

Kelso 2013 Suffolk Summary

Suffolk numbers have continued to increase at Kelso over the last four years. With increasing input costs commercial farmers are looking for fast growth and heavy carcasses to reduce production costs and increase profit margin. This shift back to Suffolk was evident at Kelso in 2013. The proportion of Suffolk sheep as a percentage of the overall clearance rate compared to all other breeds are as follows.

2010	26.2%
2011	27.4%
2012	28.4%
2013	28.6%

There is always confusion to rings being classified as Registered or Non Registered. Some assume that this refers to Society members or Non Society members. This is not the case but relates to the Maedi Visna Accreditation scheme. Registered rings refer to members that are in the MV scheme and Non Registered refers to breeders that are NOT in the MV scheme.

Table 1 Official Kelso Figures for the 2013 Sale

	n	Shearlings	n	Lambs
Texel (Rings 3, 7 & 9)	1055	£733.08	98	£458.57
Suffolk Society (Rings 8 & 10)	407	£676.93	319	£453.76
Beltex (Ring 1)	88	£644.32		
Suffolk (Ring 11& 14)	490	£602.84	2	£210.00
Texel (Ring 18)	368	£553.56		
Charollais (Ring 4)	215	£380.64	40	£304.75

Suffolk shearlings sold in Ring 8 (in the MV scheme) were £74/head higher than Suffolks sold in ring 14 (not in the MV scheme). The difference in average Shearling

sale price for Society members' vs non Society members, if you took out the 151 Society members Shearling rams sold in Rings 11 & 14, was £148.13. Hence Society members received 27 per cent higher prices for their Shearling rams than non Society sheep Table 2.

Table 2 Average Shearling Price for Suffolk Sheep Society vs Non Society Flocks

	No of Shearlings	Total Price £	Average
Society Members (Rings 8, 11 & 14)	558	£386,380	£692.44
Non Society Members (Rings 11 & 14)	339	£184,520	£544.31
Total	897	£570,900	£636.46

Summary

- 897 Suffolk shearlings were sold at Kelso 2013 in three rings.
- 321 Suffolk ram lambs were sold at Kelso 2013 in two rings.
- 62.2% (558) of Suffolk Shearling rams were from Society registered flocks.
- Suffolk Shearling rams from registered flocks were £148.13 higher than Shearling rams from non Society flocks.
- 1,218 Suffolk Shearling rams and ram lambs were sold at the 2013 sale which equates to 28.6 per cent of the 4,260 rams sold of all breeds.