

STIRLING RAM SALE - Report and photos courtesy of The Scottish Farmer.

averages: 578 Shearling rams, £529 (+£69.71 for 68 more sold); 193 ram lambs, £463 (+£80.54 for 51 more sold).

THE FIRST Blackface ram sale at the new market at Stirling, was hailed a huge success for all concerned, with an increased entry not only attracting a larger audience but also higher averages in both the shearling and ram lamb sections.

There were concerns that the increased numbers, which, together with the Perth Ram Society's annual show and sale of rams being staged in the same mart for the first time, would result in a much later than normal finishing time. However, with auctioneers selling 90+ rams to the hour, the combined catalogued entry of 1328 head through two sales rings was finished before 6pm, with the first ring concluded by 5pm.

"It has been a very satisfactory trade, and we had a lot more buyers here from all over the UK," said auctioneer David Leggat, who pointed out that the new centre had coped well with the numbers and the extra vendors and buyers who also had to be 'fed and watered' accordingly, either in the market's own cafeteria or in a refreshment/catering marquee.

Overall, the sale was led by a Perth-type shearling ram that sold for the top price of £11,000 (see page 22), but it was the south-type sheep that secured the lead averages with ram lambs particularly in demand.

Top price at £6000 was a half-share of a lamb from Hugh Blackwood and son, Alan, Auldhouseburn, Muirkirk. Their sale leader is by 007, a £37,000 Glen, Gatehouse, that was a former champion at the Highland Show. He was purchased by Jim Logan, Pirntaton, Galashiels, who bought the share for £3000, with the Blackwoods retaining the remaining half share. The mother is by a £30,000 Glenrath.

Auldhouseburn also produced the second top lamb sale at £5000. This was paid for a son of a £5500 Auldhouseburn lamb sold at Lanark in 2007, of which a half share was retained, while the dam is by a £20,000 Glenrath. Forging out the cash for this lamb was Alec Waugh, Mitchellslacks, Thornhill, Dumfries.

Next best, at £4200, was the pen leader from Ewen Macmillan, Lurg, Fintry, purchased by his namesake, Euan McMillan, of Traquair Hill, Innerleithen, and Willie Dunlop, Elmscleugh, Innerwick, Dunbar. The breeding behind this much talked about ram lamb was a tup lamb bought last year at Dalmally for £2800 from Catherine MacGregor, Allanfauld, that was a son of a £13,000 Midlock, onto a ewe by a £700 Lurg.

Two lambs came under the hammer for £3500 including the best from the Simpson brothers, Mark and David from Blairgowrie. This was their reserve champion at Strathardle Show, by a £3800 home-bred son of Midlock Big Al, out of a ewe by a £600 Connachan, purchased by Peter Junor, Ballaggan, Dores, Inverness.

Minutes later, John Murray, Crossflat, Muirkirk, received the same money for a son of an £8000 Dyke, out of a Sonic-sired ewe. The buyers were Jimmy MacGregor and son, Donald, Dyke, Milton of Campsie, and Archie MacGregor and son John, Allanfauld, Kilsyth.

Young Gordon MacDougall recorded his best ever sale from Drumquhastle, Blair Drummond. Selling for just the third time at this event, he received £2800, from Jim Boswell, Burnhead, Darvel, for his reserve champion at Dalmally Show, a son of an £1800 Auldhouseburn ram bought at Lanark, out of a home-bred ewe by a £1400 Allanfauld.

The same sire was behind two £2200 sales from Davie Gray, Drumnessie, Banton. The first was purchased by the Taylor family, from Dall, Killin, Perthshire, who received the same money for a son of a Nunnerie sire from Ian Malcolm, Cromlix, Wester Coilechat, Callander. The second from Drumnessie goes out to work at Glenferdate, Enochdhu, Blairgowrie, managed by John McLellan.

In the shearling ring, the trade topped at £4200 for the best from Willie and Ewan Bennie's Merkins consignment from Gartocharn. Sired by a £6000 Gosland tup, and out of a home-bred ewe by a £3800 Midlock, this one sold to Invergeldie, Comrie, managed by Murray McTier.

