

Bluefaced Leicester Sheep Breeders' Association

Autumn Review

Magazine - Autumn 2007 - Edition No. 20



Inside -
Shows & Sales
Roundup For The Year





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Special sale of 200 in-lamb registered
BLUEFACED LEICESTER FEMALES

Monday 21st January 2008

Entries close Wednesday 2nd January

Sale includes consignments of:

**25 in-lamb ewes and gimmers
from Thirlwall Castle**

&

20 in-lamb gimmers from Midlock

For further details please contact:

Harrison & Hetherington

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Burtersett Road, Hawes, North Yorkshire DL8 3NP

Saturday January 19th

Prize Show & Sale of Registered Bluefaced Leicester females for the Bluefaced Leicester Sheep Breeders' Association.

Judging 10.30 am. Sale 12.30 pm.

Entries close December 31st 2007.

Special Prize Show & Sale of individual crowned Swaledale ewes, gimmer shearlings and gimmer lambs for the Swaledale Sheep Breeders' Association. Judging 11 am.

Monday & Tuesday September 15th & 16th

The Great Annual Two Day Show & Sale of 32,000 Mule Gimmer Lambs on behalf of the North of England Mule Sheep Association. Judging 8 am. Sale 9 am each day.

Saturday September 20th

Annual Prize Show & Sale of 450 Registered Crossing Bluefaced Leicester rams on behalf of the Wales & Border Counties

Breeders Club at Buih Wells Auction Mart, Powys in

conjunction with Brightwells. Judging 9 am. Sale 10.30 am

Thursday October 2nd

Annual Prize Show & Sale of 950 Registered Bluefaced Leicester Rams & Females for the Bluefaced Leicester Sheep Breeders' Association. Judging 7.30 am. Sale 9 am.

Enquiries - R J Lund - Tel: 01969 667207 or 0797 4126397



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**Dispersal Of The
Ewanston Flock
Of Bluefaced Leicesters**

Wallets Marts Castle Douglas Limited, favoured with the instructions of M/s J Thomson & Sons who are retiring, will offer the entire flock for sale by auction on January 5th 2008.

The sale will comprise of:

- 35 Bluefaced Leicester Ewes & Gimmers in-lamb
- 16 Bluefaced Leicester Ewe Hoggs
- 1 Stock Ram

The Ewanston flock (Flock No. 1000) was established some 48 years ago and has always been a blend of both types of Bluefaced Leicester. This dispersal offers prospective purchasers an unsurpassed opportunity to secure some of the finest breeding lines in the country.

A catalogue will be available shortly and all interested parties should contact the Auctioneers or Mr Robin Thomson on 01644 420309 to arrange a viewing.



Autumn 2007

Association News



2008 Subscriptions - Gentle Reminder

If you do not pay your £25 annual subscription to the Association by standing order, please note that payment is due on **1st January 2008. No Invoices are sent out.** Non paid up members are automatically excluded from the mailing list.

Registration Documents

All members should by now have received their registration documents for 2007 lambs. These must be returned to the office by 31st December to guarantee your entry in the 2007 flock book, and to enable you to order tags in 2008. If you have not received a form for completion, or have mislaid it, please contact the office and another will be sent to you (remember, even if your lambs have an Association tag, they are not officially registered unless they are included in the flock book). Members with no lambs to register should still return a registration document, to enable their names to be recorded in the flock book.

Association Database

This project is taking shape, and our thanks must go to the Pilot Scheme members for their patience while we all learned the ropes and adjusted the system to suit the needs of our particular breed. Thank you also to those of you who have taken the time to return your 'cleansing documents' - Rachael has spent a lot of time entering missed animals on to the database and deleting those which have died. We are now gradually adding the 2007 lambs, but this will be an over-winter project. It is planned to provide members with the option of registering their lambs on-line in 2008.

Any member can go on to the database via the website and view pedigrees of the animals included so far - just go to the 'animal search', and enter details.

Website

This year due to Foot and Mouth the website proved to be an asset to members and buyers at sale time, keeping all informed of changing sale dates and decisions being made by the Association. Visits to the website in September and October were over 4,000 per month and the opportunity for flocks to advertise their stock on the web was taken up by many of the membership.

This year we have launched a range of promotional goods which can be seen at the end of this magazine. These are available on the website where an order form can be downloaded: but soon you will be able to purchase them by credit or debit card on the web.

If you have ideas or news you would like to place on the website please contact Elaine at elaine@cassington.com.

Shows, Sales and Events 2007

Finally I would like to thank all the members who assisted myself and Rachael at the Association Events this year by moving the stand, manning the stand and providing food and flowers etc. A special thanks to Phil May and 'the boys' for heaving my fully loaded car off the Royal Welsh Showground!

Christmas & New Year Arrangements

The office will be closed from 12.30 on Friday 21st December and will re-open on Thursday 3rd January 2008. Rachael and Jean send you their best wishes for Christmas and 2008.

Association Contacts -

Chairman - Syd Ivinson
Ingledene, Hunsonby, Penrith
Tel: 01768 881630

Vice-Chairman - Nicky Robinson
West Cocklaw, Humshaugh, Hexham
Tel: 01434 681362

Bluefaced Leicester

Sheep Breeders' Association

Secretary - Jean Gibbon, Furmiston,
Carsphairn, Castle Douglas DG7 3TE
Tel/Fax: 01644 460647
Email: info@blueleicester.co.uk

Front page - £7,000 Clennell ram sold at Hexham picture sale

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We look Forward To Better Times

I was elected Chairman of your Association in June, a great honour which I greatly accepted looking forward to giving 110% effort and support. After one of the best lambing times, a good dry Spring, everything looked good. I was speaking to a retired shepherd about how good the weather was for lambing, he said "Ae lad we'll suffer for this later." I don't think he meant what was to follow.

I don't need to remind you of the floods we have seen in June and July. Land underwater, crops damaged, agricultural shows cancelled due to waterlogged ground, foot and mouth to return, first case of blue tongue found in a cow on a farm in Suffolk, feed prices increased by £50-60 per ton, fuel prices gone up to over £1 per litre, fat and breeding sheep hitting rock bottom. How much more can we take as sheep farmers? Due to the waterlogged showfield Penrith Agricultural Show had to be cancelled. Penrith & District Farmers Mart came to our rescue and said we could hold the Progeny Show at the mart, with such short notice; I would like to thank Jenny and staff at the mart and all who helped to make it happen. It was a very tight schedule but we got there in the end. Well Done!

After Penrith I set off to Northern Ireland to Antrim Show where the first Progeny Show was being held. It was well supported in all classes. I would like to thank Antrim Show Committee for holding the event and Eamond McCormick and Seamus Okane, for getting it off the ground. They also had six rams for classification. It is ideal for this to happen at Progeny Shows. Oswestry was having their Progeny Show on the 3rd August. On the 2nd of August at 10.30 pm I got a phone call telling me not to go foot and mouth was confirmed on a farm in Surrey, it was a body blow to farming in the UK only 6 years after the 2001 outbreak, it was here again.

With sales not far away we were still under restriction for movements, Hexham mart put on a picture sale to try and help the consignment of Kelso sheep. A good many people attended, some lots got sold and the top price of the day was £7000.

Matt and Elaine Drummond who do the website for us offered vendors a page on the web for a small fee of £30, a number of vendors took up the opportunity. It became a mammoth task having to relocate live sales, working with auction companies who sell our stock, moving sales, trying to keep off other sale days with help from Regional Chairman Members, Auctioneers and the Association office we managed to fit our sales in. Sadly some rams were difficult to sell.

During sale time, I was saddened to lose a close friend to me, Robert Brough of the Bush-on-lyne flock. He successfully showed and sold Bluefaced Leicesters for many years. He will be greatly



Sid Ivinson

missed by all who knew him. The thoughts of all the members will be with his family at this time.

Let us move on to 2008 where we hope we can leave the year 2007 as history and look forward to a better time. Finally and most importantly a big thank you to Jean our Secretary for her hard work and support she has given me. Not forgetting Rachael too.

Thirlwall

Flock No 483



For Sale At Carlisle on 21st January '08
25 Ewes In-lamb

to 3 sires namely W026 Thirlwall, X010 Thirlwall sire
of £3,600 lamb sold at Carlisle this year and
X001 Snabgreen, sire of many of our top Mule lambs.

12 Ewe Lambs

sired by the 3 above sires

For further details contact - R & M Scott
Thirlwall Castle, Carlisle, Cumbria
Tel: 016977 47271/Mob: 07836 211639



**1706/X1 2006
Sire Reference Ram from Llwyg flock**



**Mule Lambs By
Signet Recorded Sire from Firth flock**

The Longwool Project

The very difficult trading conditions of 2007 serve to remind us that after the ending of direct support sheep have to perform economically against every other potential use of land or labour. The income that the keeper of Mule ewes generates from meat sales is the cash flow that in turn supports Mule producers and Bluefaced Leicester breeders. As the providers of high performance breeding sheep, we need to understand the factors that contribute to profit and continue to deliver the genetics that can out perform other potential ewe breeds.

