

# NEWSLETTER



## A word or two from the Chairman...

Whilst it barely seems more than a few weeks since the Autumn Newsletter, here we are again with the Spring Newsletter. At the time of writing the Autumn Newsletter nobody would have foreseen the tragic events unfolding in Ukraine with a war now taking place and all the horrors that come with war. We can only hope that some sort of peace agreement can be found although at the time of writing this doesn't look likely in the short term.

On the Swaledale front the In Lamb Female Sales saw good prices achieved for the best quality sheep and congratulations must go to breeders for presenting some fine examples of the breed and we must wish the purchasers all the best with their new acquisitions.

As reported at District AGM's we are in the process of putting together a database so in the future people can access data from their smart phone or computer rather than having to sit down with numerous flock books. Rachel will update more fully and we have Libby Henson from Grassroots giving a presentation following the AGM in June.

Members will be aware that "Crowning" was discussed at all the District AGMs, with views sought on whether we return to normal crowning as pre-Covid or continue with self-crowning as we have done the last

two years. The majority view in four Districts was to continue self-crowning with one District in favour of a return to what could be termed normal pre-Covid crowning. However, at the March Council meeting a third option of getting a registered non-family member to inspect and sign the registration form was discussed and the decision taken to bring all three options to the AGM in June for members to vote on, please see enclosed Agenda. I will give a fuller explanation of the issues on the night.

After two years of either no shows or limited shows it looks like this year will be back to normal so I would like to wish all members a good lambing and hope to see good turn outs of sheep and people at the shows this Spring and Summer.

*Will Cockbain*



# News from the Office...



**I was always told that as you get older, time goes faster, and indeed it does... unbelievably we're into the fifth month of 2022, and by now, lambing time should be almost complete again, the potential stars will be noted and being kept an eye on, and we start looking forward to a positive year ahead.**

**In Lamb Sales** – Four in lamb sales were held earlier in the year, with trade peaking at Kirkby Stephen at £5,000 for a gimmer shearling consigned by Kevin Sowerby, High Croft. This was Kevin's final sale of Swaledale females as he dispersed his flock. Results, photos and prices are reported in this Newsletter.

**Database** – currently registration forms from 2021 are being loaded onto the new database, and in the next few weeks, every member will be sent their own extract from the forthcoming Flock Book, to be proofed by yourselves for amendments. If you have no amendments to be made, the extract which you receive will be what is actually printed in the book, so please check them carefully!

**Events** – June and July sees the return of the NSA events, Scotsheep near Dundee, and the Sheep Event at Malvern, and of course, the Royal Highland Show returns in its usual format, judging day is Friday 24th June at 9am. There will be a drinks reception at 6pm in the judging ring also on the Friday, so fingers crossed it's not raining, any donations of drink would be greatly appreciated!

**Rosettes** – If any show that hosts Swaledale classes would like a SSBA Championship rosette, please contact the office prior to the show to ensure one is there on the day. Many have already been in touch, but please don't presume they will automatically appear! Thanks to everyone who takes the time to show, it's a great shop window for each individual as well as a good form of advertising for our breed.

**Facebook** – This continues to gain in popularity, and at the time of writing, has risen to 8,242 followers – please can you all

like and share as many of the news items as possible, this is an economical and fast-moving method of advertising, and keeps a large majority of members in touch with what's happening.

**Centenary Book** – Council have agreed that a book to commemorate the Centenary of the Association be produced, this will be worked on throughout the year, all members will receive this in 2023.

**Sponsorship** – I would like to thank the NFU Mutual through their agent Lindsey-Anne Murfin at the Leyburn Branch, and Dalton Tags for their generous sponsorship of this Newsletter. Both Companies have long standing links with the Association.

**AGM** – the Notice for the AGM is enclosed with this newsletter, this year it's back to June, Wednesday 15th and is taking place in C District at The Masonic Hall, Kirkby Stephen at 7.30pm.

**Scrapie Genotyping** – Please remember to give yourselves sufficient time to get tup hoggs genotyped, whichever format is voted on for crowning, shearling rams cannot be crowned unless these results are present. Some members experienced difficulties last year with inconclusive results due to various factors – please read below about problems which can occur when taking samples. Rosemary at Innovis tries her best to help everyone, but she can't work miracles!

