

Toby Baxter - Flock dispersal of 3938 Romney, 2020 Easy Care and 40 rams

The Romney flock was started in 2005. The original sheep were sourced from all over the country. No more have been bought in and all today's sheep are descended from them. We have used rams from many Romney breeders including Wairere Romney's, Penny Chandler, and Marcus Maxwell. For the last three years all rams have been sourced from Mat and Pip Smith's Resilient Romney's.

The easy care flock has been bred up from a flock of Lleyns purchased from Chilbolton in Hampshire. They were bought in 2013 to stock Charlton Abbotts estate. They have been crossed with Easy Care and Exlana rams and have been full wool shedding since 2022. Exlana rams have come from Dave Knight and Easy Cares from Steven Hazel.

The flock has been lambed outdoors and the focus has been on maternal traits, structure, worm resilience and ability to produce fat lambs off forage. All ewes, not bred for replacements are put to Hampshire rams to produce fat lambs. There has been a strict culling policy on bad feet and lambing issues.

No concentrate, or feed blocks has ever been used. The ewes live on permanent pasture, with no fertiliser used, during the summer and winter on forage crops grown on arable land. Lambs are finished on herbal leys and forage crops.

The flock is monitored for Johnes, MV and CLA by regular blood testing. The flock is vaccinated for campylobacter with campy vax toxoplasmosis with toxo vax and blue tongue. All lambs are scratched for orf.

This is a rare opportunity to purchase sheep from a closed flock run on low input forage based system. All sheep are fit for purpose and have proven themselves over many years.