The Longwool Project was established to see if the use of ultra sonic scanning could deliver through the Bluefaced Leicester breed some of the proven benefits seen in terminal sire breeds without negatively impacting on the all important maternal qualities of the Mule ewe. The questions the project had to address were much more complex than those faced by terminal sire breeds with many more factors contributing to optimum ewe performance. After the terminal sire breeds and hill sheep the Longwool breeds are the third most influential sector contributing 17% of the genetics that affect the quality of carcasses entering the food chain. In 1996, the delivery team including the Welsh Institute at Aberystwyth, Scottish Agricultural Colleges at Edinburgh and Adas at Rosemaund set out to identify the likely impact of recording and selecting within our Bluefaced Leicester flocks could have on Mule ewe performance and the quality of carcasses she produces.

As a first step the Bluefaced Leicester Sire Reference Scheme was established where flocks undertook to use two reference sires each year to bench mark performance between flocks and to allow a comprehensive recording of performance of all ewes and lambs within the flock. Type traits such as hair colour, skin colour and fleece were assessed along with structural soundness (mouth, legs and conformation) as well as growth rate to 8 weeks and 21 weeks with scoring for backfat and eye muscle depth. Over 3 years recording 12 flocks, 45 ram lambs of known genetic potential were selected from several hundred available to represent a range of performance, carcass quality and type of Leicester. The rams were used to produce over 1700 Mule gimmer lambs from Scotch Blackface and Welsh Hill ewes for the core project as well as a smaller demonstration flock at Newton Rigg in Cumbria which was also used to verify that the results were equally expressed through the North Of England Mule lambs.

The Mule wether lambs produced by the 45 ewes were finished under normal conditions and their performance and carcass quality recorded.

The ewe lambs were recorded for growth, scanned for fat and lean and assessed for type traits - mouth, legs and colour before being dispersed across three commercial farms where their lifetime performance were recorded. They were mated to terminal sire rams and all lambs produced were graded with a considerable number being further evaluated for lean and fat content. As well as lambing and rearing records a note of tooth loss, difficult or assisted lambing, lameness, mastitis and age and cause of death or culling was then related back to the original Bluefaced lambs used.

The comprehensive amount of information gathered meant that robust judgements could be made about the relationship between what was measured in the original Bluefaced Leicester rams and their families and the performance of the Mule wether lambs, the Mule ewes and their terminal sire lambs. The analysis of the ewes within the commercial flocks gave a new insight into what generates profit and which areas could be improved by simple recording and selection in the pure bred Blue flock as well as those factors that are already optimum. The scheme undertook a detailed economic analysis to create a weighted index that would hold lambing percentages and mature size of Mule ewes whilst producing improved milking ability and growth rates in the terminal sire lambs. The areas of greatest potential, genetic and economic gain were identified as better flocking qualities both in the Mule wether and terminal sire lambs and reducing the rate of early culling in ewes. Ewes which are lost from production early have a big impact on profits because the most production years of their lives are never reached.

Identifying and selecting within the pure flocks for good flocking animals using ultra sonic back scanning coupled with ewe families and low culling rates and good all round performance will deliver crossing rams with enhanced genetic potential. The researchers believe that after 10 years of selection using their index the economic benefit to the Mule sector could be up to £14 million with 20% coming from better Mule wether lambs and 80% trait better Mule ewe lambs. There are increasing numbers of customers looking for ewes with proven genetics behind them and the Association intends to support these wishing to record their Bluefaced Leicester flocks. The intention is to develop a simple recording scheme that will be suitable for the scale of flocks we have and a meeting of those interested in joining will be held shortly. If you are interested in being involved please contact the Association office.

2007 Show



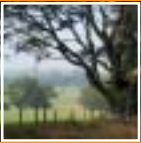
Royal Highland Champion -
J Thomson & Sons - Ewanston flock
(Judge - David Cruikshank - Nithsdale flock)



Royal Show Champion -
A Fotheringham - Craighall flock
(Judge - Wallace Parker - Hall Mains flock)

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Balmoral Champion -
McCormick Bros - Brablagh flock
(Judge - Jim Taylor - Lochill flock)

Champions



Great Yorkshire Champion -
G Shapiro - Hazelwood flock
(Judge - Frank Johnson - Ashes flock)



Royal Welsh Champion -
M C & G Roberts - Myfyrian flock
(Judge - Dennis Lumley - Nookton flock)



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Penrith Progeny



Overall Breed Champion



Reserve Overall

Despite Penrith Show being cancelled, due to the inclement weather of late, and a last minute venue being found, the numbers of sheep forward and crowd didn't disappoint at all. Many thanks must go to Penrith Farmers Market for stepping in and providing a great venue.

The day's judges, A Bisset and J Stott had to sort out some strong classes to judge, which seems to be the norm now at Penrith which has really established itself as one of the premier Blue shows in the country, with 24 entries in the ram lamb class. The champion of the show came as no real surprise, as Glen Shapiro's powerful ewe, Hazelwood Whytea. This Barlaes Elite+ daughter was the champion from the Yorkshire Show, and though she looked good at the Yorkshire, she was really on top fettle at Penrith, taking her second title in as many outings this season. Credit must go to Glen for breeding such consistently impressive Blues. Taking the reserve title was M/s Thomason from Piel View flock with a gimmer by a Barlaes (T3) sire.

Over in the Mule section, presided over by Dick Lord and James Porter, there was a very keenly contested show, with all but 2 of the entered flocks forward, producing some very strong classes in the Swaledale type classes where Neill Marston, East Highberries had a good day out winning the single and the pairs and going on to take the champion Mule with a gimmer lamb sire by a Snab Green ram, which he bought privately off William Huddleston at Snab. "I went to look at a dog at Snab, and came back with a dog and a tup!" says Neill. It seems to have paid off as the Snab tup ran the eventual progeny champions a very close second.

The champion progeny in the Mule section went to M/s James, Mid Todhills, with their Swale type Mules sired by the ever prolific home bred four shear tup, Todhills, V10, whose bloodlines go back to both icons of the crossing world, Lunesdale and Hewgill, and was the sire to the tup lambs sold at Carlisle last backend.

Finally again thanks must go to John Wharton and Jenny Sawyer for organising the day and to sponsor, Natural Stockcare Ltd, as well as all the exhibitors who turned up on a rare fine day and help make a great success of the day.



Champion Bluefaced Leicester Progeny Group



Isacc Thomason - Young Handlers Winner

Show Results



Champion Mule Progeny Group

Bluefaced Leicester Open Classes

Overall Breed Champion & Female Champion -

G Shapiro with a ewe

Reserve Overall Champion & Reserve Female Champion -

M/s Thomason with a gimmer

Male Champion - M C Robinson & Son with a ram lamb

Reserve Male Champion - M C Robinson & Son with a aged tup

Special Award For Best Skinned Sheep Male or Female -

Hannah Stenton

Aged Ram - 1. M C Robinson & Son, 2. G Shapiro, 3. M C Robinson & Son

Shearling Ram - 1. C R & S E Hill, 2. S J Crozier, 3. J & D Stenton

Ram Lamb - 1. M C Robinson & Son, 2. M C Robinson & Son, 3. S Thomason

Ewe - 1. G Shapiro, 2. M & C Drummond, 3. H Stenton

Gimmer - 1. S Thomason, 2. M & C Drummond, 3. C R & S E Hill

Ewe Lamb - 1. M C Robinson & Son, 2. J & D Stenton, 3. H Stenton

Young Handlers Awards - 1. Isacc Thomason, 2. Nicky Robinson, 3. Sammy Stenton

Bluefaced Leicester Progeny Classes

Champion Progeny Group - Three Ram Lambs With Sire - M C Robinson & Son

Reserve Progeny Group - Three Ewes By Same Sire - G Shapiro

Three Ram Lambs With Sire - 1. M C Robinson & Son, 2. G Shapiro, 3. G Shapiro

Three Ewes By Same Sire - 1. G Shapiro, 2. M & C Drummond, 3. A M Little

Three Gimmers By Same Sire - 1. M & C Drummond, 2. M C Robinson & Son, 3. G Shapiro

Three Gimmer Lambs With Sire - 1. M C Robinson & Son, 2. S J Crozier, 3. A M Little

Mule Open Classes

Two Mule Ewe Lambs Swaledale Type - 1. N Marston, 2. N Marston, 3. A Barnes

One Mule Ewe Lamb Swaledale Type - 1. N Marston, 2. N Marston, 3. A Barnes

Two Mule Ewe Lambs Blackfaced Type - 1. R D Archer & Son, 2. R D Archer & Son

One Mule Ewe Lamb Blackfaced Type By Bluefaced Leicester Sire - 1., 2. and 3. R D Archer & Son

