

## **THE EIGHTH THAME with the BICESTER SUMMER SHEEP FAIR**

### **FRIDAY, 6<sup>th</sup> AUGUST 2010**

The move to a new site was our first hurdle to overcome this year. With the new layout designed and the dedication of the building crew this year's sale proved to be one of our most successful sales to date, with most of the pens filled by 9.am and a flow of sheep through the ring that caused few hold ups and a completed sale in just nine hours to plenty of buyers, old and new, from all corners of England & Wales and the borders.

The show of sheep was one of the best seen in recent years with large runs of powerful sheep producing a strong trade above most vendor's expectations.

A total of 19,739 sheep went through the rings. After a stringent judging process the following results were achieved:

***The North of England Mule Sheep Association Ltd Perpetual Challenge Cup – Best run of 60 theaves*** – Mesr J & H Tustian, Epwell (average £140.00)

***The Michael Capel- Smith Memorial Challenge Trophy – Awarded to the Best Pen of Theaves from the Continental, SHB or Suffolk x Mule Section*** – winner Mr M R Cross, Blackthorn

***The Cockermouth Prize:*** Best Pen of Theaves purchased from a Cockermouth Ewe Lamb sale – Mesrs T & E L Kirkman

**Best Pen of 25+ Mule Theaves** – Mesr J & H Tustian, Epwell (£142.00)

**Best Pen of 25+ Suffolk x Mule Theaves** – Mr E Bullman, Thornbo' (£175.00)

**Best Pen of 25+ Continental x Theaves** – Mr M R Cross, Blackthorn (£148.00)

**Best Pen of 25+ Scotch Half Bred x Theaves** – Mr G A Stephens, Kirby Bellars (£148.00)

Special thank you to our Sponsors – **The British Wool Marketing Board, NFU Thame & Aylesbury Branches and County Insurance.**

A top price of £188 was given for a pen of Beltex theaves from Gore Farm, who had further pens of similar theaves at £183 and £180. Close behind were the top Suffolk Mule theaves from Mr E Bullman selling for £175. The show of Suffolk Mules extremely impressive and astonished everyone returning an average **£10 up** on last year. The North Country Mule section looked equally as good with a top of £142 for a smart pen from Mesr J & H Tustian and a total show average of over £114, **up £20** from last year.

We thought the trade had peaked but the ewe section once again returned some jaw dropping prices to conclude a most successful day. A pair of Charollais ewes from Mr H Marten topped the trade at £158 followed by a tremendous run of Suffolk x ewes from Mesr R Randall & Son achieving £123 with three pens and £120 with another.

Thank you to our judges, Bernard & David Pearson & Martin Richardson, and of course to all vendors and purchasers for their support.

We would like to also say a huge thank you to everyone who participated in the day and helped make it run so smoothly including the team of Adrian Hope, Billy Biswell & Jane Britnell who built the Fair; Brian Lloyd & Richard Ivory for all their contributions behind the scenes; our team of staff Rob, Jonquil, Robert, Daniel, John, Mousey, Robin, Tina, Jo, Elaine, Mark; our two assisting auctioneers, Malcolm Wakeling and Ed Cox; along with our two new boys Scott Ruck and Joseph Gurney and not forgetting Henry & Anne down at the lorry wash all day.

## **Ewe Lambs & Store Lambs**

### **1214 Ewe Lambs**

An excellent showing of well grown ewe lambs found a good demand, selling well compared to the current fat lamb market with almost a 100% clearance.

Top prices of £80.00 were achieved for both Suffolk x from A R & J Collett and for Beltex from D S & L E Wadland; Jane Hawes sold Suffolk x to £76; Humphrey Livestock sold Suffolk x to £77.50 and Charollais x to £77.50; Texel x to £69.50 for G Woodward; £367.50 for Lowesby Farms and £64 for T G Levinge; Lleyn x at £62 for J C Colgrove & Sons.

### **1152 Store Lambs**

Mixed store lambs were more variable in quality with the stronger growing sorts meeting a good demand with prices consistent to the current fat lamb market.

A complete clearance was topped by H Marten's Charollais x £77.

Suffolk x sold to £62.50 for F E Harris & Son; £60.50 for Swyncombe Farms.

Continental x met a strong demand throughout, E Pratt selling to £56 , C R & D P Hunt's annual consignment for £55.50; Tom Levinge sold Texel x to £59.50; Kingston Blount Farms to £54.50.

## **Rams**

A total entry of 156 Rams were offered for sale, being similar numbers to last year.

Trade was selective as expected with a clearance of 70% of those offered for sale.

Texel Shearlings topped at £495 for Mrs Jane Roff; £450 for R & B Smith.

Beltex mainly £300 - £400 with others at £200 - £285.

Charollais Shearlings to £515 for J & C Maxwell; £485 for A J & M J Gregory; £500 for Mrs P A Hawes.

Ram Lambs from Mrs P A Hawes sold to £600 topping the day.

Suffolks found less demand than last year, ram lambs topped at £480 for G & E Beddie; £450 for Thomas Blunt and M & J Pinny, shearlings topped at £360 for Thomas Blunt.

Other breeds sold to expectation.

Mrs J Bury sold her Bleu du Maine double shearlings to £150.

A Berrichon shearling from Mrs Robinson made £285.

Hampshire Down Shearlings sold to £220 with ram lambs to £150 for Messrs Banks and Green.