



AUCTIONEERS & VALUERS

THAME FARMERS AUCTION MART LTD

SHEARWELL THAME SUMMER SHEEP FAIR

The 16th Shearwell Thame Summer Sheep Fair was held over Thursday 2nd & Friday 3rd August with some 25,821 breeders and lambs penned along with 264 rams. The prolonged drought had its part to play in the trade with many purchasers frustrated they have no keep. In the general the dry sheep on offer showed well but lambing sheep that had not had a little help showed the weather conditions.

Day one found the Beltex x back in favour with the first sheep in the ring from Mr S K Hutchings, Hailsham selling at £195.00, M/s Davies Bros, Carmarthen made their annual pilgrimage to sell at the same prices £195.00 and £192.00. Gore Farm sold to £190.00, £188.00 and £180.00. Texel x sold to £185.00 for the best pen of 25 which was won by John Brown, Long Crendon selling to M/s Evans & Son, Marston Moretaine and kindly judged by John and Michael Hanson. M/s Harrison Bros, Milton Keynes sold their run of Texel X NC Mule to £180.00 with several pens at £165.00. M/s A & H Hunt saw their top pen at £170.00.

Garfield Stephens, Kirkby Bellows sold his Texel x Scotch Half Breds to £179.00 and £177.00. Also showing Scotch Half Bred at £180.00 and £150.00 for two shear. His two pens of North Country Cheviots sold at £182.00 and £160.00 again for two shear. Cheviot Mules were harder to place this year topping at £138.00 for lambing sheep from Rob and Caroline Mole. M/s Swangrove Farm sold dry at £131.00.

Beltex topped at **£195.00**, to average £151.80, down £11.19
Cheviot topped at **£182.00**, to average £164.58
Cheviot Mule topped at **£138.00**, to average £117.18, down £20.82
Lleyn topped at **£118.00**, to average £104.98 down £15.97
Scotch Half Bred topped at **£180.00**, to average £165.00 down £11.66
Texel X topped at **£185.00**, to average £133.10 down £8.34

Older ewes a little steady against last year finding £106.00 for full mouthed ewes from JH Tustian, Suffolk x sold to £104.00 from RAE Wilson, Texel x to £101.00 and smart Beltex topping the section at £145.00 from Davies Bros, Gwynfe. Beltex ewes averaged £131.36, Mule ewes averaged £87.83, Suffolk ewes averaged £92.34, Texel x £93.07, Suffolk x Half Breds to £129.00.

The ewe lamb trade was dominated by smart headed Texel x NC Mules from Chris Dawsno, Ferry Hill topped at £100.00 with other pens to £89.00, £84.00 and £82.00. Store lambs met an unexpectedly strong trade with very little meat on offer selling to at top of £68.00 for Charollais x from Mark Britten. Chris Tucker followed at £64.50 and CR & DP Hunt £64.00. Suffolk x sold to £64.00 from M & L Roberts, Mold with other pens to £61.00.

Texel x from Manor House Farm Partnership sold to £64.50. AR & J Collett sold at £64.00 and Michael Cross £63.00. Beltex x sold at £56.00 for RJ Tofield from May born lambs. Mr G Weston sold NC Cheviots X NC Mule at £62.00. Store Lambs averaged £55.66 for 5753 head.

Day two commenced with the Suffolk x theaves and doubles. Selling on a remarkably strong trade and many finding their way back to the not so green Isle of Anglesey. John and Michael Hanson, Eardisland awarded the best pen of 25 or more to M/s FC Lester & Son for their homebred pen selling at £160.00. Eddy Bullman sold to £145.00 again for run dry sheep, George Eaton £144.00, Alice & Henry Hunt £144.00, Rob and Caroline Mole £140.00 lambing. Suffolk x average £124.95 for 4700, down £6.96.

