



PRESS RELEASE

SUFFOLK SHEEP SOCIETY – South of Ireland Branch

Sale: Premier Show & Sale

Judge: C Watson (Suffolk Sheep Society Past President, Bannview Flock, Co Antrim)

Venue: JP & M Doyle, Blessington Mart

Date: Saturday 1st August 2020

62% Clearance for the Largest Pedigree Suffolk Sale in Ireland despite Covid-19

Blessington Mart was the venue for the South of Ireland Branch of the Suffolk Sheep Society's Premier Show and Sale this year. To ensure all social distancing and Covid-19 directives and guidance were in place, the Society working closely with Blessington Mart, arranged for an outdoor sale with a portable sales ring and marquee on site.

With online and telephone bidding encouraged the sale was also well supported by breeders and farmers with an eye for commercial tups. Just under half the ram lambs sold on Saturday went to commercial farmers typically buying in the €400 to €750 price range at an average price €558 for commercial lambs.

Pedigree trade also went well with 31 sheep getting 4 figure sums in the sale. The average pedigree price for ram lambs sold to the pedigree market was €1,330 with AJ & NAJ Robinson (Co Down) paying top price of €6,500 for Patrick O'Keeffe's lot 41, a Castleisle Kiltleskin Prince sired January born lamb out of a Birness Coulter sired Annakisha dam. Castleisle Kiltleskin Prince was purchased at Stirling in 2019 for 20,000gns.

The hammer fell to R Tait (Co Donegal) at €3,000 for Seamus Browne's (Co Donegal) 4th placed lamb in the Open Ram Lamb Class. Sired by Limestone Gold Rush, this lamb is out of the Cairnton Eyecatcher sired Cairnton ewe.

John & Esther Gahan got over €2,000 for both their lots in the first ballot with D McCaughren (Co Antrim) paying €2,600 for the Limestone Aston Martin sired Recorded Class Reserve (lot 94) out of a Freightduff ewe sired by Rhaeadr The Real Mccoy. Wexford breeder, Michael O'Neill, bought lot 93 for €2,200, another Limestone Aston Martin sired lamb out of a Forkins Franko sired Barronstown bred ewe.

Belgium breeder, F Collard, bought AJ & JA Lucas' late December born lamb for €2,100 (lot 131). This Lakeview Jagermiester sired lamb is out of a Thurston Urastar sired Birness dam. The hammer fell to K Casey (Co Clare) at €2,000 for J & R Thornton's lot 34, a Strathbogie A Kind of Magic sired lamb out of a Killyclug dam.

The top pen averages were J&E Gahan (Co Wicklow) with €1,825 for 4 sheep and S Browne (Co Donegal) with €1,125 with 6 sheep through the ring.

Top female price was J Hanly's (Co Tipperary) 1st place in the Shearling Ewe class (lot 9) going to R H Barkley & Son of Ballymena for €1,900. The second highest female was also a Hanly Shearling ewe going to Brian McDonnell of Co Mayo.

Bidding on Eamonn Duffy's (Kells Flock) Supreme Champion ram lamb (lot 74) peaked at €22,000, but the sheep was not sold as it had not reached its expected reserve.

Principal Prices at the sale:

6,500 (41) P O'Keeffe sold to AJ & N Robinson, Co. Down
3,000 (112) S Browne sold to R Tait, Co. Donegal
2,600 (94) J&E Gahan sold to D McCaughren, Co. Antrim
2,200 (93) J&E Gahan sold to M O'Neill, Co. Wexford
2,100 (131) AJ & JA Lucas sold to F Collard, Belgium
2,000 (34) J Thornton sold to K Casey, Co Clare
1,800 (46) A O'Keeffe sold to G Conroy, Co Meath
1,700 (114) S Browne sold to T Feeney, Co Monaghan
1,700 (170) &E Gahan sold to PJ Howard, Co Clare
1,600 (42) P A Byrne sold to J Trimble, Co Down
1,500 (64) C Watchorn sold to R Sands, Co Laoise
1,400 (124) A Kilpatrick sold to M McNally, Co Derry
1,300 (150) C Watchorn sold to C Finnegan, Co Monaghan
1,150 (78) S O'Keeffe sold to C Hughes, Co Mayo
1,150 (97) J & M Doherty sold to A Diaz, Spain

TOTAL SALES	€96,190
TOTAL SOLD	103
SALE AVERAGE	62%
TOP PRICE	€6,500
AVERAGE PRICE	€576

FEMALE AVE

TOTAL THROUGH RING	24
SOLD	19
AVE €	€ 686
CLEARANCE	79%

RAM AVE

TOTAL THROUGH RING	143
SOLD	84
AVE €	€ 558.00
CLEARANCE	59%

SHOW RESULTS

SUPREME CHAMPION

Eamon Duffy (Kells) Lot 74

RESERVE CHAMPION

Arthur O'Keefe (Annakisha) Lot 46.

MALE CHAMPIONSHIP RESULTS

1st Eamonn Duffy (Kells) Lot 74

2nd Arthur O'Keefe (Annakisha) Lot 46

FEMALE CHAMPIONSHIP RESULTS

1st Kenneth Bailey (Lismurtagh) Ewe Lamb Lot 24

2nd James O'Connell (Knockogan) Ewe Lamb Lot 16

GIGOT CLASS

1st L&A Kilpatrick (Convoy) Lot 123

2nd Arthur O'Keefe (Annakisha) Lot 137

3rd Colin Watchorn (Beechbrook) Lot 149

4th Msr's Wilson (Shannagh) Lot 119

5th Philip Lynch (Glyde) Lot 107

6th Seamus Browne (Errigal) Lot 185

RESULTS OPEN RAM

1st Eamonn Duffy (Kells) Lot 74

2nd Andrew Wilson (Castleisle) Lot 81

3rd Patrick O'Keefe (Blackwater) Lot 41

4th Seamus Browne (Errigal) Lot 112

5th Philip Byrne (Limepark) Lot 42

6th AJ & JA Lucas (Finnvale) Lot 131

RECORDED CLASS

1st Arthur O'Keefe (Annakisha) Lot 136

2nd J & E Gahan (Barronstown) Lot 94

3rd J A Doherty (Malinhead) Lot 97

4th Seamus Browne (Errigal) Lot 113

5th Colin Watchorn (Beechbrook) Lot 65

RESULTS NOVICE RAM

1st Philip Byrne (Limepark) Lot 42

2nd B & G Doyle (Kilmacoo) Lot 91

3rd J & E Gahan (Barronstown) Lot 170

4th Colin Watchorn (Beechbrook) Lot 64

5th Brian Boland (Lisnatubrid) Lot 71

6th Darragh McMenamin (Mullinvale) Lot 84.

RESULTS RAM SIRED BY SOI BRED RAM

1st Arthur O'Keeffe (Annakisha) Lot 46

2nd Mssrs Wilson (Shannagh) Lot 118

3rd Susan O'Keeffe (Clyda) Lot 78

RESULTS EWE LAMB CLASS

1st Kenneth Bailey (Lismurtagh) Lot 24

2nd James O'Connell (Knockogan) Lot 16

3rd David Quinlan (Monefelim) Lot 19

RESULTS SHEARLING EWE CLASS

1st John Hanly (Noan) Lot 9

2nd Kenneth Bailey (Lismurtagh) Lot 8

3rd Coote Geelan (Loughrynn) Lot 4