One Other Mule Ewe Lamb By Bluefaced Leicester Sire - 1. J Common & Son, 2. J Common & Son

Mule Progeny Classes

Champion Progeny Group - K J James

Reserve Progeny Group - R D Archer & Son

Thos Edmundson Cup For Champion Mule Ewe Lamb - N Marston

Penrith Farmers & Kidds Trophy For Overall Champion In The Open Classes - N Marston

Three Mule Ewe Lambs With Sire Swaledale Type - 1. K J James, 2. N Marston, 3. A Barnes

Three Mule Ewe Lambs With Sire Blackfaced Type - 1. R D Archer & Son

Three Other Mule Ewe Lambs With Bluefaced Leicester Sire - 1. J Common & Son

Two Mule Ewe Lambs With Sire - 1. A Barnes

2007 Co. Antrim



Overall Breed Champion



Reserve Overall

Another year, another new progeny show. These progeny shows seem to have captured the imagination, and are very supported wherever they are. Antrim Show was venue for Northern Ireland's Progeny Show, and it turned out to be a good one. Not even a spell of ten minutes deluge dampened the day's atmosphere, although it did turn the field a tad muddy!

Rising to the top of the pile after a hard days work for judge Tom Crowe, with some very strong classes, was a homebred shearing tup from Michelle Wright and Seamus O'Kane from the Mullaghee flock. This tup by their Fell View R1 out of a ewe by an Ashes tup was the breed and interbreed champion at Colrairie Show, and will be retained in the flock as they think so highly of him.

Standing reserve was Timothy Wray with a really smart gimmer lamb by his Ewanston X2 ram, which was the champion at Castle Douglas a couple of years ago and bought for 5500 gns with the McCormick Bros. The Ewanston tup is really leaving his mark on the flock with his progeny winning the shearing ewe and tup lamb progeny classes, which helped him attain Elite+ status in the classification.

As mentioned Timothy Wray swept the Bluefaced Leicesters progeny classes winning the gimmer ewe and tup lamb classes and took the championship with his gimmer ewes. The progeny for the Mules was won by Michelle Wright with three Mule gimmer lambs out of Blackie ewes by the homebred ram.



Champion Mule Progeny Group From M Wright



A Young Handler At This Years Show

Progeny Show



Champion Bluefaced Leicester Progeny Group From T Wray

Bluefaced Leicester Open Classes

Overall Breed Champion -

M Wright and S O'Kane with a shearling ram

Reserve Overall Champion & Reserve Female Champion -

T Wray with a gimmer lamb

Ram Any Age - 1. J Aiken, 2. M/s McCormick Bros, 3. A J C & K Montgomery

Shearling Ram - 1. M Wright, 2. T Wray, 3. S J & R D Morrow

Ram Lamb - 1. H Forsythe, 2. M/s McCormick Bros, 3. M Wright

Ewe - 1. S J & R D Morrow, 2. J Aiken, 3. A & J Minnis

Gimmer - 1. W & T Bell, 2. A & J Minnis, 3. A & J Minnis

Ewe Lamb - 1. T Wray, 2. T Wray, 3. A & J Minnis

Group Of Three - 1. M Wright, 2. T Wray, 3. J Aiken

Bluefaced Leicester Progeny Classes

Champion Progeny Group - Three Shearling Ewes With Sire

- T Wray

Three Shearling Ewes With Sire - 1. T Wray, 2. J Aiken

Three Ram Lambs With Sire - 1. T Wray, 2. M Wright, 3. A J C & K Montgomery

Three Ewe Lambs With Sire - 1. M Wright, 2. T Wray, 3. M/s McCormick Bros

Mule Open Classes

Champion Mule - M Wright

Reserve Champion Mule - 1. M Wright

Ewe - 1. F Loughridge, 2. M Wright, 3. M/s McCormick Bros

Gimmer - 1. M Wright, 2. M Wright, 3. F Loughridge

Ewe Lamb - 1. M Wright, 2. M Wright, 3. F Loughridge

Group Of Three - 1. M Wright, 2. F Loughridge, 3. M/s McCormick Bros

Mule Progeny Classes

Three Ewe Lambs With Sire - 1. M Wright, 2. M/s McCormick Bros, 3. M/s McCormick Bros



Five Classified Rams at Penrith

2007 Classified Rams

Classified at Penrith Progeny Show

- 3359/X3 Kempt View Elite Plus** Bred by T & W Bell
Exhibited by M C Robinson & Son
- 50/X6 Lowes Fell Elite Plus** Bred by T L Forster & Son
Exhibited by M C Robinson & Son
- 840/X3 Rossiebank Elite Plus** Bred by R Neill
Exhibited by G Shapiro and P Howell
- 1939/X6 Hazelwood Elite Plus** Bred and exhibited by G Shapiro
- 470/Y1 Belgrave Elite** Bred by O Scown
Exhibited by M & C Drummond

Classified at County Antrim Show

- 1000/X2 Ewanston Elite Plus** Bred by J Thomson & Sons
Exhibited by McCormick Bros and T Wray
- 1574/X2 Firth Elite Plus** Bred by C & D Hall
Exhibited by McCormick Bros and J Holden
- 1888/X1 Greenaton Elite Plus** Bred by J I Arthur
Exhibited by J Aiken

Classified in Wales & South Regions

- 2159/W10 Cloverfield Elite Plus** Bred and exhibited by M Day
- 1706/X1 Llwygy Elite Plus** Bred and exhibited by J Binns
- 2834/Y6 Hafrena Elite Plus** Bred and exhibited by G Davies
- 2834/Y5 Hafrena Elite Plus** Bred and exhibited by G Davies
- 2834/W1 Hafrena Elite Plus** Bred and exhibited by G Davies
- 1538/X14 Midlock Elite Plus** Bred by J Wight & Sons
Exhibited by G Davies & Co
- 1763/X2 Beechlodge Elite Plus** Bred by J Brown
Exhibited by P Davies & P May
- www.blueleicester.co.uk

- 3089/Y14 Tudno Elite Plus** Bred and exhibited by G Howatson
- 3845/X1 Egton Elite Plus** Bred by H Whittall
Exhibited by S A & R P Jones
- 3363/Y37 Craig Yr Orsedd Elite Plus**
Bred and exhibited by S A & R P Jones
- 1070/Y1 Cernyw Elite Plus** Bred and exhibited by E Owen
- 1939/X18 Hazelwood Elite Plus** Bred by G Shapiro
Exhibited by E Owen
- 3363/X3 Craig Yr Orsedd Elite Plus** Bred by S A & R P Jones
Exhibited by G P Williams
- 2832/Y8 Elian Elite Plus** Bred by G P Williams & Co
Exhibited by J McLeod
- 2159/W41 Cloverfield Elite Plus** Bred and exhibited by M Day
- 3757/W7 Kilfaddoch Elite Plus** Bred by C K & A Bryson
Exhibited by H Whittall
- 2188/X27 Grugoer Elite** Bred and exhibited by M Davies



Two Classified Rams at Co. Antrim

Diseases Of Young Lambs

The principal control measures for the prevention of newborn lamb diseases include:

- adequate amounts of colostrum as soon as possible after birth
- having the ewes in good body condition so that they have good quality and a sufficient volume of colostrum and milk
- adequate disinfection of the entire navel - preferably by dipping rather than spraying which can result in incomplete coverage
- having well-bedded pens, which should be cleaned out and disinfected regularly
- turning out ewes and lambs after ewe-lamb bond formed whenever possible

It is worthwhile submitting freshly dead lambs for post-mortem to your local SAC or VLA Disease Surveillance Centre for investigation of a problem. A full range of tests to reach a diagnosis is carried out at a fixed cost. Results are reported to your veterinary surgeon who will advise on the appropriate action.

Colostrum A sufficient intake of colostrum in the first 24 hours of life is essential and will help prevent many of the infections that occur in the first two weeks of life. A lamb indoors requires around 210 ml/kg whereas a lamb outdoors will need about 280 ml/kg in the first day of life. Colostrum from ewes, cows or goats can be stored frozen for supplementing newborn lambs. Cow colostrum has drawbacks in that it is not as concentrated so the lambs need about a third more. Some cows have antibodies to sheep red cells which can result in a fatal anaemia in the newborn lamb but it is less likely to occur if the bovine colostrum is only administered on the first day. Cow colostrum can be tested before it is stored for use in lambs.

