

*RG*

Not for Publication

H.F.R.O. 172

HILL FARMING RESEARCH ORGANISATION

FARM REPORTS AND SUMMARY OF FLOCK RECORDS

1967

I FARM REPORTS - 1967

A. GLENSAUGH

Weather

The winter of 1966-67 was one of the mildest on record for a number of years with temperatures well above the seasonal average. Very little snow fell. The mild weather continued into spring, with March and April having 30% more sunshine than usual. May was the wettest month with 6.86 inches of rain. The summer and autumn continued to have above average temperatures, though September and October were rather dull and wet.

Weather Records, November 1966 - October 1967

Month	Rainfall (inches)	Sunshine (hours)	Mean Daily Air Temp.°F.
<u>1966</u>			
November	2.67	57.3	37.7
December	4.43	52.9	35.8
<u>1967</u>			
January	4.10	60.5	37.0
February	3.13	69.8	*
March	0.69	142.1	*
April	1.73	149.6	43.0
May	6.86	94.7	45.0
June	1.36	115.9	52.4
July	2.08	114.7	55.3
August	1.71	101.8	55.0
September	4.47	55.2	52.6
October	4.12	87.2	*
Total	37.35	1101.7	

\* thermometer broken.

SHEEP - Hill flock

The rams were put out on the 16th and 17th Nov. 1966, ~~some~~ some five days later than the previous year. The weather remained fairly good throughout the tupping period and mating went well with about 50% ewes covered in the first week.

The good weather continued over most of the winter and grass began to grow some 5 weeks earlier than in the previous year. Ewe feeding before and after lambing was slightly altered from previous years in that the start of feeding was delayed by about three weeks, but each ewe was given the same amount as in previous years over the shorter period. Where it was possible ewes with twins or groups of ewes with a high proportion of twins, were fed at a slightly higher rate than those with singles. There was no evidence of lack of milk in the ewes in general.

A pre-lambing dipping was carried out against lice and tick and this seemed to give an effective control.

Finella was for the first time run on the semi-intensive system, i.e. making full use of the re-seeds to increase stocking rates, 290 ewes compared with 155 the previous year and at the same time this led to an increase in body weight of some 5 kg. Both percentage and total lamb production was considerably increased as is shown in the tables at the back of the report.

Lambing went well with mainly good weather and lamb losses over that period

were 5 - 10% less than in the same period of the previous year.

After lambing all Big Hill ewes with twins were retained on reseeded ground with a view to improving hill twins. This in fact did happen and in addition the ewes were in much better condition at weaning. The Big Hill single lambs were weaned at the milk clipping, approx. one month earlier than usual, in an effort to produce stronger lambs. This was not so successful, as weight gains were disappointing over the extra month inbye, being no better than one would have expected them to be on the hill. One point did emerge, however, and that was that the ewes were in better condition as a result of the month's grace without lambs. Unfortunately due to the ewes being involved in another form of research work it was impossible to follow this through to see if in fact this improved condition would have resulted in a heavier lamb crop in 1968.

Over the farm as a whole weaning weights were again complicated by the fact that different hefts were subjected to varying treatments. The average weights as at 8/8/67 are given at the end of the report.

A total of 813 lambs were weaned from the hill flocks and this does not include lambs retained in the shed or on the inbye in connection with J. N. Peart's work.

#### Inbye flock

The inbye flock numbered 100 at mating time and 124 BF/Chev lambs were marked. Unfortunately swayback struck these lambs and between deaths, humane slaughter and killing and examination by the vet this number fell to 92 at weaning. Affected lambs were seen on several occasions by our local vet and also by the College V.I.O., but no cure could be given.

On a suggestion by the local vet we dosed orally with copper sulphate and although we had no further new cases, it must be borne in mind that by this time they were three months old and the danger of new cases is slight after that age. The 92 weaned lambs and 61 shed lambs brought the inbye total to 153. Together with the hill lambs this brought the number weaned to 966 which is the highest total so far weaned on Glensaugh.

#### Disposal of lambs

Ewe lambs retained as stock replacements	192
Lambs sold store	160
Lambs sold fat	364
Sold to the slaughterhouse	1
Lambs on hand (15/12/67)	235
Deaths since weaning	<u>14</u>
	<u>966</u>

#### Prices

The store lambs sold averaged 97/- with a top price of 109/6 for cross lambs and a bottom price of 91/- for Blackface. The fat lambs sold and paid for so far average 96/6. The wool clip was up by 414 lbs., this year's cheque being £989:19:-d against last year's £846:3:9d.