Wishing all members and readers of this publication well,

*Rachel*  
Head Secretary

**ATTENTION ALL MEMBERS**

## NOSE-PRICK TESTS FROM INNOVIS

**When Scrapie Genotyping rams, please use the following 'house-keeping' rules:**

1. Pat dry the rams nose where the sample is to be taken from with a clean tissue. Use a clean tissue for each ram to be tested.
2. Ensure hands are free of any signs of blood from testing one ram to the next.
3. Ensure hands are dry, clean and not contaminated between each ram with water, muck etc.
4. Make sure there is sufficient blood taken from each ram, and that the blood has absorbed through all layers of the sample.
5. Make sure the sample of blood is not contaminated with water.
6. Make sure you test your rams in sufficient time to get results back.
7. Samples sent to Innovis are on a 3-week turnaround to be safe to receive results. Allow plenty of time in-case any samples need re-testing, these re-tests can take a further 3 weeks.





# Thomas Binns - Chair of the NFU's Upland Forum

Thomas Binns, chair of the NFU's Uplands Forum, reacts to the detail made available in the latest SFI (Sustainable Farming Incentive) guidance. The most recent Defra announcement includes more information on the moorland and rough grazing standard, which Thomas says has improved in response to sustained NFU lobbying.



With Covid, Brexit, huge rising input costs, and the transition from BPS, it continues to be an uncertain time for many upland farmers. It was therefore unsurprising that when Defra revealed the initial offer for SFI's moorland rough grazing (MRG) standard at the end of last year, members of the Upland Forum argued that it failed to offer a meaningful return for the costs of managing our most treasured upland landscapes. In particular, we stressed that the limits on proposed payments made us and many others in the uplands community feel significantly undervalued.

As a result, we called for further work to make SFI more practical and attractive to uplands farmers and raised this in a constructive meeting with the Farming Minister, Victoria Prentis, a few months ago. We stressed our real concerns with a reducing BPS making up such a large proportion of upland incomes, the absence of a meaningful SFI option would leave the uplands sector facing an income crisis. I am pleased that Defra has now

confirmed its plans to launch SFI and listened to the Uplands Forum's asks for crucial changes to be made.

To me, these amendments provide confidence in the process and mean we are able to have a successful and open dialogue with Defra going forward.

**Changes to the offer** - We all know how much the uplands sector delivers for the public, but the original offer did not reflect this. It was a less than modest offer, and this was echoed in a modest response from NFU members and the Uplands Forum.

The changes now introduced, particularly around the increased introductory MRG standard payments represent a significant win for the Forum. This reflects more realistically the work that will be required from uplands farmers. In part, it recognises that this is the only offer on the table until 2024, when other levels of the MRG standard will become available.

I believe the scheme will now be more attractive to our members, with payment

increased by more than 55%, to £10.30 per hectare. Farmers with common land will see a further £6.15 per hectare in recognition of all the administrative work associated with such land.

**Going forward - more needed** - Looking ahead, we still need to see more detail on the SFI guidance so that upland farmers are able to make a decision about whether or not they want to join the scheme this year. To help them plan effectively for the future of their businesses, Defra must provide more clarity on this in the coming months.

It is important that the intermediate and advanced level of the MRG standard, in development for 2024, provide the necessary support to allow uplands farmers to thrive. It has to be said there is still a lot of work to ensure this happens.

We look forward to working with Defra, to keep livestock on the hills and ensure uplands farmers are able to continue to provide climate-friendly food and environmental benefits for the public.

## FOR A LOCAL PERSONAL SERVICE ON YOUR DOORSTEP

At NFU Mutual we can look after you, your family and your business. Having a local office means we're accessible, whether you need to make changes to your policy or make a claim.

For a real conversation about your insurance, contact us or pop in

01969 625593 | 3a Herriot Court, Leyburn Business Park,  
Harmby Road, Leyburn

01609 776433 | 3 Thornfield Business Park, Standard Way,  
Northallerton

01642 710218 | 23 College Square, Stokesley

[northriding@nfumutual.co.uk](mailto:northriding@nfumutual.co.uk)



**NFU Mutual**  
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*Libby Henson*  
Grassroots Director



## Swaledales Join the Grassroots family

**The Swaledale Sheep Breeders Association is pleased to announce that it has joined over 130 other breeds which use the Grassroots registry system to manage their membership, registry and Flock Book databases.**

Previously annual surveys were typed up for the Flock Book but not put into a database. This meant that only members with a full set of Flock Books could trace pedigree records.

