



AUCTIONEERS & VALUERS

# THAME FARMERS AUCTION MART LTD

## 17<sup>TH</sup> SHEARWELL THAME SUMMER SHEEP FAIR

### 24,886 Heads Offered, 24,462 Sold – 98.3% Clearance

This year's breeding sheep sales began in earnest with all eyes looking to the 25,000 head passing through our ring on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> & Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> August. The ongoing Brexit debate was likely to dampen the trade, however the need to replace and the abundance of regrowth kept prices firm.

Thursday's trade for the white face sheep got off to a grand start with the Beltex x topping at £190.00 for a pen of 15 from M/s Rawding Partners, other pens from the same flock sold to £175.00. M/s DF & GA Davies, Carmarthenshire sold at £168.00 and £165.00. Texel x especially out of good North of England Mules met favour at £170.00, £168.00 and £165.00 from the run of 400 consigned by M/s Harrison Bros. ¾ bred from M/s Claridge sold at £170.00, John Brown took £166.00, the late Mrs Riley £162.00 while Alice and Henry Hunt reached £160.00 for Mule x.

The white-faced sheep were judged by Mrs Wendy Pickard, Queniborough. Finding her top pen in a run from Garfield Stephens for 25 Texel x Border Lester sharing the top price at £190.00. Border Leicester's from the same farm sold at £160.00, while a black Cheviot sold for £181.00 with its white sisters selling at £160.00. The older relatives went on to make £170.00 at 2 shear. Cheviot Mules topped at £144.00 from Philip North for run dry and £145.00 from Rob and Caroline Mole for lambed. Lleyn shearlings sold on a strong trade to £126.00 for lambed from J & R Morris.

Full mouth Charollais sold to £160.00 again for a single sheep from M/s Davies, while the best of the few Suffolks on offer sold at £118.00 for a pen of 30 full mouth from M/s RAE Wilson & Son. Texel x 6T and full mouth from Clark Farming Partnership sold at £111.00, while M/s J & H Tustian topped the Mules at £111.00 for 25.

Ewe lambs were slightly harder to sell with the top prices coming from the run of 600 Texel x from T C Dawson, Ferryhill, County Durham who topped at £91.00, £88.00, £85.00 and £82.00.

Store Lamb numbers up on last year, several bigger buyers purchasing long keep lambs were cautious with a budget under £50.00. Stronger lambs sold to £71.00 for a pen of Charollais x from Barton Farms, Texel x sold to £68.50 from Michael Marcello, Cheviot x from G Weston hit £65.50 while Suffolk x from J Strange & Sons sold at £64.50.

Friday saw strong demand for the Suffolk x NC Mules. Simon Hill, Tyringham kindly judged the class finding his winners from the pens of George Eaton, Tingewick which went on to sell at £182.00. George took £160.00 for his second pen. G J Brown & Sons sold to £161.00, F C Lester & Son £158.00 and £157.00, M/s Smith & Branson £156.00, Humphrey Livestock £154.00 while M/s Gore Farms saw £162.00 for a pen of pure Suffolks, all run dry. Suffolk x NC Mule had lambs topped at £138.00 for a run from Eddie Bullman.

The North of England Mule section was kindly judged by Ross Sizmur, Okehampton, Devon who found his top run of 60 or more competing for the NEMSA cup consigned by Peter and David Morris, Brill. Ross purchased the first pen at £170.00. M/s J & H Tustian sold their usual quality runs to £162.00, £158.00, £156.00 and £152.00. Will Allan took £148.00 all for lambed sheep. Dry sheep from G E Haynes & Son sold to £150.00 for their top pen, M/s Thorncombe Park took £144.00 for two pens from their run of 450. Phillip Shed sold the only run of Welsh Mule Double theaves at £128.00 whilst Penny Hopper showed the only pen of Masham theaves selling at £130.00 run dry.

Mules topped at **£170.00** to average £122.00 up £4.32  
Suffolk X topped at **£182.00** to average £132.33 up £7.38  
Texel X topped at **£190.00**, to average £135.65 up £2.55  
Beltex topped at **£190.00**, to average £137.60  
Cheviot & Cheviot Mule topped at **£181.00**, to average £122.64  
Lleyn topped at **£126.00**, to average £118.42 up £13.44  
Scotch Half Bred topped at **£170.00**, to average £156.72  
Ewe Lambs topped at **£91.00** to average £69.95  
Store Lambs topped at **£71.00** to average £52.34

Auctioneers:

Simon Draper, FLAA, Greg MacDougall FLAA (Bentham Mart) and Thomas Hiorns FLAA.