Watery mouth occurs in the first 72 hours of life and is due to the toxins produced by the bacteria *E.coli*. Disease occurs when the bacteria are swallowed shortly after birth coupled with an inadequate intake of colostrum. Injectable or oral antibodies should be administered, milk should be withdrawn and the lamb should be fed a glucose-electrolyte solution by stomach tube. Prevention involves maximising early intake of colostrum which is helped if the ewes are in the correct body condition at lambing (3-3.5 for lowground ewes, 2.5 for hill ewes), having clean, dry bedding and avoiding castrating and docking of lambs less than 24 hours old. If an outbreak occurs the use of prophylactic oral antibiotics may be necessary however it is preventable with good management.

Joint ill is caused by bacteria gaining entry through the navel or docking/castration wounds or when eartagging. One particular type is caused by the bacteria *Streptococcus dysgalactiae*. Lambs pick up these bacteria orally from a contaminated environment (e.g. dirty lambing pens). Infection can occur as the lamb is born, when the lamb is attempting to find a teat and from the ewe licking the lamb. Antibiotic treatment is often unsuccessful. Adequate colostrum intake, good environmental hygiene, disinfection of the navel with tincture of iodine, the use of clean instruments when docking and castrating, and cleanliness at tagging are important control measures. **Septicaemia** (blood poisoning) may also occur in colostrum-deprived lambs in an unhygienic environment. Af-

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 T: 01463 226995 F: 01463 711103
 E: SGHS@sac.co.uk W: www.sac.ac.uk/sghs



fectured lambs become weak and die within one week of birth. **Liver abscesses** can also occur in the first few weeks due to bacteria entering via the navel shortly after birth. Treatment is ineffective so hygiene is important in the prevention. Infection builds up as lambing progresses so moving to clean lambing ground or disinfecting pens should help.

Diarrhoea In Young Lambs

Disease	Cause	Age	Clinical Sign
Colibacillosis	Enterotoxigenic <i>E.coli</i> (<i>E.coli</i> scour)	<2 days	Dehydration
Lamb dysentery	<i>Clostridium perfringens</i> type B, occasionally type C	<2 weeks	Bloody diarrhoea, abdominal pain
Cryptosporidiosis	<i>Cryptosporidium parvum</i>	2 days - 2 weeks	Diarrhoea, dehydration
Viral diarrhoea	Rotavirus	2-10 days	Diarrhoea
Salmonellosis	<i>Salmonella</i> spp	Any age	Diarrhoea +/- blood, dehydration
Coccidiosis	<i>Eimeria crandallis</i> , <i>Eimeria ovinoidalis</i>	> 2 weeks, usually 4-8 weeks	Diarrhoea +/- blood, straining dehydration

Most of these causes can be diagnosed from dung samples however lamb dysentery is diagnosed on post-mortem examination of a recently dead lamb. A clostridial booster vaccination of ewes 2-6 weeks before the start of lambing (timing depending on which vaccine is used) should result in immunity against lamb dysentery being passed to the lamb via the colostrum.

2007 Sales



Ballymena

R Loughridge, Orravale flock - £2500
To R Loughery, Co Londonderry



Kelso Sale At Hexham

M/s Snaith, Clennell flock - £7000
To S A Harding, Shrewbridge flock



Castle Douglas

A Brown, Macqueston flock - £2400
To J G & D Graham, Burnbank flock



Carlisle

W M Hutchinson & Son, Kirkby Redgate flock -
£3600 To T H Vickers & Son, Thornley flock



Builth Wells

G P Williams & Co, Elian flock - £780
To T E & G A Hughes, Llangadwy



Penrith

M/s Lord, Hewgill flock - £3000
To Mr Strong, Well House

Top Prices



Lanark

A Warnock, Dreva flock - £700
To J J MacArthur, Nunnerie flock



Hexham

R D Archer & Son, Carry House flock - £1900
To B Nicholls, Heddon Valley flock



Carlisle

R & M Scott, Thirlwall flock - £3600
To E & E M Fairburn, Marriforth flock



Welshpool

S A Harding, Shrewbridge flock - £720
To R J M Lewis, Meudwy flock



Penrith

G P Taylor, Swathburn - £3000
To J W Alderson, Howgill Grange



Hawes

W M Hutchinson & Son, Kirkby Redgate flock -
£9000 To J Nelson & Son, Bull & Cave flock



Kelso Sale At Lanark

I Sharp, Newbigging Walls - £650
To Firm Of Creeside, Ayrshire



Builth Wells

R G & R A Jones, Roblestone flock - £810
To M/s Evans, Blaen Carreg

Martinstown T Crowe, Learmore flock
- £1700 To A Delargy, Mulnaskeogh flock

2007 Sale Champions

Ballymena - J Adam & Son, Holmview flock

Lanark - H Brown, Leadburnlea flock

Hexham - R D Archer & Son, Carry House flock

Carlisle - T Davidson, Davy Shields flock

Penrith- M/s Lord, Hewgill flock

Hawes - D J Abberley, Old Hemley flock

Castle Douglas - J Bell, Cottage flock

Martinstown - T S Hammond, Sandholes flock

Welshpool - M Davies, Grugoer flock

Builth Wells - Shearlings & Old Tups

S A & R P Jones, Craig Yr Orsedd flock

Hereford - T R Harris, Bonvilston flock

Kelso Sale At Lanark - M/s Hewson, Parton flock

Builth Wells - Ram Lambs & Females -

M C Roberts, Myfyrian flock



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Obituary -

William Wearmouth 1933 - 2007

By Arthur Yeats

It is with much sadness that we report the death of William Wearmouth better known to everyone as "Bill" on Wednesday 14th November 2007.

Bill was a very highly respected member of the Bluefaced Leicester Sheep Breeders' Association and was known countrywide. The "Rosehill" flock was one of the oldest established flocks in the country having been established long before the Association was formed. He was a man with great personality and a true stocksman. Bill was a founder member of the Association and was appointed as an area inspector in 1966 and was then elected on to the Council Of Management in 1969. His input into this office was invaluable and in 1976 he was appointed on to the Finance and General Purposes Committee. In 1979 he was appointed Chairman, an office he felt privileged and honoured to hold. In 1988, Bill was made President, this was a fitting tribute to a man that had done so much for the Association and the breed. In 1990, he was appointed to be a Trustee, an office he still held upon his death. Bill was a keen showman with his stock and was a regular exhibitor at many national and local shows having taken the championship at the Royal Show and the Great Yorkshire Show on many occasions. Also at his own local shows, the Great Yorkshire Show was his favourite venue. Bills knowl-



edge of other breeds was well known throughout the Mule, Swaledale and Blackfaced Associations and he was often called upon to judge any of these breeds at both shows and sales. He always maintained that you should judge the sheep and not the person and you wouldn't go far wrong.

Bills presence in the showing will be sadly missed. Members of the Association will recall the Open Day in 2006 held at Rosehill and the hospitality shown by Bill and his wife Mary and all his family will remain in the minds of all who attended and will serve as a memory of the great person Bill was. The Association was only part of Bills active life as he held many other high offices with different interests. He was for many years Treasurer of the National Sheep Association, Chairman of the Magistrates Youth Court and Licence Sessions at Bishop Auckland, a past Chairman of Stanhope Show, Chairman of Eastgate Parish Council, President of Eastgate Show and a founder member of the Eastgate Sunday Club. Bill was a keen sportsman, his main interest being in football, cricket, shooting, dominoes and ferreting. Bill has been a great ambassador for the Association in both presenting and promoting the breed, he has given 41 years of loyal and devoted service to the Association for which the members will always appreciate. Our thoughts are with Mary and all the family at this sad time and we extend sincere sympathy and condolences to them all.

