



the perfect partner

COMBI CLAMP

USER TESTIMONIAL



SOLD to Every Sheep Farmer

Busy sheep farmers, be they hobby farmers or top professionals, should be utilising a Ritchie Combi Clamp to help them manage their sheep more efficiently says Kivell auctioneer director Mark Bromell.

He and his family are part of a sheep farming family that span generations closely linked to the Longwool sheep breed. Running a flock of 100 ewes on their North Devon small holding has encouraged Mark and Sue Bromell's son Will and daughter Emily to engage fully in the farm's animal stock development.

The children look after the family's chickens and ducks whilst Will has even reared some pigs to monitor the husbandry required and economics for the future business development.

The family have bred their own flock of pedigree Llyen and Longwool sheep over several years but with the children's involvement has allowed it to grow to its present level. However with both Mark and Sue living and working busy lives beyond the small holding management decisions had to be made to make stock handling easy, safe and able to be carried out during winter evenings after the main work was complete.

The Combi Clamp was seen on Ritchie's stand at the Royal Cornwall Show in 2010, where it made an instant impression for its unique sheep handling approach. Minimal physical effort is needed to hold a sheep firmly within the soft-sided sheep race with the Combi Clamp's wrap around effect providing a secure grip. Sheep stay calm whilst being treated safely as they are unable to rear up or sit down

within the Combi Clamp. The user's body weight is all that is required to operate a spring loaded pressure plate at the side of the race. Operating hands free, Mark has more time to deal with husbandry tasks reducing physical stress on both himself and animal.

Purchased after a farm demonstration the Combi Clamp originally was moved from field to field and used in all weathers whenever time allowed and sheep treatment was needed. As the Bromell's life became busier, children grew bigger and the flock expanded, a permanent sheep handling, lambing building was deemed beneficial and essential.

Installed now on a permanent site within the building, sheep treatment can safely and easily be carried out at night under arc lighting and in the dry with the flock often being treated fortnightly during the winter months.

The simplicity of the system and the fact that the sheep quickly settle into being handled securely means that Mark often works on his own when family homework takes priority. The unit adjusts easily to accommodate the variation in sizes of the two different breeds, with the wider body long wools needing more room than the tall-legged Llyen. Pregnant ewes and lambs are also safely accommodated.

Tagging, drenching and health checks are now completed quickly and efficiently as neither Sue nor Mark need to fight the sheep, as brute strength to keep the animal still whilst being treated is no longer needed.

"It's the best thing Dad ever bought!"