Grassroots have been able to extract all the details from the 2020 Flock Book document, the pedigree information from the 2019 Flock Book and are keying the 2021 returns direct into a new Grassroots database. This will provide a number of benefits to the Society and to its members:

### Benefits for the Society office

The system will greatly assist in the management of the membership data, and will help to

- keep contact details up to date and secure
- maintain subscription renewal dates
- make communication with the whole membership or Districts of the membership much easier by post or by email.
- allow for easy analysis of the National Flock
- greatly simplify the production of the Flock Book

### Benefits for Members

The Grassroots system will

- produce the camera-ready Flock Book
- allow member access to the Online Registry where they can
  - o Look up members
  - o Look up rams with their pedigrees and male offspring
  - o Complete the annual flock return and registration form online (no date set for this)
  - o Allow members to upload images of their tups from the Grassroots mobile App.

Initially the pedigrees will not be very long, but as the data is added the information will quickly grow. Member access will be launched after the AGM

Grassroots director Libby Henson has offered to come to our AGM on 8th June where she will do a presentation of the tools at our fingertips.

## NSA EVENTS & SHOWS 2022

The promotional stand will be at the following events in 2022:

### Scotsheep – Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> June

**Venue:** Over Finlary, Tealing, Dundee, DD4 0QE

**Farm Details:** 740 acres, with grazing on a neighbouring heather hill, and rent a further 40 acres of seasonal grazing on a nearby farm. The farm lambs 1100 head, comprising hill-type North Country Cheviot ewes, Bluefaced Leicesters, Blackface and Texels. Cattle comprise 180 pedigree cows including 100 Luings, 60 Limousins, 12 Simmentals and 8 Charolais.

### Sheep Event – Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> July

**Venue:** Three Counties Showground, Malvern, WR13 6NW

**Details:** a biennial one-day show, which is the flagship event of the National Sheep Association. Lots of information on offer about the latest innovations and products available for sheep farmers to strengthen their technical knowledge by attending seminars and workshops.

### Royal Highland Show – 23<sup>rd</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> June

**Venue:** Ingleston, Edinburgh

There will be no promotional stand at this event.

Show classes for Swaledales take place on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> June at 9am – Judge: Joe Nattrass

Followed by hot lamb rolls at 6pm within the judging ring.

### Great Yorkshire Show – 12<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> July

**Venue:** Yorkshire Showground, Harrogate

There will be no promotional stand at this event.

Show classes for Swaledales take place on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> July – Judge: Malcolm Allison



# In Lamb Sale Reports

## Hawes 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2022

Judge: Frank Brennand, Ellerbeck

### Show results:

#### Supreme Champion

RC Hallam with the 1<sup>st</sup> Prize Gimmer Shearling

#### Reserve Champion

PE & KA Sowerby with the 2<sup>nd</sup> prize Gimmer Shearling

#### Ewe

1<sup>st</sup> S Bentley Lot 104  
2<sup>nd</sup> JR & SL Pratt Lot 146  
3<sup>rd</sup> JW Porter & Sons Lot 117

#### Gimmer Shearling

1<sup>st</sup> RC Hallam Lot 113  
2<sup>nd</sup> PE & KA Sowerby Lot 107  
3<sup>rd</sup> JW Porter & Sons Lot 116

#### Gimmer Hogg

1<sup>st</sup> JW Porter & Sons Lot 120  
2<sup>nd</sup> EC Coates Lot 128  
3<sup>rd</sup> RC Hallam Lot 115

### LEADING PRICES (£):

S Bentley	800
PE&KA Sowerby	900, 1400
RC Hallam	4500, 800
JW Porter & Sons	1000
KG Sowerby	2100, 450 x 2
D&M Brown	1300
JR&SL Pratt	1000
A&M Skidmore	700

### AVERAGES:

12 Ewes	£550
7 Gimmer Shearlings	£1421
4 Gimmer Hogs	£386



Supreme Champion from Robbie Hallam, High Birkwith sold for £4,500 to F Brennand.



1<sup>st</sup> Prize Ewe from S Bentley, Lane Head Farm sold for £800.