#### CATTLE

At the beginning of the year the breeding herd numbered 108. During the year 2 cows died of "staggers", 1 of the Sourhope cows pined away and despite veterinary attention became comatose and died, 1 was sold to Brechin Slaughter house on veterinary advice and 4 were sold fat. The cows transferred from Sourhope did not perform as well as our own and the calves from them were poor. All calves were born between January and April. Three calves were purchased to foster on to cows that had lost their own calves and in all 95 calves were weaned and presented for calf subsidy, this was an increase of 18 over the previous year.

Summary of Calf Births and Deaths

Calves born dead	Calves born alive	Calves died	Calves Bought	Calves Reared
3	98	6 (1 hurt at birth 1 comatose 1 drowned 2 pneumonia 1 hairball)	3	95

The following table shows the herd performance over the last 6 years.

Year	Cows Mated	Dead Calves	Died after birth	Home bred Calves Reared	% Homebred calves weaned
1962	87	11	10	63	72.0
1963	78	9	4	61	78.0
1964	91	7	12	66	72.5
1965	78	2	2	66	84.6
1966	85	1	2	74	87.0
1967	108	3	6	92	86.1

Rough shelter was again provided where possible for the first 7-10 days of the calves' lives.

The following series of tables show live weight of cows, weaning weights of calves, stirk weights, sale prices, etc.

Live weight of cows at Nov. 1967

Breed	Number	Average weight in lbs.
Galloway	7	1204
S/Horn x Gall.	39	1098
S/Horn x High.	7	1064
Aber/Angus Crosses	29	1149
Hereford Crosses	8	1149
Shorthorn Crosses	5	1075
Luig	5	932

Weaning weight of Calves 2/10/67

Sire	Male		Female	
	No.	Av. wt. in lbs.	No.	Av. wt. in lbs.
Hereford	19	482	12	433
Aberdeen Angus	29	443	28	419
Luig	2	420*	2	392*

\* All heifers' calves.

Cattle Sales, Prices and Weights

March Sale 11/3/67

No. and Sex	Av. Pre Sale Wt. in lbs.	Av. Price
7 Bullock stirks	700	£57: 8: -d
7 Heifer stirks	686	£53: -: -d

April Sale 22/4/67

No. and Sex	Av. Pre Sale wt. in lbs.	Av. Price
8 Bullock stirks	716	£62:15: -d
8 Heifer stirks	700	£59:11: -d

June Sale 17/6/67

No. and Sex	Av. Pre Sale wt. in lbs.	Av. Price
6 Bullock stirks	686	£59:10: -d
10 Heifer stirks	714	£61: 1: -d

July Sale 29/7/67

No. and Sex	Av. Pre Sale wt. in lbs.	Av. Price
1 Bullock stirk	672	£56:15: -d
6 Heifer stirks	686	£56:13: -d

Calves

No creep feeding was practised this year and 17 calves were sold in Edzell on 31/10/67. The restrictions in connection with the Foot and Mouth outbreak came into force before the second draw of calves could be sold in Laurencekirk but by arrangement with the Auction Mart a private sale was effected and 23 calves were sold, leaving 55 to overwinter.

Edzell Sale 31/10/67

No. and Sex	Av. Pre Sale wt. in lbs.	Av. Price
9 Bullock Calves	602	£46:14: -d
5 Bullock Calves	560	£34: 3: -d
3 Heifer Calves	602	£44:18: -d

Private Sale 26/12/67

No. and Sex	Av. Pre Sale wt. in lbs.	Av. Price
13 Bullock Calves	616	£53: -: -d
10 Heifer Calves	588	£48:10: -d

Generally speaking the cows did well throughout the year. The system of cow performance recording was continued and some cows were sold as a result of this. We start the 1968 calving with 100 cows.

A young Hereford bull was purchased to mate with the extra cows and later a second young Hereford bull had to be purchased as the old Hereford was injured and was unable to complete the season.

The five Luing heifers all calved satisfactorily but one lost its calf with pneumonia. The calves were pure Luing and fairly small, but as they are heifers' calves it will not be possible to judge until 1968 when they will be second calvers to the Aberdeen Angus bull.

