



BRITISH BERRICHON BULLETIN

SPRING 2026



*Wayne Hutchinson
2025*

Yarburgh Adventurer – Yarburgh Pedigrees – National Show Breed Champion 2025



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Rob Davenport

Lynn Barbour

John Cockbain

Richard Bett

Jade Bett

Michelle Lakey

Ryan McLaren

Paul James

Carl Gwynne

Welcome from the Chairman

This is the first of a regular bulletin we plan to run with the hope to get information to the members. I would like to start with thanking Sue for all her years of hard work and commitment in the role as secretary.

This brings me on to introducing Pedigree Livestock Services with Andy Ryder and his team as the new secretary for The British Berrichon Society. I hope you have all had a successful lambing and with the good sunny weather have some good lambs running around ready for the coming show season.

It would be good if you have any pictures of Berrichon or Berrichon cross sheep that we can keep the Social Media channels fresh and relevant. Please forward any article's you may have to the office and we can put them into the bulletin.

I wish you all a successful show season.

Rob Davenport

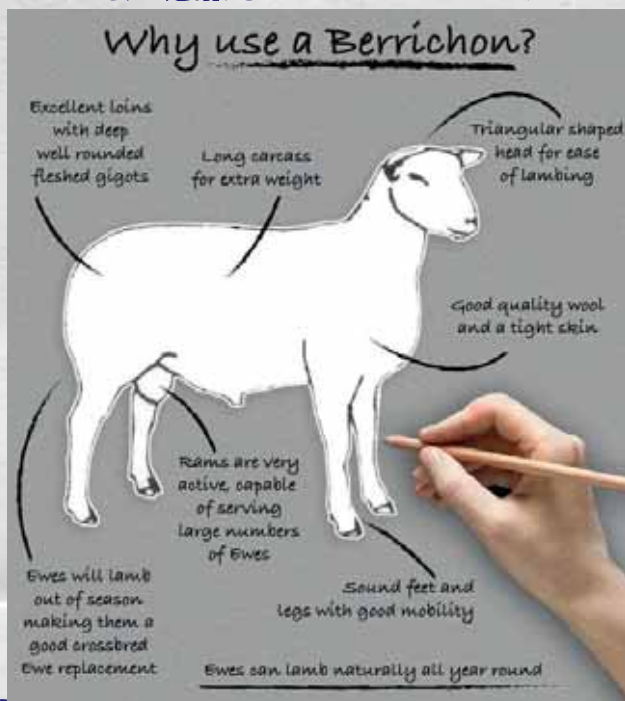
Rob Davenport

Register your lambs by 31st May
– prices on the website.

AGM

Monday 18th May at 7.00 pm, online.

Members will be sent a Teams link



British Berrichon

"Its primary role has been that of a terminal sire producing quick growing easy fleshed lambs"



The Berrichon:

- is a large white faced
- medium boned
- well fleshed
- terminal sire
- producing quick growing easy fleshed lambs
- capable of being finished at a range of weights to suit varying market specifications and demands.

Berrichon Traits

Berrichon breeders have concentrated on breeding sheep which can:

- lamb easily
- active at birth
- quickly on to their feet and suckling.

The Berrichon has a triangular shaped head and is smooth over the shoulder and hip making it an ideal choice for:

- gimmers, ewe hoggs and all first time lambers.
- tight skin, and the wool is of a very high standard which has in the past been exported for use in high class wool products in Japan.

Berrichon Rams

- rams are very active and capable of serving large numbers of ewes both under intensive and extensive systems.
- well fleshed all over with deep gigots
- Berrichon sired lambs weigh very well.

Berrichon Ewes

The Berrichon ewes can:

- lamb naturally all the year round
- the ability to lamb three times in two years under intensive systems
- lamb out of season has led to the Berrichon being introduced to other breeds to produce cross bred females able to lamb earlier in the season to capitalise on the normally higher price spring lamb trade
- Berrichon ewes are very protective mothers with strong maternal instincts.



‘Underrated’: Why one Dumfriesshire family still backs Berrichons after 30 years

At Newark Farm, Sanquhar, Dumfriesshire, Frances and daughter Lynn Barbour have spent more than 30 years breeding Berrichons, and their belief in the breed remains as strong as ever.

For Frances, who turns 80 soon, aspirations for the Newark flock and the breed are simple.

“I just hope I live long enough to see them becoming a more prominent breed,” she says. “They really are a very underrated breed.”

