

DALMALLY RAM SALE

Averages: 570 shearling rams, £732 (+£252.49 for 30 more); 172 ram lambs, £624 (+£36.07 for 10 more).

The opening of United Auctions' new-look, shiny metal market at Dalmally was christened in style for the annual Blackface ram sale, which attracted a much improved show of shearling rams and tup lambs and, as a result no fewer than seven five-figure prices backed up by increased averages in both sections and, not surprisingly, an extremely 'cheery' bunch of sheep breeders come the end of the day.

From a lead price of £44,000 for a shearling from Mary McCall Smith, Connachan, Crieff, complete with four five-figure sales from Ian Hunter's Dalchirla consignment from Muthill, a £14,000 shearling from Willie Dunlop, Elmscleugh, and another at £10,000 from Sandy and Tommy Patterson, Auchloy, Crieff, the shearling average rose by a massive £250 per head on the year for 30 more sold.



Highland Storm, the top priced shearling from Connachan which sold for £44,000 to the Lurg, Gass, Lougash and Dalchirla.

Ram lambs were also in demand peaking at £9000 twice for the best from Dalchirla and Elmscleugh.

However, it was increased number of buyers – both old and new and from all corners of Scotland, Ireland and the north of England – that was most impressive, and helped to bolster the overall trade.

And while the sale got off to a great start, it was nevertheless, late in the day before the real heat got up and the fireworks began to fly for the pen leader from the Connachan consignment brought out by shepherd Robert Cockburn.

This was Highland Storm, a shearling by an Auchloy-bred son of a £10,000 Dalchirla, out of a ewe by Connachan Rooney – one of 1100 breeding ewes in the flock.

He was knocked down at £44,000 with Connachan retaining a quarter share. The remaining buyers, who payed £8250 each, were Ewen Macmillan, Lurg, Fintry, Glasgow; Andrew Kay, Gass Straiton; John and Charlie Harkin, Loughash, Co Tyrone, and later, Ian Hunter, Dalchirla, who bought a share after the sale.

Dalchirla wasn't out of pocket for long though, when the flock's consignment of 65 shearlings and ram lambs, brought out by Ian and his brother Alan, cashed in at £2436 per head.

Tops at £26,000 was the number two shearling, a son of the £28,000 Midlock, bought at Lanark,



The £23,000 from Dalchirla which sold to Grimmet and Midlock.

in 2007, out of a ewe by a £28,000 Dalchirla. Used at home as a lamb, and the sire of three of the flock's ram lambs, he sold in a two-way split to Alastair MacArthur, Nunnerie, Elvanfoot and John Campbell and Sons, Glenrath, Peebles.

Home-bred bloodlines were behind the majority of Dalchirla sheep including the flock's number nine which made £23,000 selling to Jim McWhirter, Grimmet, Dalmellington and Allan Wight, Midlock, Crawford. He is by Mourinho, a Dalchirla-bred sheep retained for breeding that bred shearling sons to £36,000 and tup lambs to £11,000 last year, out of a ewe by a home-bred son of Dalchirla Tiger.



Two Dalchirla shearlings made £12,000, with the first and pen leader being purchased by Northern Ireland breeders, Robert and John Loughrey of Lislane Road, Gortamey and Temain Road, Limavady, respectively. He is by a home-bred son of Mourinho and out of a ewe by The Fox, a £20,000 Connachan. Fellow Irishman, Brendan McAllister, Glenorm, Ballymena, bought the next £12,000 shearling, a direct son of Mourinho out of a Fox mother.



The third Dalchirla shearling – by Jose, a home-bred sheep that sold for £7500 last year, out of a ewe by the Fox – came under the hammer for £6000 selling to Neil Manning, Earlshaugh, Tweedsmuir, Biggar.

Dalchirla ram lambs also proved popular selling to a top of £9000 to average £3113. Pen leader this time was a son of 3D, a £14,000 Elmscleugh bought in 2007 as a lamb, out of a ewe by a home-bred son of a £6000 Dalchirla. Buying back some of their own genetics, he was knocked down to Willie Dunlop and sons Quintin and William, who also enjoyed a cracking trade for sheep from their Elmscleugh flock at Dunbar, and Connachan.

The first Dalchirla lamb, by Billy the Kid – a £10,000 Drumgrange lamb bought here last year – also made the grade selling for £7000 to Billy MacFarlane and sons Joe and Alfie, Drumgrange, Patna. His mother, one of 1100 ewes at Dalchirla bred pure, is by the Tiger.

Minutes later, Graham and Colin McClymont, Cuil, Palnure, Newton Stewart, went to £6000 for a lamb by a home-bred son of 3D retained for breeding, out of a ewe by the Tiger.

Sons of the number two Dalchirla shearling which made £26,000, peaked at £4800 for the number three Dalchirla lamb. Nunnerie wrote the cheque for this bare lamb out of a ewe by a £24,000 Dalchirla.