### Cropping

<u>Roots and Greencrop</u>		<u>Grass</u>	
Potatoes	2.25	Hay	30.00
Turnips	15.00	Silage	60.80
Kale	5.00	Grazing	172.65
Rape	49.50		
	<u>71.75</u> acres		<u>263.45</u> acres

With the exception of some early sown rape all the crops were good in 1967, again no grain crop was grown but 100 acres of barley straw were purchased at 25/- per acre and baled with our own labour. The permanent sow-out of grass seeds was sown under a cover of Western Walths ryegrass which was cut for hay and silage. Although the hay acreage was down on 1966, the yield per acre was greater. It is estimated that 60 tons of hay and 350 tons of silage were secured.

### Heather burning

Once again high winds were troublesome over the burning period and many otherwise good burning days were lost. Some 50 acres were burned between the three hills. One particularly dangerous bit on Finella next to the Forestry Commission trees was burned due to the co-operation of the local Head Forester. This should enable us to burn further areas on this side of the farm with some degree of safety.

### Fencing

Approximately 1000 yards of fencing were renewed this year. Some of this was traditional type rylock and the rest high tensile wire type. Some 12 new gates were hung.

### Other Items

A few trees were planted to fill up gaps in last year's small shelter belts. A piece of waste ground behind the sheep shed was planted up with Scots Pine but these do not appear to be doing very well.

Once again repairs had to be carried out after gale force winds had damaged doors and part of the steading roof.

B. LEPHINMORE

Weather

The winter of 1966/67 was exceptionally mild. March was very wet and in general spring growth was good, with mild conditions at lambing, followed by a coldspell at the beginning of May. Apart from a warm sunny spell from 10th to 18th June, the summer was mainly dull and wet, although total rainfall during the period June to August was below average. The last fortnight of August was sunny and warm, but characterised by prolonged morning mists. In general, autumn was mild, but very wet. October was a poor month. November was a growthy month with the second half mainly calm, with hill fog and drizzle at times.

Daily met. recordings were discontinued in October.

Rainfall - November 1966/October 1967

<u>1966</u>	<u>Inches</u>
November	7.63
December	11.76
<u>1967</u>	
January	7.37
February	7.02
March	7.56
April	3.65
May	5.35
June	3.47
July	4.66
August	3.6
September	7.09
October	10.39
	<u>79.55</u>

SHEEP

Ewes were in average condition in October, 1966, and due to the mild winter came through satisfactorily to lambing. At weaning Low-End lambs were best, closely followed by Midhill; Barnacarry lambs were a poor third. Low-End ewes at this time were in excellent condition, particularly the gimmers, while Barnacarry ewes were poorest. The overall percentage weaned was 80. Figures for previous years were:-

1966	78%
1965	82%
1964	83%
1963	69%
1962	73%

Two sets of triplets were born on the Low-End hirsel - the first recorded at Lephinmore and a rare occurrence amongst hill sheep in the area.

Store lamb prices were again poor at the early sales, but improved as the season advanced. Fifty-one shott ewe lambs were sold store in September, 31 at 53/6d and 20 at 39/6d.

One hundred and fifteen wether lambs were sold store in October at an average price of 54/-d to a top of 79/6d.

One hundred and forty-eight lambs were sold through F.M.C. and averaged 84/3d at the following grades and weights:-

110	Grade A	@ 31 lbs. dead wt.	@ 5/- <sup>1</sup> / <sub>4</sub> d per lb.
9	Grade B	@ 27 lbs. dead wt.	@ 2/11d per lb.
29	Grade C and rejects	@ 26.8 lbs. dead wt.	@ 1/10 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>4</sub> d per lb.

Fifty lambs were sold dead wt. through Biggar Auction Mart in early December at an average price of 64/10d:-

20 @ 87/9d graded at 27 lbs. dead wt. @ 3/3d per lb.  
 30 @ 49/4d ungraded at 20.5 lbs. dead wt. @ 2/5d per lb.

Sixty-one aged ewes (6½ years) were sold at the cast ewe sales in October, 49 averaged 59/6d and 12 Swaledale x ewes realised 68/-d per head.

Hogg Wintering

Barnacarry hogs were home wintered on the hill until the end of January and then grazed on the in-bye fields until 24th March when they returned to the hill. Approximately half of Low-End hogs were home wintered on the low ground and the remainder at Point Farm, Ardlamont. Eight-two Midhill hogs were wintered at Point Farm and 11 at home on the low ground.