How the Newark flock began

The Newark flock was established in 1991, almost by accident, when Frances’ husband, James, returned from the inaugural Berrichon sale at Carlisle with a ewe as a present.

“That ewe had a ewe lamb and a tup lamb, and we went back the next year and sold the tup lamb and spent the money on two more females,” Frances says.

From those early females, the flock has remained closed on the female side, with only stock tups bought in over the years.

“We have never introduced another female, so we can trace everything right back to then,” she says.

What defines a Newark Berrichon

That decision has helped give the Newark flock a distinct type, built over decades of selection and hard culling.

Lynn says Newark sheep are bred to be: *“Long, deep, well-fleshed, hard-muscled sheep with a strong top line, set on good legs and feet, with tremendous skins, deep gigots and silky white hair on the head and legs.”* “Where there’s silk, there’s milk.”

Frances says the family have often been told Newark blood can be recognised in sheep away from home.

“I think it is because the flock has been closed for so long,” she says. “We have just got something slightly different.”

Breeding for type, performance and consistency

The flock once stood at about 75 ewes, but numbers have been reduced in recent years. This year, they lambed 38, including 18 gimmers, after a previous flock reduction in 2022.

Another reduction sale is planned for December at Carlisle. But for Frances and Lynn, the aim remains to improve the flock and promote the breed to both pedigree and commercial buyers.

Frances says: *“We have culled very hard to keep the very best. We bought what we wanted in a tup and produced our own sort of Berrichon out of that.”*

One home-bred ram which has left a major mark is Newark West Point, born in 2021.

Lynn says his influence is easy to spot, with daughters showing hard flesh, depth and strong skins, alongside the “flashy” presence the flock has become known for.

“He has bred top prices at Carlisle and Kelso, and a lot of my show team in 2023 and 2024,” she says.

Among his progeny was Newark Yabba, which sold for 2,500gns at Carlisle in 2023 and went to a commercial buyer.

Highland Show success

Show success has played an important role in raising the profile of the flock, and the breed.

The Barbours first exhibited at the Royal Highland Show in 2007 and went on to take Berrichon championships there in 2012, 2015, 2017, 2023 and 2024.

Lynn says the 2012 show was a memorable year, with a home-bred ewe taking the breed championship. Her tup lamb, Newark Maximus, was later bought unseen by G.B. Thomas, of the Goitre flock, Swansea, after he had judged the ewe at the Highland.

Maximus went on to enjoy success at the Royal Welsh Show, winning there for two consecutive years.

Another Newark-bred sheep, Newark Kaiser, was reserve champion at the Highland in 2012 after being bought as a lamb by E. Burgess, of the Criffel flock.

Lynn says: *"The Highland Show has been very kind to us. It has been a great show, and we were very saddened when the Berrichon classes were lost.*

"It was the main shop window in Scotland and we have sold many sheep off the back of what has been seen in the pens there."

Standout seasons in the show ring

The flock also enjoyed standout seasons at the Great Yorkshire Show in 2023 and 2024.

In 2023, Glynch Wagner, bought at Carlisle as a lamb in 2021, stood breed champion, while home-bred ewe Newark Winnie the Pooh was reserve female champion. The flock also went on to win the MV inter-breed pairs competition and take reserve supreme overall pairs honours.

In 2024, Glynch Wagner stood reserve breed champion, while ewe lamb Newark Abbie was reserve female champion. The flock also won the MV group of three and went on to take the supreme sheep group of three title.

Frances says: *"Berrichons do not usually do things like that."*

Lynn says: *"The 2023 and 2024 seasons were outstanding. They were just two years that do not happen often."*

Support, friendships and Dennis Gall

Behind that success has been a small team, with Frances and Lynn managing most of the flock themselves and long-time friend Dennis Gall providing valued support.

Mr Gall, who previously worked with Berrichons for the Graham family at Airthrey Kerse, first came to

Newark Farm to buy tup lambs and has remained closely involved ever since.

Lynn says: *"He keeps us right. He tells us what we are doing wrong. What I have learned from Dennis is something money can't buy you. We continue to learn from him and it has been invaluable."*

She adds that watching him show Berrichons in earlier years was something she aspired to match.

Frances says one of the Newark flock's earlier successes came through Newark Big Boy, which was bought by Mr Gall and went on to win at the Royal Show.

Why Berrichons suit commercial sheep systems

While the show ring has brought recognition, the Barbours say their bigger ambition is to see more commercial producers try the breed.

