

Wilson's Ewe was the toast of Knockreoch

A ONE-crop ewe from Wilson Ramsay of Knockreoch, Dalry, won the supreme Blackface championship at Dumfries and Galloway's first major agricultural show of the 2005 season.

And his ewe went on to repeat the success of 2003 by catching the eye of judge Arnold Sharp and taking the Interbreed championship at the 114th annual show.

As well as being a big day for Wilson it was also a red- letter day for Arnold who was judging at Carsphairn for the first time although he has worked and shown at the event for most of his life.

The show, renowned for its display of Blackface sheep was no exception this year and Wilson's home bred ewe went on to win the Inter-breed championship at the sheep-only show.

Despite the heavy showers throughout the day the ringsides at the hill show were packed as the judging went on for four hours before Mr Sharp announced the interbreed champion and winner of the Furrmiston trophy.

BY BOB GEDDES

Wilson's champion which is by a £2,100 Milnmark shearling and was sold to Glengapp two years ago, won the confined Blackface championship before going on to win the top two awards at the show. Her mother is by a Milnmark sheep by a £9,000 Clanary sire.

"I'm delighted to win all three titles again. I won the confined two years ago and then my champion went on to win the overall Blackface championship then the Interbreed," said Wilson who added: "She's done really well and she has attracted a lot of interest."

Entries for the show were up to a total of 150 with the open championship and reserve overall championship in the Blackface classes going to Andrew Kay of Knockeen, Barr, Ayrshire, with a home bred ewe hogg by a £3,100 Cuil sire whose dam was a £1400 Clanary sheep. Previous successes include champion at New Cumnock Show last week and champion at Ayr Show.

"We were pleased with our success which is our best for a number of years," said Andrew Kay.

Show secretary Jean Gibbon was delighted with the event said: "To have the entries up was a bonus for us. Everything seemed to run smoothly and we didn't have any problems at all. It is just a pity that the rain and cold day came at that time."

She added: "Looking back, the highlights of the day had to be the big ewe hogg classes, quite outstanding- 15 in the Blackface confined classes and 17 in the Blackface open."

The attendance was probably down slightly but the quality of the animals on show was probably the highest ever."

This was supported by Mr Sharp who said it had been a difficult job picking out the interbreed winner but he couldn't go past the Blackface which was superb sheep.

Show president David Pringle was also pleased with the way the organisation had gone and praised everyone who had helped make it such a success.

He added: "Everyone has remarked on the quality of the sheep at the show. Despite the rain we have had a good turnout from the public and the number of exhibitors is up this year."

The reserve ticket in the open section went to W. Ramsay of Milnmark, Dalry, with a four-crop ewe which is rearing a lamb. She is by a £500 Milnmark sire and is to be sold in the Autumn as a cast ewe.

In the confined Blackface classes the championship was won by David Pringle, the current show president who also won the herd's championship for the third year in a row. His winner was a three-crop ewe which was bred at Marbrack and is by Beoch tup and out of a home bred ewe. She was shown as a hogg but this is her first success in the ring.

There was double joy for J & M Kerr of Craigskean, Maybole who brought out the champions in the Bluefaced Leicester and Scotch-Mule classes – both with lambs.

It was the first time that Craigskean had shown in the Bluefaced classes at Carsphairn and his tup lamb by Ty-gwyn VI sire and out of a home bred ewe by a P14 sire was being shown for the first time.

The reserve Bluefaced Leicester was shown by Billy Young of South Quintinespie, Laurieston and was home-bred tup bought off Alex Brown, Macqueston, Thornhill, and out for the first time. The mother was bought in the foot and mouth outbreak from Ayrshire.

Messrs Kerr's Scotch mule champion, a ewe lamb, gave the flock their second championship in successive years. She is homebred by a P14 Craigskean sire and out of a Linfairn-bred mother.

Three days earlier she had lifted the mule championship and also the interbreed at New Cumnock.

The reserve champion was a homebred mule hogg by a homebred tup shown by T & JA Edgar of Newfield, Dalry.

There was a good entry in the Any Other Breed section with the championship going to Graeme Sinclair of Carnavel, Carsphairn, for the second year running. His champion, a Beltex ewe lamb called, "Sinclair's Jools" is by Airieolland Gotcha and out of Omagh ET.

A Texel ewe hogg sired by Goldie's Impeccable and out of a homebred ewe and shown by Klondyke Farms, Shancastle, Thornhill took the reserve AOB title.

Captions to photographs accompanying the article:

David Pringle's reserve confined and herd's champion.

Chris Kay with the open champion from Knockeen, Barr

The Bluefaced Leicester champion was shown by J & M Kerr of Craigskean, the first time they have shown this breed at Carsphairn

Graeme Sinclair and his champion Beltex ewe lamb which won the AOB section

The supreme champion Blackface from Wilson Ramsay, Knockreoch, that went on to take the inter-breed title at Carsphairn. The one-crop ewe gave Wilson a repeat performance of his successes of two years ago.