

# Beulah Speckle Face



## Factfile:

- 153.36ha pasture & improved hill land at Llwyn y Brain near Newtown, Powys
- 470 Beulah Speckle Face ewes and 160 Beulah ewe lambs
- 70 Limousin, Limousin X and Belgian Blue X cattle.

John and Sarah Yeomans started keeping records of their Beulah flock in 1986 having been inspired by Hywel Benbow. They were then founder members of the Beulah Sire Reference Scheme in 1996 along with the Welsh Sheep Strategy and Signet. This was when they started recording the flock's performance properly. John & Sarah saw the recording as a more formal structure to that which they had undertaken themselves and it allowed them to look at how their flock was performing in comparison with others.

In 1984 their lambs achieved a total average deadweight of 13.6kg but now achieve an average deadweight of 19.8kg and the progeny of their best home-bred ram are achieving 20.7kg. John and Sarah also sell lamb direct to customers and are seeing much bigger chop eye muscle, something which they feel is largely down to the progress they have made with recording. They now have Beulah lambs which are over 50kg liveweight – something that they would never have seen before.

The Yeomans are really pleased with the progress that they have been able to make and, they like being able to see how they are performing in real terms comparative to anyone else. According to John, "We now have better sheep and we were really pleased with their progeny. In fact we currently have two of the highest index Beulah stock rams. "

John and Sarah select rams on the basis of figures, (particularly with respect to finished lamb performance) scrapie genotype and breed type. The progress that they have made means that they are now able to sell Beulah rams for breeding; they have seen the average prices for these rise the over the years with some rams fetching £600 at the Builth Wells All Breeds Sale this year. Now, most years they sell three quarters of their rams privately based on figures. Their rams usually have less than £10 feed/head and they perform really well in the commercial environment.

According to Sarah it helps if you like keeping records and having everything in order, "We feel that we are in control of the flock, we can actually see what it's doing rather than assuming what its doing and just hoping that you'll get good results."

**By using their top performing sire lamb deadweights increased by almost 1kg compared to their average, without any increase in fat. These lambs had improved growth rates and increased muscle leading to an improvement in killing out percentage of almost 2%.**

**This was worth an extra £1.98 per lamb.**

# Defaid Penfrith Beulah



## Ffeil Ffeithiau:

- 153.36ha o dir pori a thir mynydd wedi ei wella yn Llwyn-y-brain ger y Drenewydd, Powys
- 470 o famogiaid Penfrith Beulah a 160 o wŷn benyw Beulah
- 70 o wartheg Limousin, Limousin X a Glas Belg X

Dechreuodd John a Sarah Yeomans gadw cofnodion o'u diadell Beulah yn 1986 ar ôl cael eu hysbrydoli gan Hywel Benbow. Roeddynt ymhlith sylfaenwyr Cynllun Cyfeirnod Hyrddod Beulah yn 1996 ynghyd â Strategaeth Ddefaid Cymru a Signet, a dyna pryd y dechreusant gofnodi perfformiad y ddiadell yn iawn. Roedd John a Sarah yn ystyried y cofnodi hwn yn rhywbeth mwy ffurfiol na'r hyn roeddynt yn arfer gwneud eu hunain.

Yn 1984 cafwyd cyfanswm pwysau cyfartalog ar y bach o 13.6 kg gan eu hŵyn, ond erbyn hyn mae'r pwysau cyfartalog yn 19.8kg ac mae epil eu hwrdd cartref gorau yn cyrraedd 20.7kg. Mae John a Sarah hefyd yn gwerthu cig oen yn uniongyrchol i gwsmeriaid ac yn gweld bod cyhyr y llygad yn fwy o lawer, sef rhywbeth y maent yn teimlo sy'n deillio o'r cynnydd a wnaed gyda chofnodi. Bellach mae ganddynt wŷn Beulah sy'n pwyso dros 50kg yn fyw – rhywbeth na fyddent wedi ei weld yn y gorffennol.

Mae'r teulu Yeomans yn falch iawn o'r cynnydd a wnaed ac maent yn hoffi cymharu'r cynnydd hwnnw â pherfformiad ffermwyr eraill. Yn ôl John, "Nawr mae gennym well defaid ac roeddem yn fodlon iawn â'u hepil. Mewn gwirionedd, ar hyn o bryd mae gennym ddau o'r hyrddod magu mynegrif uchaf o blith hyrddod Beulah."

Bydd John a Sarah yn dewis hyrddod ar sail ffigurau (yn enwedig o ran perfformiad wŷn wedi pesgi), genoteip clefyd y crafu a theip. Mae'r cynnydd a

wnaed ganddynt yn golygu eu bod bellach yn gallu gwerthu hyrddod Beulah ar gyfer bridio; mae'r prisiau cyfartalog ar gyfer y rhain wedi codi dros y blynyddoedd gyda rhai hyrddod yn gwerthu am £600 yn yr Arwerthiant Pob Brid yn Llanfair-ym-Muallt eleni. Nawr, bron bob blwyddyn maent yn gwerthu tri chwarter eu hyrddod yn breifat ar sail ffigurau. Fel arfer bydd eu hyrddod yn cael gwerth llai na £10 yr un o borthiant ac maent yn perfformio'n wirioneddol dda yn fasnachol.

Yn ôl Sarah, mae o gymorth os ydych chi'n hoffi cadw cofnodion a chael popeth yn drefnus: "Rydym yn teimlo ein bod yn rheoli'r ddiadell, gallwn weld beth mae'n ei wneud yn hytrach na thybio beth mae'n ei wneud a gobeithio y cawn ni ganlyniadau da."

**Cafwyd cynnydd o bron i 1kg ym mhwysau marw'r wŷn o'u hwrdd gorau, mewn cymhariaeth â phwysau cyfartalog yr holl wŷn, heb unrhyw fraster ychwanegol. Roedd yr wŷn hyn yn tyfu'n well ac roedd ganddynt fwy o gyhyr, gan olygu gwelliant o bron i 2% yng nghanran y pwysau ar ôl lladd.**

**Roedd hyn yn golygu bod pob oen yn werth £1.98 yn ychwanegol.**