

Northern Area Branch Suffolk Sale at Stirling

New Breed Record of 90,000gns

The breed record price obtained for a Suffolk sheep was well and truly broken at the Northern Area Branch sale held at Stirling Agricultural Centre with a 90,000gn bid. The previous record has stood since 1998 when Stockton Almighty was sold for 75,000gns. The record breaker came late in the sale from Dan Tynan, Ardlea, Co Laois and shown by Shepherd Pat Greaney. This was the icing on the cake as there was a clearance rate of almost 87 per cent and 82 rams obtained 1,000gns or better.

Moving to a market location certainly paid dividends. Commercial sheep farmers attending the weekly fat lamb sale could see the merits of the Suffolk rams being judged, on Thursday. Many of these farmers were so impressed that they came back on Friday to purchase.

Auctioneers David Leggat and George Purves took control of proceedings and pulled out all the stops to accommodate vendors. George was in the helm when Myfyr Evans and James Douglas went head to head to purchase the lamb sired by Cairness Liam out of a Cairness Goldust dam. But when the hammer came down it was Myfyr Evans who won the contest. The record price helped push the sale average to £2,225.43 for 160 ram lambs sold compared with 156 sold in 2010 for an average of £2,136

Earlier Myfyr Evans had sold his top ram lamb for 14,000 guineas to Claude Vanwijnsberghe, Belgium. After buying the top ram lamb, a son of Baileys BMW, Claude described it as being "very correct and with plenty of carcass" he also said there was a lot of interest in Suffolk sheep on the Continent and he has exported progeny to both France and Germany. In total Myfyr sold his pen of 10 ram lambs at an average of £5,502 to gross £55,000.

Myfyr admitted that it had been one of his best days selling pedigree stock. The emphasis he has always had to breed lambs with a carcass has paid off with two further bids at 8,000gns. The first, bred by Baileys Brigadier the Second, went to George Stuart, Milton of Birness, Ellon with the other deal at that level, another son of Baileys BMW, also going into Aberdeenshire to the Deveronside flock belonging to the Mair family at Turriff. Myfyr also sold at 5,500 guineas with Viv Samuel, Upper Moulton, Herefordshire, snapping up this son of Baileys Brigadier.

The first five figure trade came early in the sale with Alistair Gault, Forkins Flock, Co Antrim, taking 13,000 guineas for a son of Cairness Kanine. This was sold in a three way split between Robbie Wilson, North Dorlaithers, Turriff, Pat Machray, Inverurie and Lilburn Estates, Wooler, Northumberland. This helped the Forkins entry to average £4,593 for four sold.

Prior to the sale, there was a lot of interest around the Whitestone pen from Gordon Troup, Shaggart farm, Sauchen and it was no surprise when the

bidding for his top lamb, a son of Cairness Liam went for 10,000 guineas to joint buyers, Jimmy Douglas and Charlie and Kevin Proctor, Conveth, Turriff.

The Black family from Newton of Collesie, Ladybank invested 7,000 guineas in buying the show champion from Dan Tynan, who had earlier sold the breed record breaker. The Black's champion is by Pexhill Real Lucky.

In an all Irish deal, the Tait family from Burnview sold their top lamb, by one of their own tups, Burnview Performer for 7,000 guineas to veteran breeder, Herbert Stanley, who was buying over the telephone.

The Deveronside entry from Barclay and Lucy Mair, Kinnermit, Turriff usually brings a lot of interest and this year was no exception with their top lamb, a son of Pexhill Real Lucky, being bid to 6,000 guineas by Lilburn Estate, Wooler where the Suffolk flock is managed by Mickey Walton.

The reserve show champion from George Stuart, Milton of Birness, Ellon was bid to 5,000 guineas before being knocked down to Ian and Katherine Hepburn, Northhouse, Hawick. Their purchase, a son of Rhaeadr Flash Harry will be used on their pedigree Suffolk flock which was established after they lost their livestock in the 2001 foot and mouth outbreak.

Also at 5,000 guineas, Robert Neill, Broadleys, Dunning, bought the top lamb, a son of Cairness Nobel from David Gilmour, Broomknowes, Maybole. In the pre sale show, this lamb had taken the Elite Commercial award.

The top Signet recorded lamb from Jim Fleming, Halhill, Carluke was sold at 3,200 guineas with Sandy Fraser, buying this son of Burnview Impulse for his Hazeltree flock, at Low Santon, Scunthorpe.

Reflecting on the sale, Dr Lewis McClinton, the Chief Executive for the Suffolk breed Society said "it had been very encouraging to see commercial producers and pedigree breeders competing to buy sheep with good carcasses. What more can you ask when the breed sale price has been broken, obtain an 87 per cent clearance rate and average £2,225".

Auctioneer David Leggat was also in an upbeat mood also reflecting there had been a range of buyers at the event where previously the sale had been considered only suitable for pedigree breeders. "The emphasis is now back on what the Suffolk does best and that is putting on weight for age."

Flock	Top Price (gns)	Number Sold	Average (£)
Middlemuir	2800	3	1540
Balquhain	2000	3	1680
Broomknowes	5000	3	3150
Forkins	13,000	4	4593
Deveronside	6000	4	2113
Cairness	2400	4	1470
Halhill	3200	5	1659
Errigal	2200	3	1627
Burnview	7000	4	3465
Limestone	1500	3	1032
Glenhead	1900	6	1452
Cairnton	2200	3	1190
Stockton	1800	4	1208
Birness	5000	8	1981
Rhaeadr	14,000	10	5502
Thurston	2800	4	1890
Whitestone	10,000	2	5985
Conveth	2200	7	1635
Sitlow	1500	3	1365
Strathisla	2400	5	1743
Ardlea	90,000	4	26,617

Stirling Show Results

Class 1 Signet Recorded Ram lamb

1st Lot 63 (J Fleming)

2nd Lot 72 (S&W Tait)

3rd Lot 184 (JJ Tooze)

Class 2 Open Ram Lamb

1st Lot 109 (GL Stuart)

2nd Lot 144 (WG Troup Ltd)

3rd Lot 68 (JA Browne)

Class 3 Pen of Three

1st Lot 188, 189 and 190 (D Tynan)

2nd Lot 130, 131 and 133 (MA Evans)

3rd Lot 150, 152 and 153 (CA Proctor & Co)

Class 4 Elite Commercial Ram Lamb

1st Lot 18 (D Gilmour)

2nd Lot 113 (GL Stuart)

3rd Lot 8 (P Machray)

Champion **Lot 190 (D Tynan)**

Reserve Champion **Lot 109 (GL Stuart)**