

39. Pheasants breeders - overwintered

All valuations expressed in pence per bird

Week	2nd Feb	9th Feb	16th Feb	23rd Feb	2nd March	9th March	16th March
Valuation	1575	1650	1726	1801	1876	1952	2027

Week	23rd March	30th March	6th April	13th April	20th April	27th April	4th May
Valuation	2102	2177	2253	2328	2092	1855	1619

Week	11th May	18th May	25th May	1st June	8th June	15th June
Valuation	1382	1146	909	673	436	200

Overwintered breeders have a significantly higher value than bought-in birds at all points during the breeding cycle. This is because of the additional costs of retaining the birds throughout the autumn/winter months. Those that choose to overwinter breeders are prepared to cover these additional costs because of the known heritage/background of the birds. In most cases, breeders will choose to retain some of their own growers as future breeders and overwinter the birds themselves. In some cases, however, farmers will buy-in overwintered breeders.

Because of the difference in initial purchase value at the start of the breeding season, (approximately £12 - £14 for an overwintered breeder c.f. £5 for a caught-up bird), it is essential that the valuer is satisfied that the birds are actually derived from overwintered stock rather than having been bought-in as caught-up birds.

Where farmers retain a closed overwintered flock (i.e. overwinter their own birds), separate overwintering pens should be seen, which will show clear signs of use. Further evidence will be obtained by going through farm records which should indicate that the birds have been held on the premises from (at least) the end of September through to the end of January.

In the case of a farmer buying-in overwintered stock, the most reliable evidence is likely to be in the form of receipts obtained for the purchase of the birds. These should state that the birds are 'overwintered', rather than 'caught-up'. The price paid for the birds should also provide a clue to their provenance. Overwintered breeders have a typical purchase cost of between £12- £14. The equivalent cost at the start of the breeding season of a 'caught-up' breeder is about £5.

Where the date of the required valuation does not exactly align with the weeks above, a pro-rata figure should be calculated.