

NATIONAL SUFFOLK SALE

Suffolk Sheep breeders gathered at Shrewsbury Livestock Market from throughout the UK, Ireland and mainland Europe. There was strong demand for rams with long broad loins and deep gigots which lead to a sale topper of 23,000gns for debatably the best carcass ram at the sale. There was an 83% clearance and 71 bids in excess of 1,000gns underlined the strength of demand for the breed at present, confirmed in an average of £1,240 for 170 lambs sold.

The sale topper was from the Rookery Flock of Worcestershire Flockmaster Chris Holmes whose much fancied lamb by the 11,000gns Rhaeadr Obsession and had stood Breed & Res Interbreed Champion at the Three Counties Show. He was purchased by K Hourston, Orkney & Robbie Wilson, Aberdeenshire, with other lambs at 2,200gns selling to P McFadzean, Dumfries & 1,500gns to Roberta McMullan, Co Armagh. Chris Holmes left with an overall average of £4,575 for 7 sold.

The Show Champion under Judge Mr Ronald Greig was a Bailey's Bacchus sired lamb from J G Douglas, Cairness which sold at 2,000gns to D T Jones, Pwhelli.

Gary Beacom, Co. Fermanagh brought his first pen to the National Sale and was rewarded with a 9,000gns bid from A Bothwell, Ayr, for his Shannagh Shergar son out of a Strathisla Shadrach sired ewe, with others selling at 1,400gns & 1,200gns Gary Beacom collected an average of £2,788 for 5 sold.

North Wales Flockmaster Myfyr Evans was again on top form and an outstanding pen produced the 1st prize Group of Three and also the Reserve Overall Champion which went on to sell at 7,000gns to L & M Liggett, Drumquin, Co Tyrone. This one was a son of the 8,000gns Bailey's BMW, out of a ewe by Cairness First Flight. The first Rhaeadr lamb in the ring, and 2nd Open prize winner, by Bailey's Brigadier II sold at 4,500gns to M & A Power, Co Limerick. Myfyr sold 9 to average £2,292.50.

The Whitestone Flock of W G Troup, Aberdeenshire sold a son of Cairness Liam at 7,000gns to A Patton, Newtownards, Co. Down.

Early in the sale Stuart Davies of Bucknell, Shropshire sold his Beaufort ram lambs to a top of 3,000gns for a son of Glenhead Golden Phoenix. The lamb had collected the 1st prize in the Best Gigot Class and sold to T Hodges, Aylesbury, Bucks. Stuart sold another 4 lambs in excess of 1,000gns to average £1,558 for 6 sold.

Mike Davies & Sons, Brecon, Powys had a great day selling their Safaddan lambs to a top of 2,400gns for one by Plasllewelyn Pirate

which sold to M & A Power, Askeaton, Co Limerick. They sold 3 others in excess of 1,000gns to average £1,222 for 7 sold.

G L Stuart, Birness, Aberdeenshire also sold to a top of 2,400gns for a lamb by Rhaeadr Flash Harry and taken by Mike Attewell, Seafeld Pedigrees, Worcs, with others at 2,000gns & 1,500gns, the Birness Flock averaged £1,669 for 5 sold.

S & W Tait, Co Tyrone also made their first visit to the National with lambs from their outstanding Burnview Flock. Top seller again at 2,400gns was the 1st prize recorded lamb by Forkins Ferrari II and taken by M J Harvey, Tamworth, Staffs. 2 others over 1,000gns helped produce an average of £1,371.

C A Proctor & Co, Turriff, Aberdeenshire sold a Cairness Achievement son from their Conveth Flock at 2,300gns to A & J Jones, Llanfairfechan, Anglesey.

Mrs J J Tooze, Carnwath, Lanarkshire sold to a top of 2,200gns for a strong lamb by Davishill Decision and taken by A E Weaver & Son, Perrinpit.

Gary Owen, Anglesey sold one from his Morris Flock at 2,100gns to H J Mildon, N Devon.

Topping the Shearling Ram section was the 1st prize entry from T C & C A Harding, Bentley, which sold at 1,600gns to R McMullan, Co Armagh.