Elmscleugh sheep brought out by the Dunlop family and shepherd Robert Bell, regularly hit the headlines at Lanark, and they proved popular at Dalmally last weekend too, when their shearlings and tup lambs sold to £14,000 and £9000, respectively.

Tops was a son of a £20,000 Midlock out of £15,000 Dyke daughter purchased in a three-way split by Connachan, Jimmy and Donald MacGregor, Dyke, Milton of Campsie and Charlie Phillips, Finglen, Draperstown, Northern Ireland.

His son, a tup lamb out of a ewe by a £24,000 Allanfauld, earlier made £9000 for Elmscleugh, selling to Willie and Euan Bennie, Merkins, Gartocharn.

The last of the five-figure prices at £10,000 came for the best from Sandy and Tommy Patterson, who run just 130 ewes at Auchloy, Crieff.

Producing a personal best here for this father and son team, was another by the same Auchloy-bred son of £10,000 Dalchirla, that produced the £44,000 Highland Storm, while the mother is by a home-bred son of Connachan Highland Gold. Auchloy retained a quarter share, with the remaining £7500 split between Robert McInnes and Stuart Heads, Aitkenhead, Fenwick and Andy Woodburn and son Andy, Netherwood, Muirkirk.

Ewen Macmillan, Lurg, Fintry, was another to retain a share of his best which made £9000. This was the pen leader, a shearling son of a £250 Lurg which had been used as home as a lamb out of a ewe by a £2000 Allanfauld. Lurg retained a half share with the remaining £4500 purchased by John and George Macpherson, Balliemanoach, Dalmally.

The celebrations ran well into the night too following the sale of Davie and Jock Jackson's shearlings from Pole, Lochgoilhead, which met a flying trade with sales at £8500 and another three hitting the £5000 bracket. The father and son team, along with shepherd Richard Smith, Davie's nephew, who manage 2000 ewes at Pole, saw their number two make £8500 to Allan Wight and son Allan, Midlock, Crawford. This was a son of a £4000 Midlock out of a £7500 Crossflat-sired ewe that stood first at Dalmally and Cowal shows.

Two of the £5000 Pole shearlings were by a £24,000 Dalchirla, with the first, out of a ewe by a £2000 Dyke, selling to Gerrard McGinn, Chirmorrie, Barrhill, while the latter, which stood first at Mid Argyll, out of a ewe by Rambo, a £24,000 Midlock, was knocked down to Brisbane Glen Estates, Outerwards, West Kilbride, JN McNicol, Fechan, Dalry and Neil Caskie and Sons, Dowries, Greenock.

The last of the £5000 shearlings from the Jacksons, was purchased by Robert Aitken, Overton, Fintry. The breeding behind this cracker includes a £4800 Overton, onto a ewe by Rambo.

OTHERLEADINGprices:

Shearling rams – £3800 – A MacArthur, Nunnerie, by a £20,000 Midlock, to J Jackson and Son, Pole; JR MacGregor, Dyke, by a home-bred son of Travis, to A MacGregor, Allanfauld, Kilsyth and Pole. **£3200** – Dalchirla, by a £7500 Dalchirla, to J and G Sinclair, Crookston, Heriot.

£3000 – J Campbell and Sons, Glenrath, by a £17,000 Glenrath, to J Little, Letar, Callander.

£2800 – Dalchirla, by a £28,000 Midlock to I Thomson, Holylee, Walkerburn and E MacMillan, Traquair Hill, Innerleithen

£2500 – M Simpson, Sidlaw, by Midlock Big Al, to I Kennedy Moffat, Lochurr, Moniaive, Thornhill and R Nixon, Marbrack, Carsphairn; W Graham, Craigdarroch, by a £9000 Dyke, to Crookston; Elmscleugh, by a £24,000 Dalchirla, to Faccombe Estates, Hopes, Gifford; Dalchirla, to Craigengillan Estates, Beoch Loch Doon. **£2400** – Glenrath, by a £17,000 Glenrath to Letar.

£2200 – Dalchirla, by a £28,000 Midlock to G Mair, Meikleholm, Lockerbie

£2000 – W McNicol, Cladich, by a £550 Burnhead, to Glenstrae Farm; Dalchirla by Dalchirla McKay, to RW Smith, Wileysike, Gilsland, Cumbria; Dalchirla, to RW Smith, Wileysike; Dalchirla by a £3500 Connachan, to Meikleholm.

Ram lambs – £4800 – Dalchirla, by the £26,000 Dalchirla shearling to CC Macarthur, Nunnerie, Elvanfoot. **£3700** – H Blackwood, Auldhouseburn, by an £8000 Crossflat, to I Maclarty, Littleport, St Fillans. **£3500** – Dalchirla, by a £10,000 Drumgrange, to R MacKay, Millpark, Oban, W McNicol, Cladich, Dalmally and Glenstrae Farm.