North Country Mules traded to £162.00 for lambing sheep from J & H Tustain who took the NEMSA cup of best run of 60 or more, kindly judged by M/s Baskerville & Son, Warwick. W H Allan followed at £155.00, David Morris £155.00 and Alan Collett to £150.00. Richard Haynes (GE Haynes & Son) sold his run dry to £155.00 and £148.00. North of England Mules average £117.68 for 6420, down £12.22.

Auctioneers:

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

The directors and senior auctioneer extend their sincere thanks to all those who attended the sale and the staff for working in such unusual conditions.

Ram Sale Report

(Auctioneers: Edward Cox and Daniel Slade)

A near identical penning to a year ago of 264 head in this section which included both pedigree male and female Beltex for show and sale as well as the usual offering of commercial rams. Trade was most selective throughout – in the main (and hardly surprising) due to our current extreme weather conditions plus lack of grass for most sheep graziers – with comparatively selective competition for most breeds. However, we still achieved a most creditable clearance rate (considering the trading conditions) of almost 60% as well as some great top prices and increased averages for nearly all breeds. Rams peaked at £860 for a Texel, and Females topped at £610 for a Beltex.

The annual show of pedigree Beltex was most ably judged by Mr Bill Rawdings who certainly had a great selection and quality of sheep to cast his experienced eyes over. Bill duly awarded The Supreme Champion rosette and best Male exhibit to Stewart Taylor's shearling Staddlestone Cody, an ET son of Todhall Sumo and out of a The Godfather daughter, Keith Crabtree then duly purchased him for £560. The Reserve Male Champion ribbon was won by Andrew Bishop of the 'Bishops' flock who was also the worthy winner of The Champion Female and Reserve Champion Supreme rosettes for a 3-shear that later realised £320. Emily South showed here for the first time and was highly rewarded by winning the Best Shearling Ewe class and then the Reserve Champion Female accolade with her own Chiltern Crumpet that later topped the Beltex auction at £610. Sale Averages:- Shearling Rams averaged £446, selling to £690 for Stewart Taylor; Shearling Ewes averaged £402, selling to £610 for Emily South; and Aged Ewes averaged £275, selling to £320.

Gee Crabtree of Great Horwood most generously donated a pure Beltex ewe lamb to Cancer Research – this was auctioned and re-auctioned several times to finally raise £1000.00, with FC Lester & Son being the final bidder and who most generously donated the lamb back to Gee for her to breed from. Many thanks to Gee who I'm sure would in turn like to thank all those who so generously bought and then re-offered for her chosen charity.

MV Accredited Ram sale results:-

Texel Shearlings averaged £446, selling to £860 for R&B Smith's 'Slapton' flock (with other notable sales including Messrs Warnock's 'Tubletye' draft selling to £630 ave £518, and Messrs Phillips 'Macaroni' rams to £680 ave £505).

Texel x Beltex averaged £469, selling to £480 for VJ&ML Roots & Son 'Freckleton' Beltex flock;

Texel x Charollais averaged £308, selling to £475 for R&B Smith;

Blue Texels to £308 for Yeat Blue Texels, averaged £284;

Charollais Shearlings averaged £393, selling to £660 for GA&JA Curtis 'Elmwick' flock;

Charollais Ram Lambs to £350 for 'Seehawes Charollais', averaged £343;

Beltex x Charollais to £530 for VJ&ML Roots & Son, averaged £450;

Suffolk Shearlings to £580 for JB&RL Cook, averaged £555;

Suffolk Ram Lambs to £370 for MJ&JA Pinney;

Lleyn Shearlings to £500 for CG&JF Phillips 'Macaroni' flock, averaged £407.

NON-MV Accr ram sale results:-

Texel x Beltex Shearlings to £770 for Davies Bros, averaged £545;

Beltex x Charollais Shearlings to £600 for Davies Bros, averaged £500;

Charollais Shearlings to £465; Texel Shearlings to £295, averaged £291;

Suffolk Shearlings to £300, averaged £297; Dorset Shearlings to £280;

Aged Beltex ewes to £180, averaged £169.