Reserve Champion, 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize gimmer Shearling from PE&KA Sowerby, Oakbank sold for £900



KG Sowerby, High Croft sold the 4<sup>th</sup> Prize Ewe for £2,100



D&M Brown, Lummas House sold the 4<sup>th</sup> Prize Gimmer Shearling for £1,300



# J36 Kendal

29<sup>th</sup> January 2022

Judge: James Metcalfe, Usha Gap

## Show results:

### Supreme Champion

R Hallam with the 1<sup>st</sup> Prize Gimmer Shearling

### Ewe

1<sup>st</sup> T Brogden  
2<sup>nd</sup> PE & KA Sowerby  
3<sup>rd</sup> R Hallam

Lot 41  
Lot 45  
Lot 48

### Reserve Champion

A&M Skidmore with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize Gimmer Shearling

### Gimmer Shearling

1<sup>st</sup> R Hallam  
2<sup>nd</sup> A&M Skidmore  
3<sup>rd</sup> TA & JA Dixon

Lot 49  
Lot 53  
Lot 51

## LEADING PRICES :

T Brogden	900, 600
R Hallam	3000, 500
TA&JA Dixon	500, 600
A&M Skidmore	1300, 450

## AVERAGES:

13 Ewes	£588
6 Gimmer shearlings	£522
No Hogs	



Supreme Champion from Robbie Hallam, High Birkwith sold for £3,000 to Messrs Lawson



Reserve Champion, from A&M Skidmore, Flakebridge sold for £1,300 to Max Hutchinson



1<sup>st</sup> Prize ewe from Thomas Brogden, Helbeck sold for £900 to S Taylor





# Bentham

5<sup>th</sup> February 2022

Judge: John Kelsall, Summerlands

## Show results:

### Supreme Champion

WA & A Booth with the 1<sup>st</sup> Prize Gimmer Shearling

### Reserve Champion

A&M Skidmore with the 1<sup>st</sup> Prize Ewe

### Ewe

1<sup>st</sup> A & M Skidmore Lot 76  
2<sup>nd</sup> KG Sowerby Lot 55  
3<sup>rd</sup> KG Sowerby Lot 54

### Gimmer Shearling

1<sup>st</sup> WA & A Booth Lot 61  
2<sup>nd</sup> A & M Skidmore Lot 80  
3<sup>rd</sup> AD Coates & Son Lot 68

### Gimmer Hogg

1<sup>st</sup> EC Coates Lot 63  
2<sup>nd</sup> AD Coates & Son Lot 69

## LEADING PRICES (£):

JM&JJ Dawson	450
KG Sowerby	800, 1000
B Thomas	450
WA&A Booth	1000, 500
EC Coates	1400
A&M Skidmore	500, 1600, 500, 500

## AVERAGES:

12 Ewes	£550
7 Gimmer Shearlings	£1421
4 Gimmer Hogs	£386



Supreme Champion from WA & A Booth, sold for £1,000 to H Harrison.



Reserve Champion, from A&M Skidmore, Flakebridge sold for £500 to J Coates.



2<sup>nd</sup> Prize ewe from KG Sowerby sold for £1,000 to M Alpe





# Kirkby Stephen

10<sup>th</sup> February 2022

Judge: James Pritchard, Evistones

## LEADING PRICES (£):

S&P Brogden	650, 800
T Brogden	700, 500, 900
D&M Brown	900
Messrs Buckle	3800
I Collinson	900
JR Dalton	3000, 1800, 800, 800, 900
R Hutchinson & Son	2000, 1900
TW Hutchinson	800
D Humble	1100, 1600, 500
C Nelson & Son	600, 500
KG Sowerby	4200, 5000, 1000, 450, 1000
K&M Sowerby	1000
P&K Sowerby	1500

## Show results:

### Supreme Champion

R Hutchinson & Sons with the 1<sup>st</sup> Prize Ewe

### Reserve Champion

JR Dalton with the 1<sup>st</sup> prize shearling Gimmer

### Ewe

1 <sup>st</sup>	R Hutchinson & Sons	Lot 23
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Messrs Buckle	Lot 8
3 <sup>rd</sup>	JR Dalton & Son	Lot 16
4 <sup>th</sup>	PE&KA Sowerby	Lot 51