Fat Lamb Prices

Year	No.	Carcase Weight (lb)	Price per head
1960	85	27.5	78/6d
1961	133	28	90/-d
1962	94	27.5	81/3d
1963	127	27.75	85/9d
1964	111	27.75	83/3d
1965	188	24.5	67/-d
1966	216	26.6	68/5d
1967	198	28.2	79/5d

Draft Ewe Prices

Year	No.	Price per head
1960	56	60/-
1961	59	51/-
1962	43	62/-
1963	75	64/-
1964	45	73/-
1965	54	73/6
1966	53	47/-
1967	61	61/-

Average Lamb Prices

Year	Wether Lambs		Ewe Lambs	
	No.	Price	No.	Price
1960	235	65/-	99	43/-
1961	235	79/-	90	42/6
1962	217	82/6	73	68/-
1963	147	82/6	63	55/6
1964	238	80/-	83	67/6
1965	241	66/9	37	68/-
1966	253	60/3	59	43/-
1967	313	70/-	51	48/-



Lamb Sales by hirsal (excluding store ewe lambs)

	Barnacarry	Low-End	Midhill
Total sold	68	80	165
Retained at home	5	9	4
Total	73	89	169
(1) % sold store	30 (22)	33 (29)	38 (64)
(2) % sold dead wt.	63 (46)	57 (51)	60 (101)
(3) % retained	7 (5)	10 (9)	2 (4)
% of 2 sold by mid-Sept.	4 (2)	47 (24)	16 (16)
% of 2 sold by mid-Oct.	9 (4)	55 (28)	47 (48)
% of 2 sold by 1st Nov.	56 (26)	72 (37)	84 (85)
*			
Revenue by hirsal (Lambs, cast ewes, wool)			
	Barnacarry	Low-End	Midhill
	£	£	£
Lamb sales	267	314	639
Ewe sales	67	73	138
Wool sales	112	201	328
Total	446	588	1105
Gross revenue per ewe excluding subsidies	43/3d	61/6d	61/9d

\* Including store ewe lambs.

Supplementary feeding

Since supplementary feeding began on Midhill in 1956 and Low-End in 1959, normal practice has been to offer concentrates to the ewe flocks in toto. In 1967 only the gimmers and lean ewes were fed. Ninety-five Midhill lean ewes and gimmers were drawn off on 16th March and fed in Phase II above the downfall, along with 23 lean ewes drawn off in January.

Forty-seven Low-End gimmers and 20 lean ewes were drawn off on 7th April and fed in the lab. field.

Hirsal	Feeding Period	Concentrates per head	Cost per head
Midhill	16th Mar/13th Apr	12 lbs	3/9d
Low-End	5th/17th Apr	3½ lbs	1/1d

The purchased concentrate was marketed as a dairy cake with an analysis of 17% protein.

Two main factors influenced the adoption of this limited feed policy. First, the mild conditions in winter and early spring which brought the ewes through in relatively good condition (probably a result of early and adequate supplies of drawmoss) and secondly, the extremely wet conditions underfoot which resulted from the prolonged heavy rainfall and made haulage on the hill impossible by wheeled tractor.

In-wintering of Barnacarry ewes 1967

The entire hirsel was housed on 31st January and dosed with Thibenzole. Average ewe weights over the winter were:-

	<u>21/11/66</u>	<u>31/1/67</u>	<u>15/2</u>	<u>28/2</u>	<u>14/3</u>	<u>28/3</u>	<u>11/4</u>
	kg.	kg.	kg.	kg.	kg.	kg.	kg.
Ewes	46.5	40.4	42.9	41.9	41.7	41.4	45.4
Gimmers	38.0	32.2	34.5	34.3	33.8	33.5	35.8

Weight loss Nov/Jan - Ewes	6.1 kg. = 13% of body wt.
" " " " - Gimmers	5.8 kg. = 15% of body wt.
Midhill " " " " - Ewes	3.2 kg. = 7% of body wt.

Feeding rates were:-

31st Jan/10th Feb.	- 1½ lbs hay/head/day
11th Feb/28th Mar	- 2 lbs hay/head/day
29th Mar/lambing	- hay ad lib + ¾ - 1lb concentrates/head

Total feed per head

Hay	- 152 lbs (@ £14 per ton) - 19/-
Concentrates	- 16½ lbs (@ 3½d per lb.) - 5/2

By the end of March one third of the ewes were very lean and faecal analysis revealed a heavy worm burden. All the ewes were dosed with Thibenzole and feeding rates were increased.

