

Ballymena Suffolk Sale 2nd August 2011

There was standing room only at the Northern Ireland Branch Suffolk Sale held in Ballymena on Tuesday 2nd August. Buyers came from all over Ireland resulted in a cracking trade, which led to a 95 per cent clearance. Only 6 sheep that went through the ring left unsold out of the 112 presented. This clearance rate continued the increased demand for Suffolk rams in Great Britain with an 87 per cent clearance at Stirling and 83 per cent at Shrewsbury.

Steve Buckley (Sitlow Flock) was judge for the sale and awarded the overall Champion to A&N Robinson (Benraftern) for a Jubilee Jethro son out of a Glenho Gurkha son. This went on to sell for the second highest price of the evening at 1,500gn. The final bidder was Michael O'Neill, Enniscorthy (Bolinaspect flock). Benraftern flock sold 8 lambs to average £800.

The reserve champion from A Gault's Forkin flock received the highest call of 2,300gns for a Cairness New Approach son out of a Conveth Calaceman ewe. The final bidder was T Cavanagh, Donegal (Glenagh flock). Alastair went on to sell 4 lambs and have the highest sale average on the night of £1383.

One of NI up and coming breeders PDW Taylor produced a cracking pen of tight skinned lambs with good carcasses. These lambs were much sought after by both commercial and pedigree farmers. The Ballynacanon flock received a top call of 1350gns and the 2nd highest sale average of the night of £863 for 7 lambs sold. The top priced lamb was sired by Carragh Viagra out of a Lakeview Lord Lee ewe.

L&D Aiken had the third highest average on the evening of £823 for their one lamb and two shearlings. The top call came for Lot 7 a Rhaeadr Rossi son out of a Boreland Buddah ewe. This ram had earlier been awarded 1st prize in the Shearling class. He was finally knocked down for 1,000gns.

The Burnview Flock of S&W Tait also had a good sale selling 6 rams to average £704. Their top price of 1,150gns was paid for a Forkins Ferrari 2nd son out of a Burnview Beamer ewe. This ram also heads South to Lifford for use in the flock of R Tait (Bawn Flock).

The top prices:

Ram lamb

A Gault	Lot 90	2,300gns
A&N Robinson	Lot 61	1,500gns
D Duncan	Lot 43	1,450gns
D Taylor	Lot 81	1,350gns
S&W Tait	Lot108	1,150gns
A Gault	Lot 92	1,100gns
A Gault	Lot 93	1,050gns
D Duncan	Lot 44	1,000gns
G Beacom	Lot53	1,000gns
R McAdoo	Lot 99	1,000gns

Shearling Rams

L Aiken	Lot7	1,000gns
J Murnion	Lot 4	780gns
L Aiken	Lot 8	750gns

The 100 ram lambs sold to average £632.10. This is an increase of £85 per head on 2010 with a 16 per cent increase in clearance rate. The 6 shearlings sold to average £714.