### Gimmer Hogg

1 <sup>st</sup>	K Sowerby	Lot 50
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### Conformation

1 <sup>st</sup>	JR Dalton & Son	Lot 20
2 <sup>nd</sup>	C Nelson & Son	Lot 39
3 <sup>rd</sup>	I Collinson	Lot 12
4 <sup>th</sup>	C Nelson & Son	Lot 38

### Gimmer Shearling

1 <sup>st</sup>	JR Dalton & Son	Lot 20
2 <sup>nd</sup>	D&M Brown	Lot 7
3 <sup>rd</sup>	KG Sowerby	Lot 46
4 <sup>th</sup>	D Humble	Lot 32

## AVERAGES:

21 Ewes	£1179
15 Gimmer Shearlings	£1147



Supreme Champion from R Hutchinson & Sons, Valley Farm, sold for £2,000 to F Brennand.



Reserve Champion, from JR Dalton & Son, sold for £3,000 to J Pritchard.



KG Sowerby, High Croft sold this shearling for £5,000 to Burncroft Farms.



Messrs Buckle sold their 2<sup>nd</sup> prize ewe for £3,800 to J Nicholson.



KG Sowerby, High Croft sold this ewe for £4,200 to E Haughey and PE&KA Sowerby.







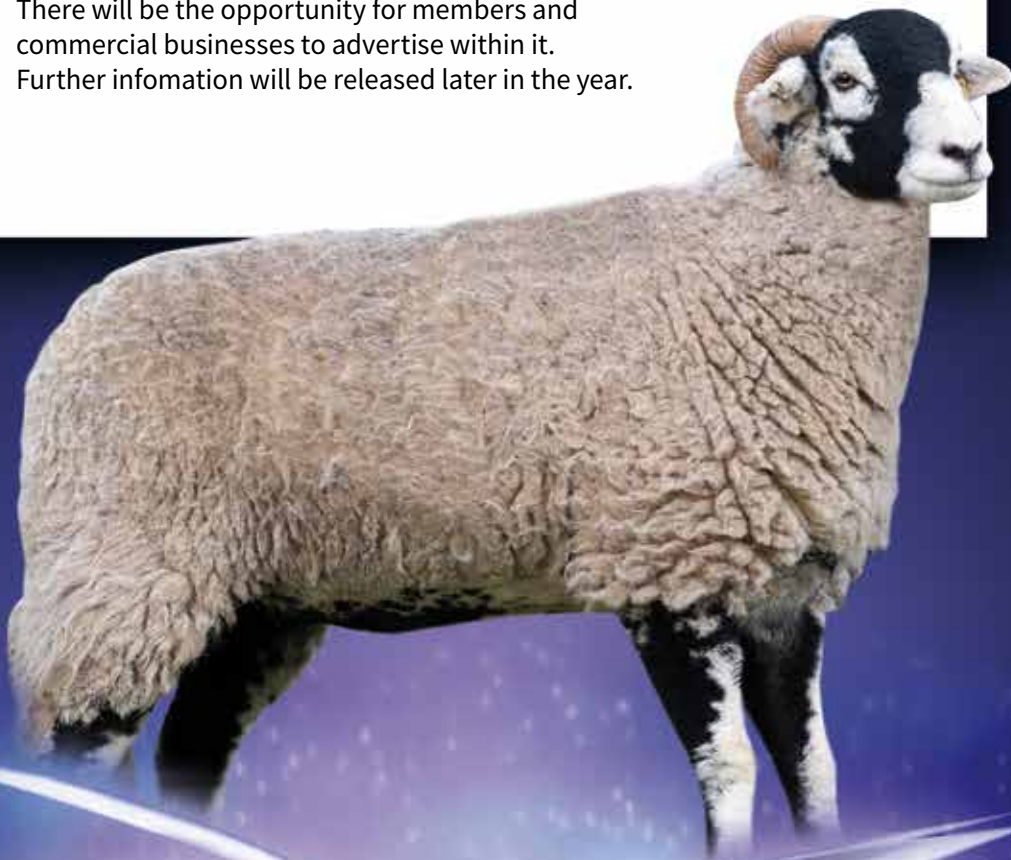


# Centenary Book

**As we all know, 2020 was the 100<sup>th</sup> year of the Swaledale Sheep Breeders Association, we had great plans for a Show and dinner, which all had to be cancelled due to the Covid pandemic, we also agreed to produce a Book to commemorate the past 100 years, marking historic moments within the breed.**

Council have agreed that a book should still be produced, as a one-off momentum for all members to place on their bookshelves with the annual Flock Books and the Millennium Journal. This is hoped to be printed and distributed in 2023.