Seventy of the strongest ewes were returned to Barnacarry on 17th April and lambed in the croft enclosure. The remainder were turned out to lamb in Fields 2 and 3, apart from the gimmers and very lean ewes which were lambed in the shed. Throughout the summer Barnacarry ewes and lambs were noticeably poorer in condition than either Low-End or Midhill.

HILL CATTLE

Thirty six cows were overwintered and feeding commenced on 21st November. Hay feeding stopped on 10th May; concentrates were offered until 27th May. Total feed per cow was 14½ cwts of hay plus 4½ cwts of concentrates at a cost of £17:19:-d (hay valued at £14 per ton). Thirty-one calves were reared and 5 cows were barren. Eleven small calves were weaned on 30th September, the remainder running with their dams until sale on 20th October at Dalmally, when 11 bullocks averaged £34:9:-d and 8 heifers £27:15:-d per head. A further 10 calves were sold at the second sale on 4th November; 3 bullocks at £30 and 7 heifers at £23:7:-d. Over the two sales 14 bullocks averaged £33:10:-d and 15 heifers averaged £25:14:-d per head. Two small bullock calves were retained at home.

A Beef Shorthorn polled bull was bought in March to replace the A.A. bull which died on the hill last year. It is hoped that this bull will breed suitable heifer replacements for the hill cow herd.

Calf Weaning Weights (A.A. x S x H)

	<u>No.</u>	<u>Oct. 1966</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Oct. 1967</u>
		lt. kg.		lt. kg.
Heifers	16	187	15	199
Bullocks	19	201	16	219

<u>Hill Cows</u>	<u>Oct. 1966</u>	<u>Deaths</u>	<u>Sales</u>	<u>Hill Cows</u>	<u>Oct. 1967</u>
<u>No.</u>	<u>lt. kg.</u>			<u>No.</u>	<u>lt. kg.</u>
36	435	-	-	36	449

ARABLE GROUND

Fields 5 North, 3 and 2 were cut for hay. A total of 39 tons was made from 19 acres. Field 5 was cut on 14th June and a second light cut was taken on 21st August. The barn drier again proved its worth and although no top quality hay was made, a reasonable crop was secured under extremely adverse conditions. Drying costs (electricity only) averaged 23/6d per ton.

Field 4 was sown down to rape and Italian ryegrass with  $\frac{3}{4}$  acre of potatoes and  $1\frac{3}{4}$  acres swedes drilled on the flat at the south end, the latter was sown as an aid to docken eradication and hand digging and tractor cultivations were carried out throughout the summer.

Heather burning

No heather burning was possible throughout 1967. Large areas now require burning, particularly on the Low-End and Wood hirsels. The problem is not easily resolved as dry springs (however infrequent) are usually associated with strong east winds blowing directly on to the Forestry plantations.

C. SOURHOPE

Weather

The weather at tugging (1966) was reasonably good except for a cold spell in the first two weeks of December. After a cold New Year, milder conditions persisted almost continuously until the end of April. Heavy snow fell on the 23rd February, but gave way to rain within 48 hours. May weather was adverse, with heavy rain, strong winds and low temperatures. From May 13th to 18th the maximum daily air temperature was 43°F; 3.3 inches of rain fell in this period. Better weather towards the end of May was maintained throughout the summer. A somewhat wet autumn has been experienced.

Weather Records, November 1966 - October 1967

Month	Rainfall (inches)	Sunshine (hours)	Mean daily air temp.°F
<u>1966</u>			
November	5.11	39.2	38.8
December	4.33	50.6	36.3
<u>1967</u>			
January	1.98	51.1	36.7
February	3.03	89.4	38.6
March	1.47	117.7	40.1
April	3.16	117.0	42.9
May	7.37	126.9	45.4
June	1.81	199.4	53.8
July	2.77	154.8	56.4
August	2.91	132.9	56.8
September	3.10	109.1	52.4
October	4.54	94.4	46.7
Total	41.58	1282.5	

SHEEP

Sheep went through the mild open winter in good condition. All stock ewe hogs were shed off during tugging and brought on to hand feeding during this period. The Rigg and Gairs hogs remained off the hill throughout the winter. Sheep on all hefts other than the Gairs were fed concentrates as lambing approached; on average, each sheep (ewes and hogs) consumed 12 lb concentrates.

