

**TABLE C8. Lowland sheep gross margins in Wales, 2005/06.**

<b>Flock Size</b>	<b>&lt;300</b>	<b>&gt;300</b>	<b>All flocks</b>
Number of flocks	23	35	58
Average farm area - actual hectares	102.22	137.68	123.62
- effective hectares	97.34	129.83	116.94
Average size of farm business (ESU)	97.81	68.64	80.21
Flock size (numbers)	151	591	416
Lambs reared per ewe	1.36	1.32	1.32
Finished lambs sold per ewe	1.47	1.29	1.32
<b>OUTPUT (£ per ewe)</b>			
Lamb sales - store	0.00	1.66	1.42
- finished	62.57	58.90	59.43
Ewe and ram sales	8.47	2.88	3.68
Other sheep sales	5.21	2.81	3.16
Wool sales	1.41	1.44	1.44
Sheep compensation - Chernobyl	0.00	0.00	0.00
Closing valuation	58.38	61.78	61.29
Less - purchases	13.31	16.39	15.95
- opening valuation	66.89	58.93	60.07
<b>Gross output</b>	<b>55.84</b>	<b>54.15</b>	<b>54.40</b>
<b>VARIABLE COSTS (£ per ewe)</b>			
Purchased concentrates	5.82	5.83	5.83
Home grown concentrates	2.91	1.82	1.98
Coarse fodder and tack	0.45	0.49	0.49
Veterinary and medicines	3.70	3.55	3.57
Sheep other livestock costs	7.33	5.27	5.57
Allocatable contracting	1.01	0.73	0.77
<b>Total variable costs</b>	<b>21.22</b>	<b>17.69</b>	<b>18.21</b>
<b>Gross margin before forage costs</b>	<b>34.62</b>	<b>36.46</b>	<b>36.19</b>
Forage variable costs per ewe	9.68	7.64	7.92
<b>Gross margin including forage costs</b>	<b>24.94</b>	<b>28.82</b>	<b>28.27</b>
<b>SHEEP FORAGE VARIABLE COSTS (£ per ewe)</b>			
Fertilisers, seeds and sprays	5.50	5.04	5.10
Forage contracting	2.16	1.60	1.68
Grass keep	1.36	0.59	0.70
Other forage costs	0.66	0.41	0.44
<b>Total forage variable costs to sheep</b>	<b>9.68</b>	<b>7.64</b>	<b>7.92</b>
% of forage costs to sheep	25.95	57.16	44.78