



REPORT – SOUTH OF IRELAND BRANCH PREMIER SALE 2019

SUFFOLK SHEEP SOCIETY – South of Ireland Branch

Sale: Premier Show & Sale

Judge: R Greig (Suffolk Sheep Society Chair, Tillydesk Flock, Aberdeenshire)

Venue: Blessington Mart

Date: Saturday 3rd August 2019

Sponsor: Lamlac

Commercial Farmers Support Lamlac Suffolk Sale at Blessington

Standing room only at Blessington Mart on Saturday as both commercial farmers and pedigree breeders flocked to the Lamlac sponsored South of Ireland Branch of the Suffolk Sheep Society's Premier Sale. Over half the ram lambs sold on Saturday went to commercial farmers typically buying in the €400 to €900 price range. Ram lambs overall achieved an excellent 75% clearance with an average of €931.

Suffolk Sheep Society chief Executive Robin McIlrath said "this has been an excellent sale showcasing the best of Irish bred suffolks. The Society has been keeping the pedigree Suffolk flock book in Ireland since 1893 with the first registered flocks in Counties Roscommon and Derry and our members are still to the fore. The success of today's sale demonstrates that Suffolks are not only number one for finishing and taste, they are also a major player in the commercial sheep world. We have seen today that registered suffolk lambs are not only attractive to the pedigree breeder, but also to the commercial farmer and even into mainland Europe with lambs bought at Blessington going to Belgium and France"

Patrick O'Connor (Co Kerry) paid the top price of €3150 for Philip Byrne's (Co Kilkenny) Burnview One for Arthur sired ram lamb (TJW:19:00013) out of a Shannagh Knockout sired Annakisha dam. The dam's maternal sister bred the 2018 female Champion and Supreme Champion of the Year.

The hammer fell to B Fenton (Co Wicklow) €2940 for Ronan McLaughlin's (Co Donegal) Novice Class winner (UPX:19:00024). Sired by Limestone Aston Martin (purchased for 40,000gns at Stirling in 2018), this lamb is out of the Ballynacannon gimmer purchased for 9500gns in 2018.

P J Howard paid €2730 for Young Donegal breeder Darragh McMenamin's Rookery Rodeo sired lot 113 (UJU:19:01440) out of a Cairness Cyclone sired Lakeview dam. For the same money, Northern Ireland breeder Adam Porter (Maghera) purchased Gerry Killilea's (Co Galway) Lakeview Harbinger sired lamb out of a Newwells dam.

Ballymena breeder R H Barclay bought Richard Wilson's (Donegal) Supreme Champion (78A:19:06468) for €2310 and Belgium breeder F Collard paid €2625 for the Open Ram Lamb Class Reserve (78A:19:06468). Three ram lambs went for €2310, Andrew Smith from Co Cavan bought

Andrew Lucas's (Co Donegal) lot 49. O & G Deane (Co Kildare) also bought a Lucas ram lamb (lot 126) at the same money for their Mountford flock. The third at €2310 was Susan O'Keeffe's Recorded Class 1st Place ram lamb (lot 124) which went North to W & S Tait (Co Tyrone).

The three top pen averages were R Wilson (Co Donegal) with €1300 with 5 sheep through the ring, E Duffy (Co Meath) with €1062 for 8 sheep and S O'Keeffe (Co Cork) with €1058 for 8 sheep.

Top female price was K Bailey's (Co Roscommon) reserve female champion ewe lamb (HDC:19:00075) going to James Cuffe's pedigree Inbhear flock in Co Mayo for €1470. Colin Watchorn paid €1207 for J & E Gahan's ewe lamb (Co Wicklow) to add to his Irish Flock of the Year Beechbrook flock. Colin's flock viewing day is Saturday (10th August) at 4:40pm at his farm in Newcastle, Co Wicklow.

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TOTAL SALES	88,767.00

FEMALE AVE	
FEMALE THROUGH	
RING	18
SOLD	14
AVE €	€ 716.25
CLEARANCE	78%

SHEARLING RAM AVE	
TOTAL THROUGH RING	1
SOLD	1
AVE €	€ 546.00
CLEARANCE	100%

LAMB RAM AVE	
TOTAL THROUGH RING	112
SOLD	84
AVE €	€ 930.88
CLEARANCE	75%