Bluefaced Leicester Sheep Breeders' Association

Register Of Rams And Ram Lambs sold for £1,000 and over at Association Sales 2007 And Sales Show Champions

Ballymena – 22/09/07 - Aged Rams & Shearlings

Price	Ear No	Vendor	Prefix	Buyer
£2,625	1691/Y1	R Loughridge	ORRAVALE	R Loughery, 25 Lislane Road, Co Londonderry
£2,100	1691/Y2	R Loughridge	ORRAVALE	D Woodburn, 57 Crevamoy Road, Ballymena
£1,785	1691/Y6	R Loughridge	ORRAVALE	B Blaney, 9 Lower Cloughs, Ballymena
£1,365	1691/Y3	R Loughridge	ORRAVALE	R Loughery, 25 Lislane Road, Co Londonderry
£1,260	1060/Y5	R Loughridge	ORRAVALE	S & P McNaughton, 185 Corkey Road, Ballymena
£1,155	3419/Y34	R Loughridge	ORRAVALE	O Loughran, Cookstown, Northern Ireland
£1,680	2187/Y8	R Loughridge	ORRAVALE	F Morahan, Kilmaine, Co Mayo
£2,100	3417/Y3	W & T Bell	KEMPT VIEW	M/s Graham Bros, 19 Cashel Lane, Ballymena
£1,207.50	3139/Y3	G Walsh	QUOILE	J Stewart, 16 Cochranestown Road, Co Antrim
£1,050	1463/Y16	G Walsh	QUOILE	S OKane, 61 Slane Road, Ballymena
£1,575	2216/Y30	McCormick Bros	BRABLAGH	J F Mullan, 10 Carlackey Road, Co Londonderry
£1,071	2216/Y20	McCormick Bros	BRABLAGH	M Gingles, 40 Starbog Road, Co Antrim
£1,050	3634/Y1	A Christie	THE FIELDS	H McNeil, The Park, Ballymena
£2,205	166/Y4	T Wray	KNOCKSTAKEN	D Leslie, 310 Longlands Road, Co Londonderry
£1,155	3790/Y10	T Wray	KNOCKSTAKEN	W Adams, 139 Cloughwater Road, Ballymena
£1,155	1574/Y8	J Holden	BLAIRMOUNT	H McNeil, The Park, Ballymena

Ram Lambs

£1,365	4235/Z1	E McKeegan	GLENANE	M/s Graham Bros, 19 Cashel Lane, Ballymena
£1,575	1896/Z2	D Lyttle	AUGHAFYOY	A Montgomery, 91 Drumcrow Road, Ballymena

Kelso At Hexham – 24/09/07 - Aged Rams & Shearlings

£1,000	125/Y26	G Smith & Sons	WEST BOLTON	Lilburn Estates Farming Partners, Wooler
£1,050	3989/Y8	M J Snaith	CLENELL	J Hunter & Co, Gargowan Farm, Cumnock
£7,000	3989/Y29	M J Snaith	CLENELL	S A Harding, Shrewbridge Court, Nantwich, Cheshire
£1,200	3989/Y36	M J Snaith	CLENELL	J Kay & Son, Hartside, Lauder
£1,200	119/Y2	M C Robinson & Son	COCKLAW	S A Harding, Shrewbridge Court, Nantwich, Cheshire
£1,400	119/Y3	M C Robinson & Son	COCKLAW	R Waite, Oak Farm, Marton, Shrewsbury, Shropshire

Hexham – 10/10/07 - Rams Lambs

£1,900	281/Z1	R D Archer & Son	CARRY HOUSE - Champ.	B G Nicholls, Lower East Middleton Farm, Devon
£1,100	2423/Z1	C A Bissett	EAST DUKESFIELD	R Peart, Mayland Hall, Bishop Auckland, Co Durham

Lanark – 10/10/07 - Aged Rams & Shearlings

£500	3199/Y11	H Brown	LEADBURNLEA - Champ.	W Coltherd, Foulshiels
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Castle Douglas – 11/10/07 - Aged Rams & Shearlings

£2,300	2571/Y4	A Brown	MACQUESTON	R Loughridge, The Hill, 41 Friary Road, Co Antrim
£1,200	1000/Y20	J Thomson & Sons	EWANSTON	S Hamilton. Tower Farm, Sanquhar, Dumfriesshire
£1,700	1000/Y19	J Thomson & Sons	EWANSTON	J & A Gray, Scrogton Farm, Douglas, Lanark
£1,000	2329/Y5	J & M Kerr	CRAIGSKEAN	J & W Wilson, Kirkmabeck, Newton Stewart

Ram Lambs

£1,050	3842/Z1	D Brown & Co	TUNDERGARTH	S J Crozier, Raggetsyke, Lockerbie, Dumfriesshire
£2,400	2571/Z5	A Brown	MACQUESTON	J G & D Graham, Mains Of Burnbank Farm, Stirling
£1,100	2571/Z7	A Brown	MACQUESTON	J & M Kerr, Craigskean, Maybole
£1,000	1000/Z11	J Thomson & Sons	EWANSTON	R Jardine & Son, Upper Hardland, Castle Douglas
£900	3331/Z1	J Bell	COTTAGE - Champ.	J Fisher, Flathill Farm, Dundrennan, Kirkcudbright

Carlisle – 12/10/07 - Aged Rams & Shearlings

£1,050	483/Y1	R & M Scott	THIRLWALL	M Ridsdale & Son, Yew Tree Farm, Penrith
£1,000	676/Y1	W I Foster	COOMBE CRAG	G & A E Marris, Cathow Farm, Cleator, Carlisle

Rams Lambs

£2,800	2747/Z1	J T & J James	TODHILLS	J & D Stenton, Easthill Farm, Pickering
£2,100	2747/Z10	J T & J James	TODHILLS	W & R Lawson, Stubbsgill Farm, Workington

£1,000 and over register

£1,000	3570/Z1	P M Howell	LONGMYND	A Fotheringham, Craighall Farm, Perthshire
£1,000	408/Z28	W H D A Gass	NUNSCLEUGH	A Scrimgeour & Son, Strathgarry Farm, Perthshire
£1,900	1458/Z15	G T Davies & Son	TY-GWYN	G J Dick, 1 The Harrow, Stobo, Peebles
£1,700	840/Z1	R Neil	ROSSIEBANK	C R Hill, Little Cross, Wigton, Cumbria
£3,600	640/Z12	W M Hutchinson & Sons	KIRKBY REDGATE	T H Vickers & Sons, Thornley Hall, Co Durham
£3,600	483/Z8	R & M Scott	THIRLWALL	E & E M Fairburn, Marriforth, Ripon
£1,000	2555/Z6	B Moore	ASHCLEUGH	N McNally, Mallsflow Farm, Roweltown, Carlisle
£2,200	3425/Z1	N Marston	HIGHBERRIES	C Lee, Marley Hill, Hexham
£1,800	3425/Z2	N Marston	HIGHBERRIES	Craw Hall Farms & M/s Walton, Penpugh
£2,000	3425/Z5	N Marston	HIGHBERRIES	P L & J Dawson, Kentmere Hall, Kendal
£1,300	3425/Z14	N Marston	HIGHBERRIES	W A & M & C A Watson, West Newlands, Co Durham
£1,500	752/Z25	W C Porter & Son	RIDDINGS	J Herdman, Newton Farm, Alnwick, Northumberland
£1,300	752/Z28	W C Porter & Son	RIDDINGS	W P Sutcliffe, Cragghill Farm, Settle, N Yorks

Martinstown – 13/10/07 - Shearling Rams

£1,700	4103/Y12	T Crowe	LEARMORE	A Delargy, 62 Gaults Road, Cushendall, C Antrim
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Ram Lambs

£600	4145/Z13	T S Hammond	SANDHOLES - Champ.	T Millar, Broughshane, Northern Ireland
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Welshpool – 13/10/07 -Ram Lambs

N/S	2188/Z53	M Davies	GRUGOER - Champ.	Not Sold
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Builth Wells – 14/10/07 - Aged Rams & Shearlings

N/S	299/Y4	S A & R P Jones	CRAIG YR ORSEDD - Champ.	Not Sold
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Hereford – 17/10/07 - Rams Lambs

N/S	2906/Z4	T R Harris	BONVILSTON - Champ.	Not Sold
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Penrith – 18/10/07 - Aged Rams & Shearlings

£2,600	3404/Y4	G & C Neve & Son	HAINING HOUSE	A Brown, Oak House, Kirkby Stephen, Cumbria
£3,000	684/W1	G P Taylor	SWATHBURN	J W Alderson, Howgill Grange, Barnard Castle

Ram Lambs

£3,000	980/Z16	M/s Lord	HEWGILL - Champ.	D Strong, Well House
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Hawes – 19/10/07 - Aged Rams & Shearlings

£1,500	1432/Y18	N White	BARF HOUSE	M Barker Farms, Abbey Farm, Richmond, N Yorks
£1,100	1432/Y12	N White	BARF HOUSE	P & C Charnley, High Oxen Fell Farm, Coniston
£1,700	678/Y9	A J Mason	ODDACRES	A V Caton, Otterburn Lodge, Skipton
£1,100	3385/Y2	P D & P J Ellis	NEW HUTTON	C R & E S Millican, Newton Of Hassiewells, Inverurie
£2,000	3096/W6	D A & M A Brown & Son	AGGLETHORPE	T W & T B Edgar, Whitton, Kelso
£1,600	2968/W6	W A & A Booth	SMEARSETT	J & I Whitaker, Bowsber Farm, Clapham, Lancs
£1,600	2968/Y5	W A & A Booth	SMEARSETT	J W Hall, Darnbrook Farm, Settle
£1,600	2041/Y5	Ellis Bros	ILKLEY MOOR	D & J E Wood, Wilcocks Farm, Bolton, Lancs