Frances says: *"Our main aim is selling to more commercial buyers and getting more people using Berrichons in their systems.*

"If people try one, they tend to come back."

A commercial buyer's view

Staffordshire-based producer Simon Clarke runs about 1,200 ewes across hill and lowland units, with North Country Mules forming the backbone of the flock.

Mr Clarke has bought tups from the Newark flock for the past few years, and says the breed fits his system very well.

He says: *"I first saw a Berrichon at Worcester market and liked the sheep, so I decided to have a proper look.*

"I went to Kelso, saw them there three or four years ago and tried one. We have probably got seven or eight now. I am a big fan, really."

Performance, longevity and finishing ability

The Newark flock usually takes tup lambs and shearlings to the society sale at Carlisle, as well as a pen of shearlings to Kelso.

Last year, the flock sold nine shearling rams at Kelso to average £1,155.56, topping at 1,400gns twice.

Frances says: *"Our pens at Kelso look like peas in a pod, and that comes from the strength of the maternal line, with everything tracing right back to the foundation of the flock."*

Mr Clarke says his move towards Berrichons came after frustration with the longevity of other terminal sires.



"What I found with Texels was the longevity of the tups. I like to buy decent tups, but they were not lasting long enough," he says.

He adds that, after trialling different breeds, the results favoured the Berrichon and Charollais, with Suffolk and Berrichon tups suiting the hill farm best, while Charollais tups are also run on the lowland unit.

The Barbours say the challenge is often getting commercial farmers to try a Berrichon in the first place.

Lynn says: *"There has been a stigma with the breed. You hear people say they do not like the pink nose, but we always say 'pink nose, the cash flows'.*

"What we find is that if people buy one, they will be back next year."

Frances says one commercial buyer still dislikes the pink nose, but now buys Berrichons because of how they perform.

Easy lambing and Berrichon versatility

Feedback from commercial customers has focused on longevity, libido, easy lambing and lamb vigour.

Frances says: *"They do what they say on the tin. You put your tup out, he tups them all.*

"It does not matter what you put them with. You can put them on Blackies, Herdwicks, Cheviots or Scotch Mules and you will get a prime lamb."

She adds they are particularly suited to hogs and gimmers, lambing easily and producing lambs which are quick to get up and suck.

"That is very important, the number of minutes it takes you to get the tit in the mouth," she says.

Lynn explains that ease of lambing is linked to the breed's structure.

"The Berrichon is easier lambed because it is born with a narrower head and is more triangular at the front end," she says.

Those breed strengths are also present in Mr Clarke's system.

"The Berrichon tups seem to hold their condition, and we always find they lamb easy," he says.

"The lambs are straight up and at it when they have lambed. And I can tell you the first lambs away are always the Berrichons."

Low-input system suited to marginal ground

The sheep at Newark Farm are not run on the best ground.

The 120-acre family farm has changed significantly over the years, with much of the land now rented out and the pedigree flock run on small pockets of rougher ground.

"They go in wee corners," Frances says.

"They are grass-fed and they fatten on fresh air."

Ewes are fed around lambing and while rearing lambs, but once lambs are weaned, they are dried off and moved onto poorer ground.

Diversification and the Newark Farm business

The farm has also diversified. Newark Farm has operated a certified caravan site for about 45 years, while a cottage is let for self-catering accommodation and the farmhouse is used for bed and breakfast.

Frances says the diversification began when farming became tougher and the business needed extra income.

"It is an old period farmhouse with fabulous views," she says.

"It is still furnished as it was 100 years ago. People either love it or loathe it, but people come back."

A family farm looking to the future

Despite the changes, Newark Farm remains very much a family farm. James' grandfather farmed there, followed by his father and then James, with further generations now connected to the holding.

Frances says: *"It still is a family farm. We would not want to move. We have got a wonderful view out of our kitchen window."*

Looking ahead, the Barbours hope to keep refining the Newark flock, while also seeing the breed gain wider recognition among commercial sheep producers.

Lynn says: *"It is about keeping them going and making them better. That drives us."*

For Frances, the ambition is bigger than one flock.

"I have said every year that Berrichons are bound to take off," she says. "It is not possible for them not to."

"Take it easy, buy a Berrichon."



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2026 SALE DATE

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Worcester Sale Report

Yarburgh Boom Town blasts to the top at Worcester Early First Choice Sale hitting 1000gns!

Top price of the day went to R & J Bett, Yarburgh Flock's Ram Lamb Yarburgh Boom Town realising 1000gns.

