

Suffolk genetics reach “dizzy heights” at Exeter as Demand is high!



**EXETER LIVESTOCK CENTRE
MARKET REPORT
JULY 2023
Tuesday 11th July – Great July Sheep Sale**



Suffolks in demand !

The 51st Great Annual July fair at Exeter livestock centre saw a slightly reduced entry of sheep on the year sell to a much stronger trade on the year, especially for the Suffolk cross early lambing ewes which drew interest from the length and breadth of the country. The sale started with the older Suffolk cross ewes which peaked at £208 for a pen of one crop Suffolk x Mules from Rachel Retter of Cheriton Bishop followed closely by James McIntosh of High Wycombe

who sent an exceptional run of homebred FM ewes down to see them sell at £200 & £182. Next best price came from Chearsley, Buckinghamshire with Rob & Caroline Mole claiming £190 & £186 for their Suffolk x Mule 4T aged ewes and £180 for two pens of Suffolk x Cheviot Mule four and six tooth aged ewes. All 359 Suffolk cross ewes averaged £177.

2162 SUFFOLK X SHEARLING EWES

The highlight of the sale was the Suffolk cross shearlings, with Exeter now widely renown for top quality breeding sheep, farmer buyers flocked from all across the Westcountry and beyond to source some of the very best black headed sheep in the country.

Roger Rottenbury of Wonham Farm, Black Dog, claimed first prize in the pre-sale show for the second year running with the pick of his run of fine locally bred shearlings sold at £250 to Ben May of Netherexe, Exeter. Roger was the largest exhibitor of Suffolk x Mule shearlings on the day, with 471 penned and sold to an average of £215.11 with every pen selling in excess of £200. This exceptional run were all bred by Dennis and Robert Jones on Exmoor who had also sold ewe lambs in the autumn to Emily Pearse of Crediton who scooped the second prize rosette on her first time of selling Suffolk crosses, these achieved £220 selling to the Stephens family of Holsworthy who also secured the third prize pen at £235 from another first time exhibitor Lin Loosemore of Yeoford with a smart pen of homebred shearlings. Fourth prize in the show which was kindly sponsored by Farmers guardian and the Suffolk Sheep Society and judged by Dan Gould of Taunton went to Robert & Tom Chanin of Thorverton and these realised £232 again selling to the Stephens family. Tom Chanin in his own right then sold a pen of homebred Suffolk x Cheviot Mules at £248 to Paul Taylor of Roach and also worthy of a mention were Winston Thorne of Umberleigh's best pen at £228. The 2162 Suffolk x shearlings averaged a staggering £198.55, up some £24 on the year and £4 dearer than the eye watering trade of two years ago.

2023 Leading prices for Suffolk x Shearlings

471 (+57) from RJ Rottenbury, Crediton to £250 (-300) & av. £215 (+21)

12 from T Chanin, Thorverton, to £248 & av. £248

27 from L Loosemore, Yeoford to £235 & av. £235

80 (-20) from R Chanin, Exeter to £232 (+47) & av. £210.50 (+34.50)

40 (-40) from H & M Thorne, Umberleigh to £228 (+43) & av. £214 (+40)

85 from E Pearse, Crediton to £220 & av. £213

200 (+80) from A & L Gillard, Exeter to £215 (+5) & av. £205 (+9)

120 (-71) from RJ Coward, Mere to £215 (+20) & av. £193 (+15)

104 (~) from RG Brooks & Son, Bridport to £210 (+22) & av. £192 (+15)

50 (-2) from Milborne Wick Farms Ltd, Sherborne to £205 (+15) & av. £205 (+21)

15 from R Kent, Cheltenham to £205 & av. £205

132 (+19) from BV & SM Johnson, Bridport to £200 (-5) & av. £183 (-6)

20 (-20) from JP Simons, Chard to £198 (+6) & av. £198 (+16)

40 from R Manning, North Tawton to £198 & av. £192

100 (-57) from FM & DM Hockridge, Crediton to £195 (+3) & av. £185 (+3)

Pure Suffolk Females

A selection of pure Suffolk females saw Bernard Strout of Launceston sell shearlings in pairs to £250 three times, £210 and £200 three times as Tom Soper of South Brent sold ewe lambs to

£200, Finley Watts of Ashburton had older ewes at £185 and MLS Machinery of Cullompton reached £180 with similar

Rams in demand!

This fixture also hosted the annual West Country Suffolk Sheep Association sale kindly judged by Mr Graham Reddaway of Winkleigh. Leading trade for rams at 1,000gns achieved twice were the first and second prize winning Suffolks from Andrew and Wendy Reed of Blackborough who sold a cracking consignment from their Beaconhill Flock with others at 950gns and 900gns. The Derryman family scooped third prize and sold their Suffolk shearlings to 950gns and 750gns from their Yarcombe Flock and Brandon Roth of Redruth topped the Suffolk ram lambs with his first prize lamb selling at 850gns.