

Suffolk females in demand at Ballymena

DONRHO flock owner Patrick Donnelly had plenty to celebrate at the annual show and sale of Suffolk females organised by the Northern Ireland Branch at Ballymena Livestock Mart. The Co Antrim breeder secured a first, second and third in the gimmer class and presented the first prize-winning ewe lamb. That impressive double climaxed in the former UK flock winner walking off with the reserve and overall champion honours. Second, third and fourth places in the ewe lamb class went to Benrafton flock owner Norman Robinson.

The event itself included a dispersal sale by County Tyrone breeder Ian Donald and some of the Donbraid offering featured among the highest prices on the evening.

The top price went to Downpatrick's Norman Robinson whose second prize-winning ewe lamb, a daughter of Cairness Masterstroke II, was secured by Kildare breeder Oliver Deane for 1500gns.

Three lots changed hands for 1400gns including the champion, a Birness Bolt gimmer in-lamb to Rhaeadr Rhonn.

The reserve champion, out of Cairness Masterstroke II, was snapped up by H O'Kane for similar money as was a Strathbogie Diesel bred ewe lamb belonging to Ian Donald which was knocked down to Antrim breeder T Lamont.

The Newtownstewart flock owner sold two more ewe lambs for 850 and 500gns to fellow Northern Ireland breeders Jason and Campbell Watson and Wesley Cousins respectively.

Donbraid gimmers were also much in demand. An eye-catching Lakeview Dancer bred shearling in-lamb to Kirkton Finale was knocked down to Scottish breeder Claire Ann Anderson while Kilrea's James McCullough paid the big note for a Kings and Aces ewe in-lamb to Shannagh Resolve.

Similar offerings found new homes with M Killilea, Galway and Wesley Cousins, Omagh for 700 and 600gns respectively.

The show and sale was generously sponsored by Humin Tech and the SJS Group. Judge was Andrew Wilson, Castleisle.

Results

Gimmers: 1, 2 and 3, P Donnelly; 4, A McNeilly.

Ewe lambs: 1, P Donnelly, 2, 3 and 4, AJ and NAJ Robinson.

Champion and reserve, P Donnelly.