This powerful ram lamb was second in the show and sired by previous Worcester 2000gns sale topper & last year's Three Counties National Show winner, Yarburgh Wright. The winning bid for Boom Town was hammered down to Mr P Featherstone of the Bidwell flock at Leicestershire.

Following closely behind at 750gns was A.P & A.J James Family, Ditton Flock with their second place Shearling Ram Ditton Avatar, who was sired by last year's 1000gns sale topper Tooloos Zombie Slayer.

The Shearling Ewes and Ewe Lambs were both topped by L & A Digweed with Tooloos Alexa & Tooloos Beatrix both realising 450gns and both being sired by Yarburgh Wolfgang.

Overall, the sale was up 22% in numbers of sheep sold on the year.

2025 Averages		
4 entered	Shearling Rams	1 @750gns
8 entered	Ram Lambs	5 @ 606gns
3 entered	Shearling Ewes	1 @ 450gns
3 entered	Ewe Lambs	2 @ 350gns
18 entered	9 sold	
22% more sold on the year		

Show Results

Shearling Ram		
1 st	Yarburgh Adventurer	LOT 304
2 nd	Ditton Avatar	LOT 303
3 rd	China court Arrow	LOT 301
Ram Lamb		
1 st	Tooloos Brutus	LOT 305
2 nd	Yarburgh Boom Town	LOT 311
3 rd	Ditton Brian	LOT 308
Shearling Ewe		
1 st	Yarburgh Above and Beyond	LOT 316
2 nd	Tooloos Alexa	LOT 315
3 rd	China Court Aurora	LOT 314
Ewe Lambs		
1 st	Yarburgh Brilliance	LOT317
2 nd	Tooloos Bellatrix	LOT 320

Male Champion	
Yarburgh Adventurer, LOT 304	
Male Reserve Champion	
Tooloos Brutus, LOT 305	
Female Champion	
Yarburgh Above & Beyond, LOT 316	
Female Reserve Champion	
Yarburgh Brilliance, LOT 317	
Overall Champion	
Yarburgh Adventurer, LOT 304	
Overall Reserve Champion	
Yarburgh Above & Beyond, LOT 316	

Carlisle Sale Report



**Champion Galtres Alpha, sold for £600 –
Deborah Whitcher**



**Reserve Champion Beacon Atom sold for
£500 - Mr Brice**

Kelso Ram Sales 2025

Auctioneers: Harrison and Hetherington of Carlisle

The sun shone on Friday 12th September 2025 for the annual sale. First through Ring 1 was Messrs Curry, Low Burradon with a pen of eight shearlings topping at £1,300 and averaging £731.25.

Longstanding breeder Mrs F Barbour and her daughter in law Lynn with the Newark consignment of 9 shearlings topped twice at £1,400 and going onto average £1,155.56.

2025 Averages

17 Shearling Rams	£955.88
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Show Dates

Balmoral Show

13th – 16th May 2026

Devon County Show

21st – 23rd May 2026

Cumberland Show

6th June 2026

Three Counties

12th - 14th June 2026

Great Yorkshire Show

14th – 17th July 2026

Royal Welsh Show

20th – 23rd July 2026

Dates for your diary

Events

NSA Scotsheep

Wednesday, 10th June 2026

Wedderlie Farm, Gordon,
Berwickshire, TD3 6NW

NSA South West Sheep

28th July 2026. Time: 9am

Three Counties Showground,
Malvern

Society Sales

Worcester, McCartneys

Saturday 11th July

Carlisle, H&H

Friday 28th August

Non Society Sales

Kelso Ram Sales

11th September 2026

Glyncoch

BRITISH BERRICHONS
FLOCK AWB

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Royal Welsh 2024
Overall Champion

ALONZO

YOLANDA



Royal Welsh 2025
Female Champion

ABBIE



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Champion



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Signet Recorded Prefix – MJB

Est. 2019 MV Accredited



The 2025 show season kicked off with Devon County Show in mid May. The weather gave us a hint of the summer to come, marquees were very welcome to shade the sheep and competitors from the heat.

Despite the lack of Berrichons, we had enough to give the judge something to work with. One outstanding success was achieving a 2nd in the Signet Ram lamb performance class out of an entry of 10. We then had a creditable 2nd & 3rd in the very popular Lamb Carcase competition and exhibition with our Berrichon X February born lambs.

In August we took a good group to the North Devon show where the Berrichon Breed classes provided more success.

