

Fred Smyth, of the Windyhill flock takes the leading price at the recent Suffolk Sheep Society Northern Ireland Branch Premier Export Sale at Ballymena Mart.

The Limavady breeder topped the sale with his Frongoy Five Star sired ram being knocked down to Michael & Marie Jennings of the Ballygarris Flock, Co. Mayo for 2,800gns.

Brian McVicker, Bushmills paid 2,400gns for a Mullaghboy Goliath ram from the Claragh pen of James McCullough, Kilrea.

A shearling ram from Alastair Gault, Forkins flock was knocked down to Robert Walker, Kicurley flock, Co. Limerick for 1,400gns.

Southern Ireland breeders were largely represented at the sale with a total of 16 lambs being sold to Southern breeders.

Commercial customers were also dominant at the Premier sale with some of the top price rams being sold to local and regional buyers giving them a healthy return in tight times.

Premier Export Sale averages were 780gns with a 79% clearance

There were also some excellent top pen sale averages (3 or more lambs sold):-

Stephen Sufferin averaging 1,156gns
Andrew Moses averaging 1,087gns
Alastair Barkley averaging 725gns
John Murnion averaging 550gns
Norman Robinson averaging 541gns
Dennis Taylor averaging 538gns
Michael McNally averaging 500gns

Principal Prices at the sale:

2,800gns (101) Fred Smyth sold to Michael & Marie Jennings, Co. Mayo
2,400gns (7) James McCullough sold to Brian McVicker, Co. Antrim
1,800gns (42) Michael Smyth sold to Jalex, Co. Antrim
1,800gns (85) Stephen Sufferin sold to Dennis Lynch & Sons, Co. Longford
1,700gns (72) Alastair Gault sold to James Cannon, Newtownstewart
1,600gns (11) Philip Gurney sold to John Hanly, Co. Tipperary
1,500gs x 2 (82&83) Stephen Sufferin sold to Susan O'Keeffe, Co. Cork & James Maybin, Co. Antrim
1,400gns (1) Alastair Gault sold to Robert Walker, Co. Limerick
1,400gns (53) Andrew Moses sold to Patrick Sharkey, Claudy
1,300gns (55) Andrew Moses sold to A Heffernan, Co. Kerry
1,300gns (78) Stephen Sufferin sold to Daniel McCann, Ballinmallard
1,100gns (102) Fred Smyth sold to G Thompson, Bushmills
1,100gns (12) Philip Gurney sold to Patrick Sharkey, Claudy
1,000gns x 2 (79&80) Stephen Sufferin sold to William Halligan, Co. Wicklow & SH Stewart, Co. Tyrone
1,000gns (108) Michael McNally sold to Thevenoux, France

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