£2400 – Auldhouseburn, by an £8000 Crossflat, to A Woodburn and Son, Netherwood, Muirkirk, and J Murray, Crossflat, Muirkirk. **£2200** – Auldhouseburn, by an £8000 Crossflat, to D McVicar, Lephinchapel, Strachur; Dalchirla, by the £26,000 Dalchirla shearling, to Glenrinnies Farm, Duffton and K Fairlie, Glencally, West Balmirmer, Arbroath. **£2000** – Elmscleugh, by a £20,000 Midlock, to I Maclarty, Littleport

Flock averages:

Flock (No)	Top (£)	Av 2009	2008
Shearling rams			
Letar (8)	450	312.50	334
Roromore (10)	700	458.00	350
Glencally (4)	200	170.00	367
Sidlaw (3)	2500	960.00	56
West Bracklinn (8)	450	275.00	
Drumgrange (5)	300	172.00	137
Midlock (14)	1300	682.14	451
Cladich (15)	2000	463.33	343
Rannoch (3)	450	350.00	–
Dyke (11)	3800	722.73	475

Gass (5)	700	334.00	139
Auldhouseburn (3)	1600	1100	–
Shenlarich (6)	500	370.00	217
Milton of Aberarder (4)	450	337.50	268
Kingledores (7)	800	417.14	484
Dullater (8)	550	380.00	238
East Bracklinn (6)	350	291.66	446
(3 aged)	1100	550.00	–
Lurg (8)	9000	1591.25	1157
Drumdarroch (5)	180	120.00	–
Shields (5)	500	320.00	–
Keilator (6)	300	186.00	155
Pole (13)	8500	2200.00	2067
Shankhead (4)	300	200.00	–
Kilbride and Cowburn (10)	1100	560.00	–
Lorgbaw Croft (5)	600	262.00	–
Dall (6)	450	303.33	371
(two-shear) (5)	700	390.00	–
(three-shear) (5)	350	274.00	–
(shepherd) (4)	450	362.50	–
Dunruchan (8)	350	225.00	218
Logiealmond (8)	250	170.00	144
Greenside (4)	400	275.00	–
Craigdarroch (6)	2500	808.33	–
Burnhead (5)	350	254.00	–
Doldy (9)	180	144.44	235
Glenrath (7)	3000	1114.28	273
Outerwards (7)	500	292.85	284
Bragleenmore (6)	400	275.00	333
Garraron (5)	500	350.00	–
Dalreoch (3)	300	250.00	–
Lurgan (8)	400	265.00	250
Allanfauld (10)	650	450.00	314
Mitchellhill (8)	900	406.25	328
Wileysike (6)	1000	306.66	1774
Kindrum Park (3)	150	130.00	–
Auchloy (11)	10,000	1481.81	302
North Amulree (10)	850	340.00	290
Nunnerie (11)	3800	704.54	658
Connachan (9)	44,000	5327.78	480
Merkins (8)	850	493.75	711
Pirntaton (4)	700	425.00	412
Arnicle (14)	800	288.00	477
Grains and Crimpcramp (5)	750	400.00	134
Elmscleugh (8)	14,000	2581.25	530
Gosland (6)	800	325.00	480

Dalchirla (53)	26,000	2281.13	1576
Succoth-Ardeonaig (7)	400	242.85	168
Dalwyne (3)	180	146.66	–
Braes of Ardeonaig (11)	320	230.00	–
Glengorm (4)	350	262.50	200
Westerhall (6)	750	370.00	132
Cromlix (8)	550	406.25	344
Remony (8)	1200	483.75	379
Balliemeanoch (7)	1500	714.28	300

Ram lambs

Keilator (3)	200	156.67	–
West Bracklinn (4)	450	312.50	316
Balliemeanoch (3)	900	373.33	234
Lephinchapel (5)	700	336.00	283
Glen, Innerleithen (3)	600	366.67	–
Pirntaton (3)	800	466.67	–
Knock O Ropnald (5)	220	146.00	140
Jaw (4)	250	175.00	160
Dalwyne (5)	200	88.00	–
Tullochan (4)	280	155.00	125
Croftness (5)	700	300.00	–
Keirs (3)	100	100.00	–
West Lethans (3)	500	273.33	–
Glenrath (5)	800	476.00	266
Gosland (5)	350	154.00	200
Lower Tirinie (4)	90	60.00	–
Nunnerie (3)	1000	550.00	–
Mitchellhill (3)	400	306.67	200
Drumgrange (4)	150	112.50	3517
Auldhouseburn (3)	3700	2766.67	583
Gavinburn (3)	500	233.33	–
Connachan (3)	900	533.33	330
Outerwards (3)	200	160.00	–
Greenside (3)	700	593.33	–
Aitkenhead (3)	500	333.33	–
Midlock (8)	1800	775.00	333
Elmscleugh (8)	9000	1806.25	582
Braes of Ardeonaig (3)	220	156.67	127
Dall (5)	250	180.00	–
Glencally (3)	350	240.00	–
Craigend (5)	250	224.00	160
Dalchirla (12)	9000	3112.50	2230
Burnhead (3)	220	190.00	207