Then in late August came the Carlisle show and sale. To my delight our Devon County show ram lamb was Champion ram lamb and Reserve Male Champion.

The quality of our lambs this year have shone through and our strategic breeding plan and hard selection using weight gain figures at 8 and 21wk, plus Back scan details from Signet allows us to select the best potential breeding sheep for Pedigree and commercial lamb production.

M. J. Brice, Beacon View, Stoodleigh, Tiverton, Devon EX16 9QG
Tel: 01398 351322 Mob: 07770608078 email: mervynjbrice@gmail.com

Balmoral hat-trick for Golanview Ewe

As the only exhibitor in this year’s breed classes at Balmoral, the British Berrichon championship was always going to go to the Golanview flock of Ryan McLaren, Dromore, Co. Tyrone.

However, Ryan nevertheless put forward an impressive total of almost a dozen sheep in the various classes for Swansea based judge Ifan Beynon-Thomas to sort out.

In the end, Ifan, who runs the Goitre flock, which is the UK’s largest, went for Golanview Worshipful as his champion, a senior ewe which has won the title three years in succession. Taking the reserve championship was a ram lamb.

In her own class, the champion ewe had beaten flock mates Zendaya and Zenyatta into second and third places respectively. The ‘any age’ ram class with four entries, was won by Ryan’s Burgess-bred ram Criffel Zohan and in the ewe lamb class, two lambs from Golanview picked up the rosettes.

Massive Congratulations to all our exhibitors and a huge thank you to our judge who made a tremendous job of judging such a fantastic example of the breed!



Champion & Reserve with Judge Mr Ifan Beynon-Thomas and exhibitor Ryan McLaren

Show Results

Judge: Mr Ifan Beynon-Thomas Goitre Flock

Overall Champion			
Mr R McLaren	Ewe any Age	Golanview Worshipful	MCL/21/007
Reserve Champion			
Mr R McLaren	Ram Lamb	Golanview Buster	MCL/25/00113



Champion, Golanview Worshipful



Reserve Champion, Golanview Buster

Power on show at Three Counties Show 2025!

The Sun shone down on the Three Counties Show ground on Friday 13th June 2025, once again showcasing a phenomenal selection of sheep for renowned judge Mr Robert Davenport, Bradwall Flock, Cheshire to deduce his champion from. The standard from start to finish really was impeccable through and through!

Overall Champion of the day went to a powerful, stylish Shearling Ram from R & J Bett, Yarburgh Flock, Lincolnshire.

Reserve Champion went to Abbie Digweed, Tooloos Flock, Gloucestershire, with a Ram

Lamb who was also oozing with character and power.

The Following day R & J Bett also gained another terrific win with Champion Supreme Interbreed Group of Three!

Show Results

Judge: Mr Robert Davenport, Bradwall Flock

Male Champion	
R & J Bett	Aged Ram
Reserve Male Champion	
A Digweed	Ram Lamb
Female Champion	
R & J Bett	Ewe Lamb
Reserve Female Champion	
O James	Aged Ewe

Lamb Champion	
A Digweed	Ram Lamb
Reserve Lamb Champion	
R & J Bett	Ewe Lamb
Overall Champion	
R & J Bett	Aged Ram
Overall Reserve	
A Digweed	Ram Lamb



Overall Champion Shearling Ram – Yarburgh Adventuruer R & J Bett



Overall Reserve Ram Lamb - A Digweed

Clean sweep for R & J Bett as Yarburgh Adventurer climbs to the top again!

Not only was it the sun scorching down on the Great Yorkshire Show this year, the expertise and knowledge of our judge Miss Michelle Lakey, Westlake Flock, Norfolk, was also shining through on the impeccable quality of sheep which had been put on show.

Catching Michelle's eye and taking prime position of the day was Overall Champion & Male Champion Ram, Yarburgh Adventurer. Adventurer being no stranger to the show ring, recently won Overall Breed Champion at The Three Counties National Show this year. He is sired by Yarburgh Wright who was last year's Overall Breed Champion at The Three Counties National Show.

R & J Bett's amazing Success continued, sweeping the boards winning Reserve Overall Champion & Female Champion with their Aged Ewe, Reserve Champion Female with their ewe lamb and Reserve Champion Male with their

ram lamb. Richard and Jades impeccable show of sheep then went on to also win the Pairs and Group of Three classes as well.

