’s he on about now”, quickly followed by a call from my brother “Dad has finally lost the plot!!”.

By the time I get home he’s sitting in my kitchen, bursting with excitement and declaring “they want to come and film us”. Once he’d settled down, it was established that yes indeed the TV programme Ffermio had been in touch with him and asked whether they could come and film a short piece for one of their programmes. Now a number of thoughts ran through my head:

Why us? There are far, far more important, established people within our breed worthy of this experience

We are going to have to have a huge clean up around the yard

What are they going to film – we don’t have that many sheep

There is no way I’m going on TV

But the biggest thought was

What am I going to wear?

After a few phone calls it was established that the theme / purpose of the programme was to see the close bond we have as a family, which is strengthened by our love and passion for breeding and showing this wonderful breed, and how Aled, Ffion and Steffan as youngsters are committed to and so enthusiastic about the flock.



So, on a dull Saturday morning the crew arrived, only 3 of them, but each one of them so professional and made the whole day an enjoyable experience.



The day that had been chosen was the day we had arranged for the in lamb ewes to come into their winter quarters ready for lambing, the crew wanted to see Aled and Ffion working with the sheep and the partnership they have as cousins.

Obviously Aled is the boss of the flock (if you ask him and Ffion is if you ask her), individually they bring different strengths to the Flock, Aled is definitely the Flock Master all decisions are made by Aled basically what Aled says goes!! Ffion is our chief halter breaker if we want anything halter breaking, we tell Ffion to go catch

that sheep and within 10 minutes she has it walking on a halter like a dog. And Dad, well he is the Bank Manager the man with the cheque book (but we don't tell Mam!).

Firstly, we all had to tramp around the field to get the sheep in, not having a sheep dog it was down to our faithful food bucket! Luckily the ewes seemed to be in an exceptionally good and cooperative mood and went in the right direction immediately and no re-takes were required.

They were then herded into my Shetland Pony pen (I'm not amused as they messed up my ponies bed), four at a time through the race to be wormed and fluked, Aled in charge of the dosing gun, Dad in charge of the injection and Ffion having the very important job of opening and closing the, gate ensuring that those carrying twins went in one pen those having singles in another and the ones with none going into the field.



Then came the tricky bit, the interviews – firstly they spoke to Dad, then Aled and Ffion and lastly Berian and me it was a very nerve wrecking experience. After about 5 hours they called it a wrap and informed us that all that filming would take up a 6-minute slot!!!!

We are very grateful to Ffermio for giving us the experience and as a family are very proud of what we have achieved within the breed (be it not very much), the stock we have produced but more importantly the joy, laughter and friendship we have gained from being part of this amazing breed.



As a Society I believe we have a very bright future ahead of us. We should be encouraged by the number of young people joining the Society and the new members the breed is attracting. However, we must never lose sight of the true values of the society, our heritage and the breed standards. We must take heed and advice from our elders and founders of the Society, the wealth of knowledge we have within our community as once gone it can never be replaced.

I would like to take this opportunity to request that members assist our Secretary as much as possible – Delyth is a true asset to the Society.

I'd like to thank all the Committee members for their dedication and the hard work they carry out to ensure the survival and growth of the breed and to the members of the Society for continuing to enjoy the breed.

Any finally, a huge thank you to Dad for picking the Llanwenog breed to be our sheep of choice, for all his hard work and for the support he provides us all as a family – most importantly for his cheque book!!!

Annwyl True, Penycoed Flock