

Fleshy lambs lead Suffolk trade at Stirling

A trade driven by commercial buyers eager to source the best Suffolk ram lambs for their flocks saw Friday's (26 July) Scottish Area Suffolk sale produce a 76% clearance rate, with 146 lambs sold at an average of £1871.88.

Suffolk Sheep Society Chief Executive Dr Lewis McClinton said it was clear that flesh was the order of the day among buyers. "Without a doubt it was sheep with the commercial attributes of good carcasses and tops which were favoured by sale goers.

"Rams lacking natural fleshing ability and growth were far harder to sell and clearly unwanted by a ringside of commercial buyers looking to maximise prime lamb profits."

Taking the day's top price of 36,000gns and continuing a strong sales season for the brother and sister duo Iain and Judith Barbour, Anna, was a Solwaybank Skyfall son, FHT 13073.

Setting a new flock high, this son of the homebred sire is out of a dam by Baileys Bugatti and goes back to Glenisla Grimaldi on his dam's side. He sold to Northern Irish-based breeder Gary Beacom having stood third in the pre-sale show.

Second best of the day went to the Fraserburgh-based Cairness flock of Jimmy Douglas. Another sired by a homebred tup, this one, 33H 13129, is by Cairness Diamond Jubilee and out of a dam by Cairness New Approach which is a full sister to 8000gns sire Baileys BMW and goes back to Rhaeadr Rossi. He sold for 21000gns in a four way split, going to Ross Lawrence, Devon, Geoff Biddulph, Cheshire, Chris Holmes, Worcestershire and Robin Irwin, Devon.

George and Melvin Stuart then took 15,000gns for a son of last year's reserve champion, 7000gns tup Lakeview Gold Rush. This was 1W 13068 a lamb out of a dam by Rhaeadr Flash Harry and going back to Cairness Bondi. He was sold in a three way split between Collessie, Pyeston and Harpercroft flocks.

Jimmy Douglas followed that, selling another from his pen at 10,000gns. This lamb, 33H: 13050, is by Cairness Xfactor and out of a dam by Burnview Olympic Gold purchased at Robbie Scott's dispersal. He was split by Jim Fleming's Hallhill flock and John Christie's Westcarse flock.

Trading at 7500gns was Dennis Taylor's first lamb in from his Ballynacanon flock, KKW: 13027. He's by the 12,000gns Birness Bacardi and was reserve male champion at the Northern Ireland championships earlier in the year. He is an embryo out of a dam by Strathisla Shadrach and sold to George and Melvin Stuart, Birness flock.

Taking trade to 5500gns early in the sale was Myfyr Evans with his first of the day, A12: 13057. Sired by the 90,000gns breed record holder Ardlea Ardennig, he is out of a dam by Broomknowes Kelso The Best. His grand dam, a Cairness First Flight daughter is a former Royal Welsh champion. He found a new home with the Mair family, Turriff, going to work in their Deveronside flock.

Also at this money was another from Dennis Taylor's Ballynacanon pen, KKW 13044. This full brother to Mr Taylor's 7500gns lamb sold the sale judge Myfyr Evans for use in the Rhaeadr flock.

At 5000gns was another lamb from the Solwaybank pen of the Barbours. This was another Skyfall son, FHT: 13048. His dam is by Glenhead Morangie and is from the same family as the 36,000gns lamb. Buying this one were Stephen and Colm Govin and G Killilea for their Coolmeen and Carragh flocks, respectively.

Ronnie Black, Fife, then paid 4800gns for the pre-sale champion KPC: 13024 from Mark Priestley's Limestone flock. This Rhaeadr Ringading ram lamb is out of a dam by Kings Theatre and had been first prize ram lamb and reserve overall at Balmoral in May.

Fellow Northern Irish breeder Alistair Gault then took a bid of 4000gns for his second lamb, AOR 13006. Sired by Birness Bacardi, he is out of a home bred Cairness Kanine daughter that was All Ireland native breed champion as a gimmer in 2011. He was purchased by Mike Davies, Powys.

At the same price was the best of the day from Robbie Wilson's Strathisla flock, FNV 13070. This Forkins Figo lamb is out of a dam by Strathbeg Stan The Man which is sister to 25,000gns Strathisla Speedson, champion Royal Highland and Edinburgh 2008. This one was purchased by R and J More, Caithness.

And taking a bid of 3800gns was John Gibb's KLR 13024 from his Cairnton flock. This lamb is by Solwaybank Pound Stretcher and is out of a dam by Cairness Ninty Nine. He found a new home with the Spittal flock of J Tooze.

The Forkins pen of Alistair Gault then traded at 3500gns, with this paid for a Broomknowes Touch of Class son from the second prize pen of three. This was AOR 13026, a lamb out of a dam by Kings Theatre which also bred the 13,000gns Forkins Figo which was reserve sire of the year 2012. He sold back across the water to Northern Ireland, going to J B McVicker, Co Antrim.

The same money was paid for one from Myfyr Evans, with this Rhaeadr lamb being A12 13059. Again sired by Ardlea Ardennig, he is maternal brother to the 6000gns lamb sold at Stirling 2011 and is out of a dam by Strathisla Speed. This lambs heads to Ireland with the Power family for their Powers flock.

The winner of the elite commercial ram lamb class from the pre-sale show, a Strathisla Stifler son from Graeme Christie then made 3000gns This was PDN: 13069, a lamb out of a dam by Cairness Time Bomb. He sold to Messrs Farr, Hereford.

Average: 146 lambs £1871.88 (United Auctions).