Ram Lambs

£2,000	292/Z1	M/s Lawson & Son	HUNDITH	W & R Lawson, Stubsgill Farm, Cumbria
£2,000	292/Z3	M/s Lawson & Son	HUNDITH	R Raine, Fogg Close, Kirkoswald, Nr Penrith, Cumbria
£1,000	292/Z8	M/s Lawson & Son	HUNDITH	Ward Partners, Woodside Farm, Newark, Notts.
£1,000	3777/Z2	P Brown	OAK HOUSE	W Capstick, High Lane, Kirkby Stephen, Cumbria
£1,400	3419/Z19	R A Lund	WELLAN	H MaCaskill, Woodhall Farm, Innerwick, Dunbar
£2,200	640/Z1	W M Hutchinson & Son	KIRKBY REDGATE	White Farm, Barf House, Richmond, North Yorks
£9,000	640/Z2	W M Hutchinson & Son	KIRKBY REDGATE	J Nelson & Son, Bull & Cave Farm, Lancs
£1,400	2944/Z1	E Nelson & Son	BULL & CAVE	J Allison & Sons, Moorgarth, N Yorks
£1,000	2944/Z3	E Nelson & Son	BULL & CAVE	T A Blades, Bayle, Hawes, North Yorks
£1,000	2945/Z2	K A Fawcett & Sons	DALE HEAD	J & G Huck, Church Farm, Skipton, North Yorks
£2,200	3551/Z1	R A Busby & Son	HARLAND	H Ridley, Wood Hall Farm, Wigton, Cumbria
£1,900	3551/Z2	R A Busby & Son	HARLAND	D Bright, Blake Edge Farm, Buxton, Derbyshire
£1,200	684/Z1	G P Taylor	SWATHBURN	G Rawsthorne, Scargill Farm, Carnforth, Lancs
£1,250	684/Z2	G P Taylor	SWATHBURN	W A Dinsdale & Son, Harkerside Place, North Yorks
£1,600	3253/Z1	A Caton	OTTERBURN LODGE	J C & N Throup, Berwick Intake Farm, Skipton

£1,200	3253/Z3	A Caton	OTTERBURN LODGE	W Sutcliffe & Sons, Holme Farm, Settle
£1,800	3253/Z4	A Caton	OTTERBURN LODGE	D A & M A Brown & Son, Agglethorpe Hall
£1,200	3253/Z5	A Caton	OTTERBURN LODGE	M & M Ryder & Sons, Long Liberty Farm, North Yorks
£3,500	1185/Z1	W J Barker	KEER	K A Fawcett & Sons, Dalehead Farm, Skipton
£2,300	1185/Z4	W J Barker	KEER	& W & C W Dent, Greenriggs, Cumbria
£1,000	1185/Z16	W J Barker	KEER	G Rawsthorne, Scargill Farm, Carnforth, Lancs
£1,000	3320/Z1	J Thomas & Son	TANHOUSE FARM	J K & B E Townley, Mearsbeck Farm, Caton, Lancs
£1,750	2051/Z2	P Ayrton	HAYSHAW	H MaCaskill, Woodhall Farm, Innerwick, Dunbar
£2,100	3374/Z1	R Hargreaves	BARLEY	F I & M E Little, Helme Croft, Near Kendal
£1,000	3374/Z2	R Hargreaves	BARLEY	R G & B M Jones, Tymawr, Garth, BUILT Wells
£2,800	3374/Z3	R Hargreaves	BARLEY	D & H M Watson, Middleton Hall, Carnforth, Lancs
£1,150	3374/Z5	R Hargreaves	BARLEY	R S & B A Harker, Overthwaite, Holme, Lancs
£1,500	678/Z1	A J Mason	ODDACRES	J D & C L Inman, Strickland Hill, Grange Over Sand
£1,100	3385/Z1	P D & P J Ellis	NEW HUTTON	S W Mawson & Son, High Side, Keswick, Cumbria
£1,100	3385/Z4	P D & P J Ellis	NEW HUTTON	H MaCaskill, Woodhall Farm, Innerwick, Dunbar
£1,100	3385/Z3	P D & P J Ellis	NEW HUTTON	S Watkins, Llanfichangel, Llanfyllin, Powys
£2,200	2070/Z31	D J Abberley	OLD HEMLEY	M Bateman & Son, Moors, Cumbria
£3,200	2070/Z26	D J Abberley	OLD HEMLEY - Champ.	K Park & Sons, Dalpeddar, Sanquhar, Dumfriesshire
£6,800	980/Z1	M/s Lord	HEWGILL	G & G Jackson & Son, Anchor Farm, Otley, W Yorks
£5,400	980/Z2	M/s Lord	HEWGILL	J E Thorpe, Blackburn Farm, Hawes, North Yorks
£1,800	980/Z3	M/s Lord	HEWGILL	D J Abberley, Cwmliliw Farm, Powys
£1,200	980/Z5	M/s Lord	HEWGILL	J Bradley, Harrogate, N Yorks
£1,000	980/Z7	M/s Lord	HEWGILL	J Fortune, Manor House Farm, Gisburn, Lancs
£1,100	980/Z9	M/s Lord	HEWGILL	A G & K F Nicholson, Swinside End Farm, Cumbria
£4,000	1538/Z1	J Wight & Sons	MIDLOCK	G T Davies & Son, South Hill Farm, Pembrokeshire
£4,800	1538/Z2	J Wight & Sons	MIDLOCK	W J & L A Barker, Brown Edge Farm, Carnforth
£2,800	1538/Z3	J Wight & Sons	MIDLOCK	P Brown, Oak House Farm, Kirkby Stephen, Cumbria
£1,400	2496/Z1	A R Edmondson	HAWKSWELL	R A Busby & Son, Harland House, North Yorks
£1,300	1432/Z1	N White	BARF HOUSE	J K Hunter, Wedderburn, Huntly, Aberdeenshire
£3,800	2968/Z1	W A & A Booth	SMEARSETT	S Sutcliffe, Cragg Hill Farm, Settle, N Yorks
£1,200	2968/Z4	W A & A Booth	SMEARSETT	R Hargreaves & Sons, Meadow Bank, Lancs
£1,300	2968/Z7	W A & A Booth	SMEARSETT	W H & D Gass, Nunsclough, Carlisle
£1,050	2726/Z1	W & D Lawson & Son	GRAGARETH	A J Mason, Oddacres Farm, Skipton
£1,000	2726/Z3	W & D Lawson & Son	GRAGARETH	J Sunter & Sons, Raydale Grange, Leyburn, N Yorks
£1,100	992/Z2	J H Pedley	BARWICK	P L & J Dawson, Kentmere Hall, Kendal, Cumbria
£1,200	1503/Z1	W & C W Dent	GREENRIGGS	J C Walker & Son, Brennand Farm, Clitheroe, Lancs
£3,000	752/Z2	W C Porter & Son	RIDDINGS	A Lodge, Westside Farm, Settle, N Yorks
£1,200	725/Z3	W C Porter & Son	RIDDINGS	P D & P J Ellis, Moss Head, Kendal, Cumbria
£1,100	752/Z6	W C Porter & Son	RIDDINGS	J W & M Taylor & Sons, High Laning Farm, Dent
£1,600	725/Z9	W C Porter & Son	RIDDINGS	W & D Lawson & Son, Parr Bank Farm, Lancs
£1,300	752/Z10	W C Porter & Son	RIDDINGS	A V Hamilton & Son, Marr Farm, Thornhill, Dumfries
£2,000	752/Z11	W C Porter & Son	RIDDINGS	P Addyman & Son, Hagg Farm, Skipton, N Yorks
£1,000	752/Z19	W C Porter & Son	RIDDINGS	F A Caton, Weston Hall Farm, Otley, W Yorks
£1,200	752/Z20	W C Porter & Son	RIDDINGS	Bank House Farms, Cowan Bridge, Carnforth
				D J Lumley, Nookton Farm, Co Durham

Kelso At Lanark – 20/10/07 - Ram Lambs

£200 233/Z20 M/s Hewson PARTON Mr Borthwick, Dunns, Berwickshire

Built Wells – 27/10/07 - Ram Lambs & Females

£504 1183/Z2 M C Roberts MYFYRIAN - **Champ.** J Walton & Son, Preston Mains, Alnwick

Association Trophy Winners 2007

Helme Trophy - Sire Of The Year Awarded to the vendor of 3 ram lambs by the same sire sold to the highest average through the Association Sales - M/s Lord, Hewgill for 3 lambs at Hawes at £6,800, £5,400, £3,000

Greenop Trophy - Awarded to the vendor of six lambs or more sold to the highest average through Association Sales - M/s Lord, Hewgill for six lambs at Hawes at £6,800, £5,400, £3,000, £1,800, £1,200, £1,100

J R Bell & Son - Awarded to the highest priced lamb outside the top three prize winners at the sales at Hexham, Penrith and Carlisle - M/s R & M Scott, Thirlwall and M/s Hutchinson, Kirkby Redgate both selling at Carlisle for £3,600

2007 Autumn Regional News

Northern Ireland

Chairman: John Minnis, Mossvale, 46 Tullynagee Road, Comber, Co Down Tel: 028 9752 8072

I am pleased to report that the Northern Ireland Bluefaced Leicester breeders experienced some high prices at the pedigree sales and commercial breeding stock was in great demand with high prices achieved.

