

Trade hits 20,000gns thrice as Stirling Suffolk average jumps £366

Suffolk ram lambs met a fierce demand at the Northern Area Sale, Stirling, on Friday (25 July), with prices hitting 20,000gns three times and the average rising by £366.09 on the previous year's sale.

Strong bidding from the very start of the sale resulted in an overall average of £2237.97 for 145 lambs sold. Speaking after the sale Suffolk Sheep Society chief executive Lewis McLinton said it was obvious buyers were looking for a modern type with good carcasses, tops and fleshing ability without excessive head and bone.

Auctioneer George Purves from United Auctions added "It was a very good show of sheep with strength and depth. Trade was strong for good sheep throughout the sale and held up right to the end."

The first lamb to hit 20,000gns was FHT:14:00822 from Iain and Judith Barbour's Solwaybank flock. Sired by Solwaybank Thunderball he is bred from a dam by Rhaeadr Rastafari and his grand dam is a full sister to the Royal and Great Yorkshire Show winner JOD:F16. The successful bidder was Paul Delves from Powys who is returning to the breed.

Next to reach this mark was the first prize open ram lamb winner 33H:14:01873 from the Cairness flock of Jimmy Douglas. This Baileys Rock Solid sired lamb is out of a dam by Cairness Cyclone that is an ET sister to Cairness Custom Made and maternal sister to the 17,000gns Cairness Diamond Geezer, National Sale champion 2012. He was knocked down to Patrick Donnelly for his Donrho flock and Alfred and Norman Robinson for their Benrafton flock, both Northern Ireland.

Jim Innes' pre-sale champion SUT:14:00848 from the Strathbogie flock also sold for 20,000gns. This Ballynacanon Commander son is out of a Deveronside bred dam by Strathbeg Stan The Man that was purchased for 3600gns, she was first as a ewe lamb and a gimmer at the Royal Highland Show. He also heads across to Northern Ireland, finding a new home with Gary Beacom's Lakeview flock, with a share bought by Bryden Nicholson, Knock Farm, Duns.

At 19,000gns was Jimmy Young's sixth prize lamb from the open class K14:14:00892 from the Muirton flock. Sired by Solwaybank Pound Stretcher he is out of a dam by Deveronside Mountroyal. He sold in a four way split to Jim Innes, Strathbogie, Mark Priestley, Limestone, Mary Julia Cornish, Mardle and Robbie Wilson.

Three lambs sold at 10,000gns with AAZ:14:00260, Pat Machray's third prize open lamb the first to make this price. This Cairness MI5 son is out of a Roundacre Rockstar sired dam going back to the same line as Middlemuir Winston and Glenisla Grimaldi. He was purchased in a two way split by George Stuart, Birness and Jimmy Douglas, Cairness.

Mark Priestley's KPC:14:00457 from the Limestone flock was next at this money, he is by Strathisla Spielberg and out of a dam by Limestone To-Tal, a maternal sister to the 2013 Stirling champion that sold for 4800gns. He heads to County Down with Joe Stewart.

Further on in the sale Oliver Deane sold PBO:14:00570 from his Mountford flock. This son of the 21,000gns Cairness Great Expectations is out of a dam by Ardlea Arkle that was purchased for

4000gns from the Cairness Sale last year. Alistair Gault and Dennis Taylor purchased him for their Forkins and Ballynacanon flocks, with this one again heading to Northern Ireland.

Gary Beacom then recouped some of his outlay when selling two lambs from the Lakeview flock at 7000gns each. The first in was JFF:14:01215, a Malinhead Ice Cold Gold son out of a Cairness Cyclone sired ewe that was purchased from Cairness for 8000gns. He stood second in the open class in the pre-sale show and was male champion at Balmoral Show. He sold to Sean O'Connor, Southern Ireland.

Making the same money was JFF:14:01205, a Solwaybank Major son that was part of the second prize pen of three. He is bred from a Shannagh Shergar dam that is an ET sister to the 15,000gns Lakeview Leeroy and a 4800gns gimmer that sold in 2012. His grand dam was reserve champion at Balmoral, champion at the Northern Ireland championship and Female of the Year. He heads to Orkney with Keith Hourston, Didcot.

Alistair Gault was next in the money with AOR:14:01210 making 6000gns to Gavin and Scott Brown, Capielaw, Ross Lawrence, Roundacre, and Mike Waycott, Longridge. This son of the 12,000gns Birness Bacardi is out of a dam by Cairness Kanine that was shown as a ewe lamb and gimmer.

At 5500gns was 1W:14:01173 the first lamb in from George Stuart's Birness pen. By the 7500gns Ballynacanon Commander he is out of a dam by Strathisla Obama. He sold to Andrew Wilson and Willie Tait for their Castleisle and Burnview flocks.

Two lambs from Myfyr Evans' Rhaeadr pen then made 5200gns, with his fourth prize open lamb the first to sell. By Rhaeadr The Real McCoy he is out of a dam by Baileys BMW that is maternal sister to the female and reserve overall champion at the Royal Welsh Show 2009 to BMW himself. He joins the Rookery flock of Chris and Sally Holmes, Worcestershire.

Then at the same money A12:14:01014 sold to Gordon Troup for the Whitestone flock. He is also by The Real McCoy out of a dam by Baileys BMW with his grand dam being a twin sister to the 11,000gns Rhaeadr Obsession.