There will be the opportunity for members and commercial businesses to advertise within it. Further information will be released later in the year.





# The next generation of Swaledale breeders



## A District

**Name:** Tom Eccles

**Age:** 18

**Address:** Hardberry Hill farm, Aukside, Middleton in Teesdale

### What made you choose to breed Swaledales?

Our family farm always has had Swaledales as we are a hill farm. We put around 2/3 to Leicester and 1/3 pure. I've always liked them from a young age and took interest in the breeding of them!

### How many of your own ewes do you run, and who did you get/buy your first one from?

I have 55 ewes that I put to the tup. In 2015 I bought 6 ewes privately, 2 off Stanhope Gate, 2 off West Briscoe and 2 off Rakefoot and did the same in 2016 to try and build up slowly, and they kindly tupped them for me as well.

### What is your favourite agricultural show and why?

Langdon beck show as it's fairly local to me and a lot of top quality sheep get there which is nice to see. A lot of people go as well and you see people that you maybe don't see that much during the year.

### What time of year do you most look forward to and why?

Lambing time as you can see how your tups are getting and it's very rewarding when you can see lambs playing in the sunshine and see your hard work has paid off.

### Which 3 Swaledale breeders to you most admire out of your District?

Raines at Stanhope Gate, Allinson's at West Briscoe and Hutchinson's at Valley Farm because all of them have very kindly helped me and given me advice, along with tupping sheep for me, which I will be forever grateful for because they helped me get a good start.

### If you sold a tup at 5-figures, what would you invest the money in?

I would invest so much of it back into another tup and invest so much back into the farm as you could easily blow it

all on a tup and it's not guaranteed to get well. Also, you don't have the money until the tup has got lambs so best to be on the safe side as if it's infertile the buyer will have to be refunded!

### Where do you see yourself in 10-years' time, workwise?

Hopefully taken over the family farm, and working at home full time. We haven't a massive farm so I work away quite a lot for extra income. For Swaledales I would like to think I have improved my flock and maybe sold a tup or two but time will tell.

## B District

**Name:** Megan Hallam

**Age:** 19

**Address:** High Birkwith Farm, Horton in Ribblesdale, North Yorkshire

### What made you choose to breed Swaledales?

I've grown up with them, they are the best breed of sheep for hill farms and just a bonny breed of sheep to have as well.

### How many of your own ewes do you run, and who did you get/buy your first one from?

I was given two old ewes off my Dad for Christmas when I was a young'en, then I also got more for birthdays over the years, that's all I wanted, and he was kind enough to let me buy

some also later on, they have bred up from there.

### What is your favourite agricultural show and why?

Muker, always has a good turnout of Swales and it's in the heart of Swaledale.

It wasn't on last year but the Hawes show was a right good day so at least we got a back end show, thanks to those that organised it

### What time of year do you most look forward to and why?

Lambing time, then marking/tagging the swale lambs and seeing what you've got. I also look forward to back-end sorting sheep for tups, that's a good job.

### Which 3 Swaledale breeders to you most admire out of your District?

My Dad, Christine Clarkson, and Paul and Mark Ewbank

### If you sold a tup at 5-figures, what would you invest the money in?

Swale sheep and also sheep dogs.

### Where do you see yourself in 10-years' time, workwise?

Farming at High Birkwith, breeding Swales and breaking dogs hopefully. Just continuing what I'm on with and hopefully getting better at it.





# C District

**Name:** Lewis Staley

**Age:** 14

**Address:** Poppin Cottage, Kaber, Kirkby Stephen, Cumbria

## What made you choose to breed Swaledales?

I chose to breed Swaledales because my Grandad and Dad have always had a strong interest in them, and I have caught the bug to.