Our Judge Michelle commented on what a tremendous representation of the breed, throughout all of the classes each vendor had on show. Her Champion of the day was a Ram that showed all the characteristics she was looking for and would have happily taken him home. The standard of the sheep really were a credit to the breed and it was an honour to be asked to judge such a prestigious show and selection of sheep.

Show Results Judge: Miss M Lakey, Westlake Flock

Male Champion

R & J Bett Ram Shearling or Over Yarburgh Adventurer

Reserve Male Champion

R & J Bett Ram Lamb Yarburgh Boom Town

Female Champion

R & J Bett Ewe 2 Shear or Over Yarburgh Wanted

Reserve Female Champion

R & J Bett Ewe Lamb Yarburgh Blossom

Overall Champion

R & J Bett Ram Shearling or Over Yarburgh Adventurer

Overall Reserve

R & J Bett Ewe 2 Shear or over Yarburgh Wanted



Overall Champion Yarburgh Adventurer



Overall Reserve Yarburgh Wanted

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Maedi Visna (MV) Accreditation A Simple Guide for Berrichon Breeders

The Premium Sheep and Goat Health Scheme (PSGHS)

is the main UK health scheme for sheep and goats. It is run by SRUC and helps breeders prove that their animals are free from serious diseases. One of the most important of these is **Maedi Visna (MV)**. PSGHS is widely used across the UK and is increasingly important for breeding, showing, selling and exporting sheep.

Maedi Visna is a slow but damaging virus. It affects the lungs and nervous system and causes weight loss, breathing problems, poor fertility and reduced performance. There is no cure and no vaccine. Once a sheep is infected, it remains infected for life. MV is often called an “iceberg disease” because sheep can look healthy for years while the virus spreads through the flock.

MV spreads through:

- Close contact and breathing in infected air
- Milk and colostrum from ewe to lamb
- Shared housing, equipment and transport

Around **10–12% of UK flocks** are thought to carry MV, and the number is rising.

Over time, MV causes:

- Lower milk yield and slower lamb growth
- Fewer lambs born
- Higher culling rates and earlier culling
- Loss of valuable pedigree sheep and genetics
- Lower sale prices and fewer buyers

For Berrichon breeders, this can seriously damage both flock value and reputation.

Monitoring or Accreditation – what’s the difference?

PSGHS offers two main ways to manage MV:

Monitoring and **Accreditation**. These are often confused, but they are very different in what they offer.

Monitoring

Monitoring is the lower level. It means the flock is being regularly checked for MV, but it is not officially classed as disease-free. Monitoring can be useful as an early warning system, as it can show if MV is starting to appear in a flock.

However, monitored flocks:

- Cannot sell in MV-accredited sale sections
- Cannot enter MV-accredited show classes
- Are not accepted for export to countries that require MV freedom
- May be less attractive to pedigree buyers

Monitoring tells you what is happening in your flock, but it does not give the strong market advantages that accreditation does.

Accreditation

Accreditation is the **gold standard**. An MV-accredited flock is officially recognised as being free from MV and managed in a way that keeps it that way. This status is backed up by testing, records and strict biosecurity rules.

MV-accredited flocks:

- Can sell breeding stock in accredited sales
- Can enter MV-accredited show classes
- Are listed on official health databases
- May be eligible for export
- Are more attractive to serious pedigree buyers

For breeders, accreditation is not just about disease control – it is also about protecting the value of their stock and opening doors to better markets.

How accreditation is gained and kept

To gain and keep MV accreditation, flocks must meet certain standards. This includes regular testing, but just as important is **how the flock is managed**. Accredited flocks must be protected from contact with lower-health animals, and clear records must be kept of movements, purchases and sales.

Key parts of the scheme include:

- Routine health testing
- Careful control of bought-in animals
- Strong fencing and separation from other flocks
- Safe use of housing, grazing, equipment and transport
- Use of MV-accredited milk and colostrum for lambs

These rules are there to stop MV being brought into clean flocks.

Why this matters for Berrichon breeders

British Berrichon sheep are valued for their looks, breeding ability and long working life. MV can quietly destroy all of these. Accreditation gives breeders confidence that they are protecting their animals and their investment.

It also gives buyers confidence. When someone buys an MV-accredited Berrichon sheep, they know it comes from a flock that is tested, managed and protected. This helps maintain the reputation of the breed and supports higher prices for good quality breeding stock.

As MV continues to rise across the UK, **accreditation is one of the best tools available** to protect both flock health and the future of the Berrichon breed.



Premium Sheep & Goat Health Schemes

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