Another the same way bred from Merkins reached £2800, selling to Prof Penny, for Harehead and Bothwell Farms, managed by Neil Anderson, at Duns.

Two Merkins tups hit the £2000 mark, including one by a £1300 Midlock, out of a £3200 Midlock-sired dam, which sold to Seamus Campbell, Shields, Milton of Campsie. For the same money, Messrs Shearer, Hillhead of Morinsh, Glenlivet, bought a son of a £3000 Dalchirla, out of a ewe by a £1600 Midlock.

Selling at £4000 early in the sale, was a shearling from Jake and Robert Aitken, Overton, Fintry. Got by a £7000 Dyke sire and out of a ewe by Bighorn, this one, christened Overton Lucky because it was lot number 13, sold to Malcolm Coubrough, Manorhead, Biggar.

Matching that price tag was one from James Duncan Millar, Remony, Aberfeldy, a son of a £750 Dyke tup, out of a dam by a £5500 Craigdarroch. A recorded tup, he sold to Alex Brewster, Rotmell, Ballinluig, Pitlochry.

Leading the Kilbride and Cowburn consignment, for Robert Dixon, who was selling for the first time off the recently acquired Cowburn unit, at Lockerbie, was a shearling at £2800 that sold to Billy Renwick, Blackhouse, Yarrow. He is by a £3000 Blackhouse shearling out of an Allanfauld-bred ewe.

Also at £2800 was a son of a £42,000 Midlock, out of a ewe by a £2200 Finglen, from Ewen Macmillan, Lurg, which sold to Charlie McMillan, Ardbeg, Port Ellen, Islay.

Allan Wight and son Allan's Midlock lot, from Crawford, was led by a £2600 bid for one by a £13,000 Dyke sire, out of a ewe by a £20,000 Burnhead. He sold in a two-way split to Invergeldie and Michael Wood, Shawsknowe, Crosshill, Ayrshire.

Another by the same sire from Midlock, out of a £22,000 Dalchirla-sired dam, sold at £2000 to Burncastle Farming Partnership, Lauder, for the Longcroft flock.

Also selling at £2600 was a shearling from Hugh Blackwood, Auldhouseburn, Muirkirk, purchased by Wanwood Hill, Olston, Cumbria. He is by a £6500 Auldhouseburn tup that was sold at Newton Stewart two years ago, with a half share retained, while the dam is by a £49,000 Glenrath.

The best from Iain Malcolm's Cromlix lot, reached £2200, selling to Billy Laidler, Handaxwood, Fauldhouse, Bathgate. He is by a £600 Dall tup bought at Dalmally as a two-shear, and out of a home-bred ewe that was part of a batch of cast ewes from Cromlix to sell for £104 at Stirling on Monday.

Another at £2200 was one from the Logans' Overshiels lot, a son of a £1600 Kingside, Craighburn tup, out of a dam by a £800 Gosland, which sold to Kenny Matheson, Milton of Aberarder, Dores, Inverness.

Making £2000, again to Harehead and Bothwell, was one from Angus Kennedy, Mitchellhill, Broughton. He is by a home-bred shearling sold at Lanark for £6000 last year, and out of a ewe by a £3200 Connachan.

Flock (No)	Top	Ave 09	08
Shearling rams			
Crosswood Hill (5)	600	390.00	230
Tinnis (10)	1300	411.00	692
Elmscleugh (8)	1200	618.75	633
Fechan (5)	900	530.00	457
Chirmorrie (6)	200	175.00	140
Dyke (13)	900	561.53	518
Crosswoodburn (6)	1200	600.00	671
Nunnerie			
Wintercleugh (4)	180	152.50	–
Bothwell (7)	1000	525.71	550
Campshead (7)	500	242.86	183
Overton (8)	4000	883.75	677
Kirkstead (5)	700	440.00	761
Braidshawrig (6)	500	358.33	100
Hartside-			
Lammermuir (6)	1000	691.66	–
West Bracklinn (5)	400	254.00	–
Glenrinnnes			
Estates (4)	350	255.00	244