Mule ewe lamb sales were, once again, very successful and covered a wide area of the province. Prices made in excess of the £88 per head with a top price of £88 at Cushendun. Trade was excellent throughout the year.

Once again trade was good at the Bluefaced Leicester sales at Ballymena and Martinstown with a top price of £2,500 at Ballymena for an Orravale shearing ram belonging to Robert Loughridge and £1,700 for a Leamore shearing ram from Tom Crowe. It was encouraging to see a large proportion of rams reaching four figure sums.

This year we were pleased to welcome judges who travelled from Scotland and Republic of Ireland, Wallace Parker who officiated at Ballymena and Michael Staunton at Martinstown. I would like to take this opportunity to thank them most sincerely for their help and support.

Our annual dinner dance and prizegiving took place on 26 October at the Adair Arms Hotel at Ballymena, unfortunately our Scottish guests were unable to attend due to sales commitments and I have to say they were greatly missed! This year launched our first Bluefaced Leicester flock competition which was sponsored by Carrick Cottage and judged by Colin Coulter. It proved to be a great success and hopefully is now established as an annual event.

The competition was divided into a large and small section with the results as follows:

Large Flock - 1. Mossvale - A & J Minnis, 2. Kempt View - W & T Bell, 3. Mullaghwee - M Wright

Small Flock - 1. Windyhill - F Smyth, 2. Holmview - J Adams, 3. Carnew - J Aitken.

With all things considered Bluefaced Leicester breeders have enjoyed another successful year. I would like to wish everyone associated with the breed every success for the incoming season.

Commiserations to our fellow breeders on the mainland who have experienced a very difficult year with the major setback of foot and mouth.

North East

Chairman: Nicky Robinson, West Cocklaw, Humshaugh, Hexham, Northumberland Tel: 01434 681362

This year we got off to a sunny start, lambing time went like a dream and the sun kept shining right to North Sheep, which was held at Hanging Wells Farm, Bishop Auckland by kind permission of the Skidmore family, congratulations must go to them and the NSA for hosting such an excellent well organised and well attended event. The Association stand was busy all day and we even won third place in the breed society stand competition. We had a larger area than normal and we had put on a display of a Blackface ewe and Mule lambs from Carry House, Swale ewe and Mule lambs from Fallowfield, Cheviot ewe and Mule lambs from West Nubuck and a Cheviot Mule hogg and pair of lambs from Greyside and a Bluefaced Leicester from myself. A big thank you to everyone who loaned sheep and who helped on the stand.

Things were looking good but then the rain came and forgot to stop. Many of us struggled with crops and some even had fields under water, many local shows were cancelled it was touch and go if the Great Yorkshire would go ahead however it did, very well done to Glen Shapiro on winning the championship.

Things had brightened up and we were all starting to think about sales when in August we heard the devastating news that foot and mouth was back in the UK. We watched the news with baited breath to see if it would spread at the rapid rate it did the last time, however the government seemed to get it under control quickly possibly due to the fact that it had probably leaked out of one of their own sites and we were once again on course to carry on with our sales as normal. I was giving my tups their final dip before Kelso when I got a call to say it was back again and animal movements would once again be at a total standstill - basically we were all dressed up and nowhere to go! After this news we thought that would be the end of having live sales so Hexham Auction Mart came up with the idea of having a digital sale, not ideal but better than nothing we thought. So we washed and numbered our tups and then tried to photograph each one (Wayne is welcome to this job). The pictures were displayed on Hexham website and the sale went ahead with a large number of onlookers but very few bidders. Only 49 tups were sold averaging £648, congratulations must go to M J Snaith, Clennell flock for selling a tup at £7000 to S A Harding, Shrewbridge flock. Other leading prices were £1400 and £1200 Cocklaw, £1200 and £1050 Clennell and £1000 West Bolton. Also a big thank you to Trevor Simpson and Secretary Helen Carr for putting a lot of work into organising the sale. Afterwards we called a meeting of any Hexham vendors in attendance, the possibility of a live Hexham sale was now back on the cards and we wanted to give people a chance to talk about a suitable date for the sale. It was decided to be the 10th of October.

We were delighted to have a live sale, however prospective buyers were taking the hammer with low prices for ewe lambs, disastrous fat lambs prices, the 20 day stand still and now blue tongue, it certainly

wasn't going to be an easy ride. The highest price of the day went to Martin & Robin Archer, Carry House for the champion which sold for £1900 to the Heddon Valley flock. The next highest price went to Claire Bisset, East Dukesfield which sold for £1100. Top priced shearlings were the first prize winner from Alan Forster, Lowes Fell which sold for £700 to Association Chairman Sid Ivinson, and also a Carry House shearling for £700. However, bids were very hard to come by, only the best sheep were selling and of the 181 shearlings entered only 102 were sold at an average of £201 and only 48 out of the 167 lambs were sold averaging £278.

Hawes sale was next on the agenda, I personally was unable to go (due to broken wrist which is a nuisance) but reports suggest that this sale had gone slightly better with most sheep actually finding a new home. The top price of the day was £9000 for Reserve Champion from W H Hutchinson, Kirkby Redgate selling to Bull and Cave. The Champion was from D J Abberley, Old Hemley sold for £3200. Other leading prices were £6800 and £5400 from Hewgill, £4800 and £4000 from Midlock, £3500 from Keer, £3,000 from Riddings, and £2800 from Barley. The top priced shearling was £2000 from Agglethorpe Hall. On the whole trade was picky and averages were £707 for lambs and £376 for shearlings.

Things are not looking good for the sheep industry, we all need to tighten our belts and concentrate on quality not quantity, keeping our fingers crossed that the future really is bright.

We will once again be holding our North East Dinner Dance at Hexham Mart on 2 of February, and look forward to seeing you then.

Old Hemley

Flock 2070



Z26 Old Hemley

Hawes Sale Champion 2007 Sold For £3,200

**Sires used 2007 - Y1 Midlock, Y1 Kirkby Redgate,
Z2 Hewgill and X1 Old Hemley**

Stock Always Available

**For Further Information Contact - Stephen or David
on 01874 636509 or 0796 8124441**

Wales & South

**Chairman: Dewi Jones, Plas Pigot, Llansannan, Denbigh,
Clwyd Tel: 01745 870246**

It was with great pleasure that I accepted the post of Wales and South Chairman and I must thank Jo Binns for all his hard work during the past two years. Welsh Sheep had been very successful and well attended and the ram supplied by Geoff Cox had caught the visitors attention.

The highlight of the year was without doubt the Royal Welsh Show despite the problems of parking thousands of cars in muddy conditions. Supporters of the show from across Wales and elsewhere demonstrated their loyalty to the event by turning up in force. There was an excellent entry of sheep forward and the judge Dennis Lumley (Nookton flock) presented the Overall Breed Championship to a three shear ewe shown by M C & G Roberts, Myfyrian flock and the Reserve to the Champion Male owned by Michael James, Duhonw flock. My congratulations must also go to the Roberts family for gaining the Reserve ticket for The R.W.A.S Lowland/Continental Championship at the show.

There was a good show of sheep on the breed stand and our thanks go to Kevin Davies and Michael James for presenting them so well. The annual after show party was again very popular and enjoyed by all.

It was with great dismay to receive a phone call on the evening before Oswestry Progeny Show to say it was cancelled due to Foot and Mouth after all the effort the members had put into preparing the sheep.

Our AGM and farm visit was held in August at Cwmliliw Farm in the Brecon Beacons the home of the Old Hemley flock where David Abberley and son Stephen run about seventy Bluefaced Leicester ewes. They had gone to great lengths to group the sheep from various rams and it gave the members present the opportunity to compare the Mule ewe lambs with their respective sires. I would like to congratulate them on winning the Championship with one of their lambs at Hawes this year and thank them for their generous hospitality. A presentation by Will Haresign followed on the breeding opportunities for Bluefaced Leicesters and Longwool Crossing sire breeds.

The Autumn sales at Welshpool and Builth were very disappointing for all breeders with prices down a lot on previous years, and the new sale this year at Hereford was no better.

Our Annual Dinner and Regional Meeting will be held at the Raven Inn, Welshpool on Saturday 1st of December at 6.30 pm.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank my committee members for their continued help and support and I wish you all the best for 2008.