## How many of your own ewes do you run, and who did you get/buy your first one from?

I have 20 of my own Swaledales, the first ewe I ever got was a Geoff Marwood individual shearling that was 3rd prize at Kirkby Stephen which my dad bought for me and my brother, which did very well, and a lot of my flock go back to her. The

first sheep I bought myself was a Robin Booth individual shearling out of Bentham.

## What is your favourite agricultural show and why?

My favourite agricultural show is Moorcock, because there is always a good show of stock. It would probably be Muker but it's always on a school day!

## What time of year do you most look forward to and why?

I look forward to lambing the most as you get to see how new ewes have bred and how new tups have got.

## Which 3 Swaledale breeders to you most admire out of your District?

The 3 breeders from my District that I admire are, Alan Alderson, Mark Nelson and Paddy Sowerby. Alan Alderson because he has a lot of sheep knowledge and is a great ambassador for the breed. Mark Nelson and Paddy Sowerby because they breed the type of Swaledales I aspire to breed.

## If you sold a tup at 5-figures, what would you invest the money in?

I would invest the money into new females and a share in a good tup.

## Where do you see yourself in 10-years' time, workwise?

I see myself still breeding Swaledales and a larger number of them. I also like photography especially livestock photography, so I'll see where that leads.

# D District

**Name:** Jake Collingwood

**Age:** 20

**Address:** Stewart Shield Meadows, Stanhope, Co Durham

## What made you choose to breed Swaledales?

Our farm is totally surrounded by moorland so I've always had an interest in them especially our 3 hefts on the fell.

## How many of your own ewes do you run, and who did you get/buy your first one from?

I currently have 60 in my flock. I bought my first pen of 10 draught ewes from Malcolm Bainbridge of Ettersgill followed by Fred Raine of Stanhope Gate then Ian Collinson of Billing Shield and finally Dick Dalton of South Wellhope.

## What is your favourite agricultural show and why?

Eastgate Sheep Show. It's a local show with a display of high-quality sheep.

## What time of year do you most look forward to and why?

Lambing time when I can see what I've managed to achieve with my own flock.

## Which 3 Swaledale breeders to you most admire out of your District?

Ian Collinson, Dick Dalton and Dan Humble.

## If you sold a tup at 5-figures, what would you invest the money in?

Reinvest into my own flock to improve bloodlines.

## Where do you see yourself in 10-years' time, workwise?

Hopefully with a larger flock selling high quality tups and ewes.



# E District

**Name:** Sam Graham

**Age:** 24

**Address:** Hardberry Hill farm, Aukside, Middleton in Teesdale

## What made you choose to breed Swaledales?

My family have always had Swaledale Sheep since we started farming back in the 1950's at Hunt House. Swaledales have always been in my life and I think they are a fantastic sheep that's very well suited to the surrounding heather moorland.

## How many of your own ewes do you run, and who did you get/buy your first one from?

My dad gave me 10 gimmer lambs about 12 years ago and I'm building up my own small flock. I use my Dad's Tups to cover my ewes.

## What is your favourite agricultural show and why?

One of my personal favourite shows is the Royal Highland Show. There is a fantastic range of stock from all over the country with so many different breeds too and I do enjoy looking round new machinery.

## What time of year do you most look forward to and why?

LAMBING! Lambing is my favourite time of the year as it's the sheep farmers harvest. Weather permitting that is!

## Which 3 Swaledale breeders to you most admire out of your District?

The 3 Swaledale breeders that I admire most are Tim Dunn from Breck House Enterprises, Reg Peirson of Friar House Farm and my Dad. These three stockmen have all encouraged me, along with other young farmers, and have shown me how good the Swaledale breed is to the rural hill farms and the surrounding moors.

## If you sold a tup at 5-figures, what would you invest the money in?

I'd probably invest the money into a swale tup to improve my ewes.

## Where do you see yourself in 10-years' time, workwise?

Hopefully still doing what I love - Farming! But I do think the future of this industry is unclear. I think the Government and the General Public both needs to understand how much time, money, effort and love we put into our livestock so the country has an affordable source of food. It's about time there was more support behind British Farmers and the development of a self-sustainable country for the future.



# Ireland

**Name:** David Coyne

**Age:** 17

**Address:** Boolahallagh, Newcastle, Clonmel, Co. Tipperary, E91 FY56, Eire.

## What made you choose to breed Swaledales?

Our family have been working with the Swale breed over the last 30 years and find their mothering ability unbelievable. They do a great job rearing two good lambs. We find them to be the best cross with the Bluefaced Leicester when producing mules. I don't think there is a better ewe for the job. Also, our scanning has improved from 100% up to 160% since working with the breed.