Knock o' Ronald (3)	450	316.66	197
Holylee (8)	400	278.75	216
Blackhouse (12)	500	349.16	349
Dryhope (4)	1800	725.00	–
Craigdarroch,			
Glenwhern (12)	1000	479.16	688
Glenrath (15)	900	671.33	358
Outerwards (10)	1200	640.00	431
Townhead			
Yarrow (6)	300	283.33	–
Hutlerburn (5)	350	246.00	–
Nunnerie (12)	1100	473.33	284
Overshiels (6)	2200	1166.66	840
Midlock (16)	2600	850.00	639
Hopes (5)	350	270.00	–
Troloss (9)	350	221.11	186
Glen,			
Innerleithen (13)	1600	464.61	371
Cromlix (12)	2200	716.00	419
East Bracklinn (12)	1000	537.50	–
Grains and			
Crimp Cramp (5)	600	430.00	437
Clashnoir (8)	300	238.75	297
Dunruchan (8)	900	525.00	318
Meggethead (4)	200	190.00	203
Plenderleith,			
Pennymuir (8)	650	246.25	–
Shields (3)	700	566.66	–
Plenderleith (8)	400	263.75	625
Connachan (17)	1300	572.35	413
Kilbride and			
Cowburn (5)	2800	1030.00	–
Kingledores (8)	1000	400.00	544
Mitchellhill (8)	2000	893.75	370
Parkhall (3)	180	126.66	–
Auldhouseburn (5)	2600	1230.00	1060
Mountbenger (8)	500	321.25	291
Burncastle (10)	700	435.00	460
Merkins (10)	4200	1830.00	2248
Drumardoch (3)	300	246.00	267
Lurg (4)	2800	962.50	450
North Amulree (6)	500	260.00	–
Silloans (3)	800	533.33	–
Whelphill (7)	600	350.00	570
Letar (10)	1000	620.00	474
Williamhope (7)	800	324.28	298

Gosland (16)	1200	621.87	611
Craigend (6)	450	325.00	350
Hillhouse (6)	250	186.66	114
Remony (10)	4000	965	394
Merkins,			
Westside (9)	1800	727.77	797
Crookston (5)	2900	580.00	466
Westerhall (7)	200	172.86	244
Milton of			
Aberarder (4)	800	550.00	–
Livet			
Achdregnie) (6)	1400	633.33	330
Doldy (South) (6)	1500	758.33	–
Longcroft (6)	1000	500.00	542
Goslandcleugh (5)	500	360.00	–
Glenfermate (6)	900	400.00	–
East Merkland (3)	280	250.00	115
Gavinburn (6)	700	400.00	258
Craigdarroch (9)	1800	1066.66	688
Cramalt Megget (4)	450	265.00	228
Allanfauld (4)	1000	600.00	419
Ram lambs			
Drumnessie (5)	2200	1120.00	750
Drumquhastle (3)	2800	1083.33	–
Glenrath (4)	700	340.00	180
Crossflat (3)	3500	1416.67	–
Dall (15)	2200	470.00	258
Crammie (4)	1200	725.00	–
Succoth			
Ardeonaig (10)	500	238.00	221
Shankhead (6)	120	103.33	173
Burnhead (3)	300	243.33	400
West Bracklinn (6)	1100	450.00	642
Jaw (8)	1000	348.75	163
Gosland (11)	450	190.00	275
Greenshields (3)	160	143.33	–
Mitchellhill (5)	700	268.00	–
Netherwood (4)	700	375.00	483
Connachan (6)	1200	416.67	345
Aitkenhead (4)	750	412.50	–
Burnbank (4)	150	125.00	–
Elmscleugh (6)	1800	1066.67	428
Arnicle (3)	500	333.33	–
Silloans (4)	100	85.00	–
Lurgan (5)	180	130.00	–
Lurg (3)	4500	1816.67	–

Stobohope (3)	100	86.67	
Greenside (5)	1600	760.00	
Carie (5)	150	128.00	
Midlock (8)	1300	466.25	384
Craigend (4)	200	162.50	380
Auldhouseburn (3)	6000	4000	–
Knock o' Ronald (5)	350	158.00	393



Top priced lamb from Auldhouseburn at £6000



Lurg's £4200



Gordon MacDougall received £2800



John Murray, Crossflat's £3500