Regional News

Scotland

Chairman: Neil Laing, Tinto View House, Pettinain, Lanark, Lanarkshire Tel: 01555 870075

What a summer!! If I was a conspiracy theorist I might be thinking that the events of the last few months have occurred because we thought that the future was bright for the industry, and that the powers that be like to keep us depressed. Whether I am a conspiracy theorist or not it worked!

Fat lambs were not exciting but were OK at the start of August and there was a degree of optimism about breeding sheep and then foot and mouth hit, again. Six years on we again saw how events beyond our control completely devastated our industry and the repercussions will be felt for months, if not years, to come.

Most of the industry were keen to work with the authorities, following sometimes apparently pointless measures, to try to resolve the situation as quickly as possible. And to our credit within a month we had it beaten and export markets had opened. Then to find that some idiots had been harbouring the disease for a month without telling anyone knocked all the hard work into touch.

This time the job to lift restrictions was going to be even harder than before. It was going to be even harder as this was the worst time for all of us as we had sheep to sell. Eventually, due to hard work at stakeholder meetings in all seats of government we slowly got back to some semblance of normality. But at what cost?

Breeding sheep sales were a disaster with averages well down so tup sales were never going to be exciting. Those who sold tups privately early should be congratulated for their enterprise because there is no doubt those sheep were well sold.

Should the rest of us panic and dispose of ewes? I don't think we need to be so drastic. Most of our usual buyers possibly decided to make do with what they had so that they could sell calves or take advantage of the slightly better trade on the export market. Also, the price of grain is such that many buyers of any type of breeding sheep decided to plough the fields they would graze ewes on.

These 2 factors I think contributed to the poor clearance of tups at sales. I feel particularly sorry for those selling shearlings at much less than the cost of production. If we can cope with it, we should write this year off and look to the future.

Most ewes are tugged, hopefully, albeit mine are running with a Texel now to avoid me thinking that late lamb will do as a shearling, they never do.

Next year will be better, honest, and if we all start saying it then as well as us believing it our buyers will too. Next year will be better, it will be better.

See it is working!

www.blueleicester.co.uk

North West

Chairman: John Townson, Brook House Farm, Whalley, Clitheroe, Lancs Tel: 01254 824672

Autumn is here and I am afraid the only positive comment that I can think of is the good spell of weather that we are having. As an industry we have to have faith, but we have had just about everything thrown at us, including the kitchen sink, our resilience has been truly put to the test.

The sales at Carlisle, and Penrith, were a carbon copy of many of the rearranged sales at other venues. As a breed we are going to see an unprecedented number of shearling rams on offer at next years sales, against a full catalogue of ram lambs, we shall have to live with this until some sanity is restored.

Congratulations to the vendors who topped both sales. Joint top price at Carlisle being ram lambs, both achieving £3,600 from W M Hutchinson & Son, Kirkby Redgate, and R & M Scott, Thirlwall. Joint top price at Penrith, a ram lamb from M/s Lord, Hewgill, and an aged ram shown by G Taylor, Swathburn, both realising £3,000.

A notable dispersal sale at Penrith was held on behalf of John Bowman, Midscale, flock number 22. A founder member and great supporter of the Association for over 55 years, the sale held due to Johns ill health and we all wish him well for the future.

A widely acclaimed success was the verdict of the rearranged Progeny Show held at Penrith Auction Mart on Friday 27th July. This was largely made possible by the hard work and co-operation of all concerned from the stewards and judges to the positive attitude of the Penrith Auction Mart staff. This show I feel is the up and coming showcase of our breed calendar, and this year was very well supported by members with a good show of stock being well presented.

I feel some mention should be made regarding the unstinting time and effort put in by our National Chairman Sid Ivanson, for much of the work behind the scenes over the past few months to keep council members up to date, and rearranging sales dates.

Finally I would like to welcome more of our younger members to come along to meetings which are conducted in a friendly informal manner, but are essential for the future of our organisation. If I can be of any help to any members in the region I am at the end of a telephone.

May I offer seasons greetings to everyone and I am sure that I shall be able to report in a much more positive mood next year.

Visit your Association's website
www.blueleicester.co.uk
For
Show/Sale Reports, Sale Catalogues
Association/Regional News
& much, much more ...

Bluefaced Leicester Shop



Calendar Competition

Pictured left is the winner from our calendar photo competition taken by P D & P J Ellis, New Hutton flock. Second place was M Drummond, Cassington flock and third was A Ross, Craskins flock.

To order the Bluefaced Leicester 2008 calendar, please complete the enclosed order form and return it to the Association office. Price of the calendar this year is £10 (inc. VAT and delivery).

Baseball Hat.....	£7.50
Mug.....	£8
Tie.....	£10.50
Mug (Pack of 4)	£26
Mousemat	£5
Umbrella.....	£20
T-Shirt	£20
Polo Shirt (Gents)	£25
Poloshirt (Ladies)	£25
Rugby Shirt (Plain)	£39
Rugby Shirt (Quartered)	£39

Sweatshirt	£29
Fleece	£40
Reversible Fleece	£47
Bodywarmer	£40
Jacket - Fleece Lined.....	£49

All prices include VAT and delivery (UK only). All items of clothing includes the standard logo. Your own prefix can be added to any item of clothing for an extra £3. To order please fill out the enclosed order form and return to the Association office.

Annual Dinner Dance

Saturday 2nd February 2008 at 7.30 for 8 pm At The Tynedale Auction Mart, Hexham

“Big Dave & His Elastic Band”

Tickets - Price £22 (First come first served)

Tickets Available from: Dennis Lumley: 01434 673204/Claire Bissett: 07956 085046

Nicky Robinson: 01434 681362 or the office: 01644 460647

Remember

to visit your Association's website for all your Blue News

www.blueleicester.co.uk

Cocklaw

Bluefaced Leicesters

Penrith Progeny Show 2007

Our flock was awarded Male Champion,
Reserve Male Champion and Champion
Progeny Group with three rams.

Visitors Always Welcome -
Matt, Nicky & Kath Robinson

Tel: 01434 681362 / Email: westcocklaw@btconnect.com



Cassington

We have in-lamb gimmers for sale which will be available for purchase around Christmas time as usual after scanning. Sired by proven tups and out of good show families.

Further details on our website:

www.cassington.com



2006 Royal Highland Show Champion

Enquiries & Visitors Welcome

M & C Drummond - 01292 560288



Penrith Progeny Show 2007 Mule Champion



Group of lambs 2007 sired by Snab 830/X001



Sired by Highberries 3425/T004

Highberries 3425 Crossing Leicesters

After Foot and Mouth in 2001 we purchased 3 females from Snab Green including L40 the full sister to L1 Snab Green which was sold for £9,000 in 1996 as a lamb. She is still alive today. She is dam of our stock tup T1 being sired by Riddings No 012. A ewe was also purchased in lamb to P12 from Bull & Cave, it was a daughter of K2, sister to a stock ram. She had 2 tup lambs 3425/T3 and 3425/T4, both were very good crossers, having bred show lambs each year and selling Mule lambs to a top price of £150. In the last 4 show seasons we have won 11 Mule Championships and 5 overall show championships by Highberries 3425/T4, 3425/T1 and Snab 830/X001. Other stock rams include Overhouses P003 purchased as a 3 shear for £3,000, it is a very consistent ram breeding very clean, good skinned Mules. 3425/W8 is a home bred tup. He is a grandson of an old Snab ewe sired by J7 Keer. He was sired by P29 Lunesdale, a very good Mule lamb getter on both Swaledales and Blackface ewes. V003 Kentmere was bought in 2007 in partnership with P Dawson (the breeder), it was a senior stock tup with the Hundith flock from whom we purchased the tup. A ram lamb was purchased privately from Hundith in 2007, a £8,500 Midlock Y1 son, out of a V3 Kentmere dam.

3425/T4 won the Progeny Show in 2004 and was reserve in 2006. It had the single lamb champion at Penrith Show in 2006 and in 2007 the champion single lamb was sired by Snab 830/X1. 3425/T3 was reserve in the Blackface Mule ewe lamb progeny class in 2005 and had 16 out of 20 lambs in the top pen of 20 for M/s Charlton, Whiteside at Hexham.

In 2007 our Mule lambs topped Harrison & Hetherington with a new centre record of £180 a head to R Carter, Parcelstown with our second pen realising £98 a head. Snab 830/X001 had 8 out of the top pen of 10 and also 10 out of 12 in the second pen. In all he sired 62 out of the 86 top lambs. He is sired by R1 Lunesdale and out of a R8 Keer ewe. The first 3 ram lambs sold for £2,200, £1,800 and £2,000 at Harrison & Hetheringtons Leicester sale to Morely Hill, Kentmere and Crawhall & Penpeugh respectively.

Contact Details: Neil Marston 01228 675233 /07974 919505 East Highberries, Scaleby, Carlisle, Cumbria CA6 4LD

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