

Flying Trade for Pedigree Suffolk Females Sale at Ballymena Mart on Monday 21st November

There was a packed ringside in Ballymena Mart for the annual Suffolk female sale run by the Northern Ireland Branch of the Suffolk Sheep Society. Buyers from all over Ireland and the United Kingdom splashed the cash which resulted in an 84 per cent clearance rate for the 68 in lamb gimmers and ewes presented.

AJ & NAJ Robinson (Benraftern Flock) received the top price of 4,400gns for a Strathisla Speedson daughter out of a Strathisla Schumacher ewe. The final bid came from Michael O'Neill from Wexford. The same purchaser also paid 2,400gns for a Benraftern Stoner's Chip sired ewe out of a Strathisla Speed dam. Both ewes were in lamb to Benraftern Right Said Fred, a homebred son of Jubilee Jethro. The Robinson family also received 2,400gns for another Speedson daughter out of a Strathisla Schumacher ewe. This lot was knocked down to well known Irish breeder, Oliver Deane. The Benraftern flock was the largest vendor on the night selling 13 lots to average £1,193.

AR Gault (Forkins Flock) was awarded the overall champion of the sale, for a Cairness New Approach gimmer, out of a Boreland Buddah dam. The final bid of 3,100gns came from new breeders the Suffern family, from Maghera. This ewe is in lamb to Forkins Fantastic a full brother of the 13,000gn ram now based at Strathisla. Alastair also received 1,600gns and 1,500gns for two further Cairness bred gimmers and ended the night with the highest overall average of £1,344.

The reserve champion was awarded to John McKay (Kirkview Flock) for a Conveth Master Piece gimmer in lamb to Malinhead Powerhouse. This ewe was sold for 1,600gns to the Suffern family. The Kirkview flock averaged £1,103 for two sold.

PDW Taylor (Ballynacanon Flock) sold to a top of 700gns for a Baileys and Ice sired gimmer, out of a Glenho Graceland ewe, in lamb to Blackbrae Almighty. The next best from this pen was 650gns for a Strathisla Lift T'The Stars ewe out of a Celtic Starboy dam. This ewe is in lamb to Limestone To-Tal. Dennis sold six on the night to average £544.

Longstanding Suffolk breeder Campbell Watson and his son Jason (Bannview Flock) obtained a high of 700gns for a Birness the Great ewe out of a Muirton Powerhouse dam. This sheep goes back to X18 the Bannview show ewe and is in lamb to Bawnogue Multi Power. The Watson family sold eight Suffolk females on the night to average £483.