

Trade hits 2,000gns at Ballymena Premier Suffolk Sale

Suffolk rams were in high demand at the Premier Suffolk show and sale held at Ballymena Mart, on Tuesday 4 August. Prices peaked at 2,000gns and gave an overall average of £547 with a clearance rate of 71 percent.

The highest priced lamb of 2,000gns and overall champion on the day was AOR:15:01401 from Alistair Gault's, Forkins flock. Sired by Rookery Best of the Best he is bred by a Baileys BMW ewe that was purchased from M Evan's Rhaeadr flock. The successful bidder was R Laird.

Next highest at 1,900gns was the best lamb forward from BA Dickson. This Strathbogie sired lamb out of a Cairness New Approach dam sold for 1900gns to M Morton, Newry. An ET brother of this lamb sold for 850gns to J McKay. The Dickson family also sold the highest priced Shearling at 1,150gns to Rodney Blair, Benvale flock. He was sired by Solwaybank Major.

The best from A&N Robinson's Benraftern flock made 1,600gns. This Cairness Masterstroke sired lamb out of a Cairness Diamond Geezer ewe had stood fourth in the Single ram lamb class. This was the first ram lamb offered for sale out of the 20,000gn Cairness Masterstroke stock ram which is jointly owned with P Donnelly, Donrho flock.

The reserve male champion and second in the single ram lamb class came from G Beacom's Lakeview flock. This Strathbogie Jackpot sired lamb out of a Strathisla Shadrach ewe was eventually sold for 1,000gns. Next highest from the pen also sired by Jackpot was sold for 780gns.

Anthony Patton, Carrowmoney flock presented four cracking ram lambs that sold to a top of 1,550gns and average of £787.50. The highest priced lot was sired by Forkins Ferrari II out of a Whitestone Rory ewe. He heads for pedigree use in the flock of James and Ursula Rooney, Co Sligo.

Veteran breeder David Duncan had a good day when his two lambs sold for 1,400 and 1,100gns. Both lambs were sired by Cairness Achievement. The highest priced lot heads for use in the Teeshan flock of Ben and Trevor Robinson. N Lowry purchased the 1,100gn lot for use in his Fourscore flock at Crumlin.

Averages; 82 rams sold to average£547.34 (McClellands Livestock Mart @ Ballymena).