# Ram Sale Report

(Auctioneers: Edward Cox FRICS and Daniel Slade)

A generally good quality entry - albeit short of that catalogued – met a much firmer demand than twelve months ago when times were generally dry and grass was scarce in comparison to current conditions. We had a much-improved clearance rate of over 76% of the 228 males and females that were offered, with averages similarly strong for most breeds if not firmer for several. An overview of the catalogue shows that shearling rams averaged £419 and sold to £1,200; ram lambs averaged £357 peaking at £420, and females averaged a tick over £400 topping at £950.

## PEDIGREE BELTEX

Once again, we had the pleasure of a show and sale of pedigree Beltex held under the auspices of The Beltex Sheep Society. The day's judge was Mr James Ludgate of 'JML Beltex', and he most certainly had his work cut-out in making his decisions whilst awarding the following class winner prizes: -

\*Aged Ram and *Champion Male* – Messrs VJ&ML Roots & Sons 'Freckleton Captin' by Woodies Alvin;

\*Shearling Ram – 1<sup>st</sup>. Mr A Bishop's 'Bishops Dennis The Menace' by Woodies Beyond Limits and out of a Bulldog daughter; 2<sup>nd</sup>. 'Bishops Dynamo' by Woodies Watson; and 3<sup>rd</sup>. Messrs Hawkins & Partners' 'Touchwood Dylan'.

\*Shearling Ewes – 1<sup>st</sup> and *Champion Female plus Supreme Exhibit of the Show ...* Mr A Bishop's outstanding 'Bishops Daffodil' by The Bulldog; 2<sup>nd</sup>. 'Bishops Dua Lipa' by Woodies Watson; and 3<sup>rd</sup>. Hawkins & Partners 'Touchwood Dally'.

The sale resulted in a nigh-on total clearance, with shearling rams averaging £486 and topping at £1,200 for the above-mentioned outstanding sire of the future, 'Bishops Dennis The Menace', whilst Gee Crabtree's first home-bred sire 'Crabtree Dexter' realised £780. Shearling Ewes averaged £400 and peaked at £950 for the above Supreme Exhibit from the Bishops flock, with Aged Ewes to £200 per head.

## COMMERCIALS

\*MV ACCREDITED RAMS - plenty of competition around the sale-ring for the 'right goods', particularly for those rams with sound conformation, smooth mobility, and good growth and muscle patterns though selective demand for others not quite fitting the spec on the day. Grand pens of Texel shearlings from Messrs Pinny (ave £540) and the flocks Slapton (ave £520) and Tumbletye (ave £480) with others from the Macaroni, Amersham and Drum flocks. Charollais were again well represented with the pick of the shearlings from Messrs Curtis (ave £514) and pens of ram lambs from the same Elmswick flock (ave £397) plus others from Seahawes (ave £318). VJ&ML Roots & Son's Freckleton flock offered some marvellous pens of Beltex cross shearlings which averaged close to £430, though rams from other breeds were seemingly few and far between.

Charollais shearlings averaged	£422, selling to	£600 for GA&JA Curtis' Elmswick flock;
Charollais ram lambs	-“	£346, selling to £420 for GA&JA Curtis;
Beltex x Charollais shlgs	-“	£402, selling to £470 for VJ&ML Roots & Son;
Suffolk shearlings	-“	£460, selling to £500 for both Messrs Roots and Blunt;
Suffolk ram lambs	-“	£380, selling to £390 for both Messrs Pinney and Cobbald;
Texel shearlings	-“	£416, selling to £600 for S Cobbald;
Beltex x Texel shlgs	-“	£423, selling to £440 from VJ&ML Roots & Son;
Blue Texel shlgs	-“	£293, selling to £320 for R&B Smith, Slapton Texels;
Texel x Charollais shlgs	to	£510 from R&B Smith, Slapton Texels;
Beltex x Suffolk shlgs	to	£455 from VJ&ML Roots & Son;
2-shear Beltex shlgs	to	£380 from VJ&ML Roots & Son.

\*Non-MV ACCREDITED - highlight of this section was the outstanding draft of Beltex shearling rams offered by show judge, Mr James Ludgate; sold late in the day, his wonderful offering of JML Beltex sold to the day's second highest ram sale price of £900 to average £573 across the board, with all Beltex shearlings in this section averaging an excellent £510. Beltex x Texel shearling rams averaged £370, topping at £400 from Messrs Davies Bros who also sold Beltex x Charollais shearlings to £460 (ave £397). 4 y-o pedigree Beltex ewes sold to £210 for HW. Williams, the same also being paid for Messrs Davies' Charollais shearling ewe. Teaser rams also sought after selling to £250.