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## Sale time

### Ram sales

The time has finally arrived when all your hard work and planning will turn what has seemed like a hobby up until now into a profitable business. Depending on where you are situated and the timing of your joining program, it will have been close to two years since you began joining ewes and much will have happened during that time to both encourage and discourage you. Breeding stud sheep tends to become much more of a passion than commercial sheep production and the loss of a ewe or a potentially good lamb can, at times, seem like a major disaster. However, to balance these feelings, there will have been times when you felt like you were on top of the world with the recognition of an outstanding young ram lamb in your mob, success at a show or a complimentary visit from a recognised breeder. Like all farming enterprises it has its bad moments, but all is forgotten come sale time.

If all has progressed according to plan you should have a very even mob of rams that have been sorted through. All those with any structural faults, those that are not up to standard with regard to performance or those with problems with testes have been taken out and sold as commercial lambs. You may have also taken out a few young ram lambs that you wish to retain for your own use. This is the advantage of being a stud breeder, you get first pick. Try to make your sale rams look as even as possible and, regardless of how they have been managed, have them in good even condition at sale time. Whether you have decided to have them at maximum adult weight or just good commercial condition is up to your