All ewes were drenched prior to lambing and good weather resulted in a straightforward lambing. Both the Park Law and Fasset hefts, with earlier lambing dates of 28th March and 3rd April respectively, experienced some very unpleasant weather. It had been the intention to tick-dip all the hill ewes immediately prior to lambing, but adverse weather caused the cancellation of this programme.

Mention has already been made of the weather check which young lambs received in the middle of May, but by weaning time no signs of this check was apparent. Neither fleece nor weaning weights were recorded other than for the experimental hefts of Park Law and Fasset. Excluding these two hefts, the overall weaning percentages for the South-country Cheviots (Luchope, Rigg and Gairs) was 78%, for the Blackface ewes on Schil 95% and for the North-country Cheviots on Near-end Hairney Law 95%. A total of 1408 lambs was weaned (including experimental).

Whilst the performance of the Gairs ewes (79% lambs weaned) has shown an improvement on the previous year, when the percentage was only 63, the Rigg hirsels weaned only 68% this year as against 70% in 1966. This heft of 150 ewes received 197 bales of hay over the winter period, together with 15 cwt

of concentrates prior to lambing. An extensive burning of the Nardus and Molinia areas of the Rigg will be carried out in the spring of 1968.

In an attempt to simplify the summer herding of the three adjacent hefts Near-end Hairney Law (N.C.C. ewes), Far-end Hairney Law (wether heft) and Auchope (S.C.C. ewes), all the milk ewes from the Near-end and Auchope were combined and run on the Near-end from the end of May to the end of the first week in July. At the same time all the dry sheep, viz., hoggs and eild ewes from these two hefts were put with the wether flock on the Far-end Hairney Law. Thus over this period Auchope was left clear of sheep. After clipping, all the milk ewes were put to Auchope and the Far-end H. Law rested by transferring all the dry sheep to the N.E.H. Law. Herding was certainly simplified between lamb-marking and clipping with no apparent adverse effect on the lambs. However, some trouble was experienced with the N.C. Cheviot ewes on transfer to Auchope in that it proved increasingly difficult to keep these ewes on the Auchope heft with fences which, whilst adequate to restrain the hefted Auchope stock, proved inadequate to confine the N.C. Cheviot ewes. Thus one month after the milk-clip, and some 3 weeks earlier than had been intended, the three sheep stocks were re-established on their own ground.

#### Disposal of lambs

The greater part of the Cheviot lambs were grazed on pasture until the end of September when 405, averaging 58 lb live weight, and comprising 189 S.C.C., 148 N.C.C. and 68 N.C.C. x S.C.C. lambs were sold on a live-weight basis at 1/5d per lb. No bulk sale of Blackface lambs could be arranged and these were sold through the store market. It is perhaps of interest to note the variation in price per lb live weight that four lots of Blackface lambs were bid to at the same sale on 24/8/67.

38 Blackface wether lambs.	Average live weight 65 lbs.	1/4d/lb live weight
50 Blackface wether lambs.	Average live weight 57 lbs.	1/-/lb live weight
64 Blackface ewe and wether lambs.	Average live weight 50 lbs.	1/-/lb live weight
58 Blackface ewe and wether lambs.	Average live weight 44 lbs.	10d/lb live weight

A total of 468 Cheviot lambs sold in store condition averaged 70/5d and 250 Blackface lambs averaged 53/4d. In addition 93 lambs were sold fat to average 90/6d. Total Income from Lamb sales this year of £2720 for 311 lambs, compares favourably with £2323 for 593 lambs sold last year.

Details of disposal of 1967 lamb crop are as follows:-

Ewe lambs retained as stock replacements	390
Wether lambs retained on hill	60 (28 for Moredun)
Lambs on hand (11/12/67)	110
Ewe lambs to Glensaugh	25
Lambs sold store	718
Lambs sold fat	93
Deaths since weaning	12
Total weaned	1408

Of the 110 lambs on hand at the time of writing, 100 are surplus ewe lambs which are being overwintered in-bye with a view to a number of these being kept as potential breeding stock.

Average draft ewe prices were:-

South-country Cheviot 6-year-old	70/-
North-country Cheviot 6-year-old	73/-
Blackface 6-year-old	61/-

#### Sheep stock autumn 1967

In the late summer the North-country sheep stock from Fasset together with 25 Blackface gimmers of the same heft were transferred to Glensaugh.

Weather at tugging has been favourable so far and the ewe stock is in

satisfactory condition. Top-crossing of the South-country Cheviot ewe stock on Auchope with North-country Cheviot tups is continuing.