Selling at 5000gns was 1W:14:01118 from George Stuart's Birness pen. This Ballynacanon Commander son is out of a Meikleson Square Up sired dam. He sold to James Wallace for his Claycrop flock.

Other leading prices:

4800gns Jimmy Young's K14:14:00896 to Angus Wilson, Glenhead

4500gns Ross Lawrence's NHL:14:00121 to Barclay and Kenny Mair, Deveronside and Graeme Christie, Balquhain

4000gns John Sinnett's 72H:14:02627 to Tom Fitzsimon, Sunnyhill

3800gns Tom Fitzsimon's NCK:14:00368 to Highfields Farming, The Knock, Duns

3800gns Barclay and Kenny Mair's NAI:14:00340 to David Gilmour, Broomknowes

3800gns George Stuart's 1W:14:01110 to Stephen Sufferin, Crewelands and Patrick Grant, Fofanny

3500gns George Christie's PDN:14:00419 to Messrs Stewart, Kininmonth

3500gns Campbell and Jason Watson's 8B:14:00939 to John Midgley, Orion

3200gns George Stuart's 1W:14:01142 to Arthur O'Keefe, County Cork

Full pre-sale show report

Jim Innes secured the overall championship at the Scottish Area Show and Sale, Stirling, with his winner of the novice ram lamb class from his Strathbogie flock, SUT:14:00848.

Sired by the 7500gns Ballynacanon Commander he is out of NAJ:L9 a Strathbeg Stan The Man daughter that was purchased for 3600gns at the Deveronside Reduction Sale. She won her class at the Royal Highland Show as a ewe lamb and gimmer.

Standing reserve overall was Barclay and Kenny Mair's Rhaeadr Red Devil son NAJ:14:00340. He came through in the winning pen of three and was male champion and reserve overall at the Royal Highland Show. He is bred from a strong female line with his grand dam being NAJ:K23 who was champion of champion at Turriff Show, two generations further back was S11 who is a full sister to the 6800gns King of Diamonds and twice stood first at the Royal Highland Show as well as being champion at Turiff Show.

Top of the line in the QMS recorded class was William and Stephanie Tait's T86:14:00757, he has a terminal index of 2.71. Sired by Oldmill Lieutenant he is out of a dam by Strathisla Stoner from the best female line in the flock. This family has produced five MLC winners at National and Stirling Sales selling to 6000gns.

Jimmy Douglas won the open ram class with 33H:14:01873, a Baileys Rock Solid sired lamb out of a Cairness Cyclone sired dam that is an ET sister to Cairness Custom Made. His grand dam was dam of the 17,000gns Cairness Diamond Geezer, National Sale champion 2012.

Also in Barclay and Kenny Mair's winning pen of three alongside the reserve champion were full brothers by Deveronside Dennis The Menace NAJ:14:00332 and NAJ:14:00331. Their dam is a Forkins Figo daughter out of NAJ:L9 who was first as a ewe lamb as well as first gimmer and reserve champion at the Royal Highland Show.

Winning the elite commercial class was Graeme Christie's PDN:14:00419. By the 12,000gns Strathisla Stifler he is out of the numerous prize winning Strathisla Speed daughter PDN:L54.

In the junior young handlers class the winner was Finn Christie. Finn was overall champion at the Royal Highland Show this year and reserve champion in 2013.

James Scott took the red rosette in the senior handler class for 13 to 16 year olds.

QMS Recorded Lamb

1 - S and W Tait's T86:14:00757

2 - Anthony Glaves' M17:14:02712

3 - James Fleming's 35N:14:00565

4 - S J Buckley's 45Z:14:01342

5 - Lilburn Estates' G34:14:18358

Novice lamb (for first time sellers)

1 - James Innes' SUT:14:00848

2 - Patrick Donnelly's LRT:14:01058

3 - Andrew Wilson's DDX:14:00842

4 - RC and JC Watson's 8B:14:00939

5 - Stephen Sufferin's PWN:14:00213

Open Ram Lamb

1 - Jimmy Douglas' 33H:14:01873

2 - Gary Beacom's JFF:14:01215

3 - P Machray's AAZ:14:00260

4 - Myfry Evans' A12:14:00991

5 - S and W Tait's T86:14:00727

Pen of three

1 - Stuart Mair's NAJ:13:00340, NAJ:14:00336, NAJ:14:00331

2 - Gary Beacom's JFF:14:01205, JFF:14:01272, JFF:14:01254

3 - S and W Tait with T86:14:00757, T86:14:00725, T86:14:00749

4 - Iain and Judith Barbour's FHT:14:00863, FHT:14:00868, FHT:14:00893

5 - Patrick Donnelly's LRT:14:01093, LRT:14:01060, LRT:14:01067

Elite Commercial Ram Lamb

1 - G J Christie's PDN:14:00449

2 - L and D Aiken's PAO:14:00120

3 - John Christie's 47D:14:00524

4 - S J Buckley's 45Z:14:01342

5 – Tom Fitzsimons' NCK:14:00368

Young Handlers (aged 8 – 12)

1 – Finn Christie

2 – Owain Butler

3 – Lara Reid

4 – Callum Lorimer

5 – Amy Dalgarno

6 – Grant Dalgarno

Young Handlers (aged 13 – 16)

1 – James Scott

2 – David Monarch

3 – Liam Troup

4 – James Baillie

5 – James Fleming

6 – Jennifer Fleming