## How many of your own ewes do you run, and who did you get/buy your first one from?

I have 18 crowned Swaledale ewes with 15 crowned hoggets following on. My father keeps 1000+ breeding crossed Swaledale ewes.

My first crowned Swaledale ewe lambs came from Micheal Byrne and then the following year I bought hoggets from John & Tricia McCloskey - Heather Hill.

## What is your favourite agricultural show and why?

I think the Tullamore Show is the best show as it is the biggest agricultural show for livestock in Ireland with an excess of 60 thousand attending. Also you see some great stock being shown.

## What time of year do you most look forward to and why?

The back end of the year is definitely the best as you are getting rewarded for all your hard work.

## Which 3 Swaledale breeders to you most admire out of your District?

Aaron Boyle & Carol Gillespie, Garvan, Brian Carter, Fahan Hill, Micheal McMonagle, Glenview

## If you sold a tup at 5-figures, what would you invest the money in?

I would probably reinvest in good quality tups for the Swaledales but also Crossing tups to produce good Mules.

## Where do you see yourself in 10-years' time, workwise?

I would like to be full time farming and still breeding registered Swaledales with a strong female breeding flock. I would like to increase my number to 100 Swaledales going to the Registered ram with the flock becoming all Swaledale across the farm.







# FLOCK BOOK SALES

**A set of flock books, 1920 to 2011 sold at Hawes in January for £7,500 to EJ & AM Fox, St John's Kirk, Biggar.**

**Leading prices of individual flock books at Kirkby Stephen in February:**

<b>1920</b> - £1,000	<b>1923</b> - £700
<b>1921</b> - £700	<b>1924</b> - £400
<b>1922</b> - £750	



# Trophies

**Every year, there are two trophies presented by the SSBA, which rotate around the Districts, for 2022 it's the turn of C District to nominate two shows.**

## Dalton & Graham Trophy

To be awarded to the exhibitor gaining most points at Mungrisedale Show on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> May.

### Previous winners of the Dalton & Graham Trophy

- 2013 – Middleton Spring Show – JR Walton & Son
- 2014 – Kilnsey Show – R Tennant
- 2015 – Bentham Show – S Taylor
- 2016 – Roman Wall Show – G Dalton
- 2017 – Farndale Show – Breck House Enterprises
- 2018 – Eggleston – Bentley & Mallon
- 2019 – Pateley Bridge – M Ewbank
- 2020 & 2021 – No Shows

## Rochdale Trophy

To be awarded to the best pair (male & female) at Hodder Valley Show on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> September.

### Previous winners of the Rochdale Trophy

- 2013 – Langdon Beck Show – DC & KL Hutchinson
- 2014 – Wensleydale Show – M&S Sunter
- 2015 – Ravenstonedale Show – D & CE Marston
- 2016 – St John's Chapel Show – JC White
- 2017 – Ryedale Show – Breck House Enterprises
- 2018 – Bowes Show – R Hutchinson & Sons
- 2019 – Muker Show – PE & KA Sowerby
- 2020 & 2021 – No Shows





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# Swaledale Ram Sale Dates 2022

## Ballybofey & Stranorlar Mart, Ireland

16 September

All Classes of Rams & Females

**Contact:** Carol Gillespie 00353 86 370 3140

## Middleton in Teesdale

12 October

All Classes of Rams

**Contact:** Caroline Colling 07919 440430

## Ruswarp, near Whitby

7 October

All Classes of Rams

**Contact:** Michelle Fawbert 07756 767499

## Kirkby Stephen

Aged Rams & Ram Lambs - 19 October

Shearling Rams - 20 – 21 October

**Contact:** Wilf Buckle 07855 103575

## St John's Chapel, Weardale

11 October

All Classes of Rams

**Contact:** Fay Johnson 07500 800388

## Hawes

Shearling Rams - 26 – 27 October

Aged Rams & Ram Lambs - 3 November

**Contact:** David Alderson 01748 886120

All catalogues will be available at [www.swaledale-sheep.com](http://www.swaledale-sheep.com)

## Society Contacts

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