#### CATTLE

Winter feeding of the suckler herd started in mid-December and was continued until 4th May during which period each cow consumed on average 168 lbs cattle nuts, 2½ tons silage and 5 cwt hay.

Of the 24 cows and in-calf heifers, three were sold in late spring having been kept off the bull in 1966, and one cow died of staggers in May 1967. Of the 19 calves born in the spring one heifer calf died in late summer.

In the autumn of this year the final dispersal of the suckler herd was completed with the sale of 11 in-calf cows, four in-calf heifers and nine older cows which had been kept off the bull. The 31 1966-born calves retained on the farm last autumn were overwintered outside and sold in the autumn of this year.

Average prices realised for calves and yearling stirks is given below:-

9 bullock calves	£ 32 13 0
9 heifer calves	24 17 0
6 yearling bullocks	45 0 0
24 yearling heifers	40 0 0

#### Cropping

A total of 22 acres of grass was cut for hay. The 12 acre Bungalow field was direct reseeded and a very satisfactory take of seeds has been achieved.

#### Buildings

The new building to house experimental animals was completed in the spring and extensive maintenance work was carried out on the buildings at the steading. Further exterior painting has been completed and at the present time the building alterations are proceeding to the Farm Manager's house.

#### Farm Road

Major improvements which were held up last year at three sites on the farm road have now been completed by an outside contractor. Certain parts of the new road are in need of surfacing, and to date 900 tons of road metal have been purchased, the greater part of which has now been laid by farm staff. Further deliveries of road metal are awaited.

#### Fencing

Breast wires have been erected around the Fasset field and a considerable amount of repair work to existing fences completed. The March fence between Sourhope and Cocklawfoot has been completely renewed.

II SUMMARY OF FLOCK RECORDS FOR 1966-67

A. GLENSAUGH

Table 1

Reconciliation of Ewe Numbers 1966-67

Heft	Ewes and Gimmers at Nov. 1966	Cast Ewes	Transfers out	Deaths	Gimmers Brought in Nov. 1967	Purchases During 1967	Transfers in	Ewes and Gimmers at Nov. 1967
<u>CAIRN</u>	47	-	-	6	49	-	-	90
<u>FINELLA</u>								
(a) East Finella	124	2	122	-		100	16	116) <sup>now all</sup> Chev.
(b) Mid Finella	118	14	-	3	39	-	-	140) 371
(c) West Finella	48	-	-	2	49	-	20	115)
<u>FORESTRY PARK</u>	46	2	16	2	12	-	23	61
<u>BIG HILL</u> (includes Lewis)	400	10	-	14	45	25	79	525
Flock Total	783*	28	138	27	194	125	138	1047*

\*NOTE. Last year 778 hill ewes (5 cast off 783 before tupping) and 100 cast ewes were mated giving a total of 878. This year none of the cast ewes are being crossed, but of the 1047 some 71 ewes have been or will be slaughtered, after mating in connection with the research programme, so that the effective total will be 976. This is an increase of 98 ewes on last year.

Table 2

Lambing Percentages 1966-67

Heft	Ewes to Ram Nov. 1966	Lambs Marked		% 1966	% Cleaned
		Total	Percentage		
<u>FINELLA</u>					
(a) East Finella	124 (all gimmers)	133	107.5	92.3	125.5
(b) Mid Finella	118 (no gimmers)	174	147.5		
(c) West Finella	48 (all gimmers)	61	127.1		
			126.9		
<u>CAIRN</u>	46	38	82.6	-	78.3
<u>BIG HILL</u> (including Lewis and shed)	396	408	103	94.5	101.0
<u>LOCH HILLS</u> (Forestry Park)	46	73	158.7	142.5	158.7
Flock Total	778	887	114.0	97.0	112.5

GLENSAUGH

Table 3

Weights of Ewes and Gimmers (kg)  
1966-67

Heft	Ewes		Gimmers	
	Nov 1966	Nov 1967	Nov 1966	Nov 1967
<u>CAIRN</u>	-	49.3	43.5	49.8
<u>FINELLA</u>	This stock has been changed over to Cheviots			
(a) East Finella	57.6	62.0	-	53.1
(b) Mid Finella	-	59.6	52.2	55.7
(c) West Finella				
<u>BIG HILL</u>	49.7	Sheep involved in high & low feed levels, figures meaningless for this table	41.1	45.9
<u>LOCH HILLS</u> (Forestry Park)	67.9 This is now	63.2 entirely a Blackface stock	56.2	56.2



B. LEPHINMORE

Table 1  
Reconciliation of Ewe Numbers 1966-67

	Ewes and Gimmers Nov 1966	Ewes Draft	Cast	*Deaths Nov./Nov.	Gimmers Brought in Nov. 1967	Ewes and Gimmers Nov. 1967
Barnacarry	206	24	5	10 (2)	44	211
Low-End	191	24	2	15 (7)	41	191
Midhill	358	48	1	29 (17)	92	372
Total	755	96	8	54	177	774

\* Inclusive of black loss (noted in brackets)

Table 2  
Lambing Percentage 1966-67

	Weaning Weights				Marking %			Weaning %		
	Singles		Twins		No.	%	% '66	No.	%	% '66
	No.	Wt. (lbs)	No.	Wt. (lbs)						
Barnacarry (winter housed)	134	56.1	-	-	155	75.2	81	148	72.5	76
Low-End	130	63.1	26	54.8	167	87.4	78	164	85.9	74
Midhill	263	57.9	22	57.0	306	85.4	82	294	82.1	81
Totals	527	58.7	48	55.9	628	83.2	81	606	80.3	78

Table 3  
Weights of Ewes and Hoggs (kg) 1966-67

	Ewes*		Hoggs		
	Nov. 1966	Nov. 1967	Oct. 1966	Apr. 1967	Nov. 1967
Barnacarry	46.5	47.5	-	26.3	42.5
Low-End	46.5	46.2	-	29.9	41.8
Midhill	44.8	43.5	24.2	26.7	38.3
Average	46.5	45.3	-	27.4	40.1

\* Excluding gimmers

C. SOURHOPE

Table 1

Reconciliation of Ewe Numbers 1966-67

Heft	Ewes & Gimmers Nov. '66	Cast Ewes	Deaths Ewes & Gimmers	Transfers to Glensaugh	Gimmers brought in	Hoggs born '67	Ewes & Gimmers Nov. '67
<u>S.C.C.</u>							
Fasset	74	1	2		23	23	94
Rigg	152	28	15		43	44	152
Gairs	151	19	7		45	44	170
Park Law	106	12	4		25	30	115
Auchope	213	40	10		50	54	216
Hairney Law Far	25	19	3		-	-	3*
S.C.C. Total	721	119	41		186	195	747
<u>N.C.C.</u>							
Fasset	81	2	3	76	-	-	-
Park Law	110	17	3		25	30	115
Hairney Law Near	157	24	10		48	51	171
N.C.C. Total	348	43	16	76	73	81	286
<u>B.F.</u>							
Banks & Brow	185	48	6		49	47	180
Alderhope	183	47	2		52	44	186
Fasset	62	1	3		-	24	58
B.F. Total	430	96	11		101	115	424
Flock Total	1499	258	68	76	360	391	1457

\* Now transferred from Hairney Law to Auchope.

In addition to the above flock total there are:- 7 Dorset X Finnish Landrace gimmers, and the following spare ewe hoggs, 22 S.C.C., 28 N.C.C., 25 S.C.C. X N.C.C., and 25 B.F.

SOURHOPETable 2Weaning Percentages 1967

	Ewes to Tup	Lambs weaned	Percentage
Fasset S.C.C.	74	86	116
N.C.C.	81	88	109
B.F.	62	90	145
Total	217	264	122
Park Law S.C.C.	106	110	104
N.C.C.	110	126	115
Total	216	236	109
Schil B.F. Alderhope '61	44	52	118
the rest	139	126	91
Alderhope Total	183	178	97
Banks & Brow '61	43	46	107
the rest	142	125	88
Banks & Brow Total	185	171	92
Schil Total	368	349	95
Rigg S.C.C.	152	103	68
Gairs S.C.C.	151	120	79
Auchope S.C.C.	212	187	88
Hairney Law N.C.C.	157	149	95
S.C.C. Total	695	606	87
N.C.C. Total	348	363	104
B.F. Total	430	439	102

SOURHOPE

Table 3

Wether Stock at November 1967  
(Total : 190)

Breed	Year of Birth					
	1961	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967
S.C.C.	2		2			
N.C.C.				34	31	32
B.F.		9	9	32		28*
Romney				11		

\* B.F. wether hogs for Dr. Field, Moredun.