

BELATED HARVEST WEATHER AFFECTS CHELFORD TEXEL SALE

Seemingly weeks on end of miserable wet weather, two or three days of glorious harvesting conditions coincided with the North West Texel Breeders Club Annual Sale at Chelford last Thursday.

The crowd was therefore vastly diminished, but trade was surprisingly buoyant despite the relative shortage of customers.

Top price of 1,250 gns was paid for the Show Champion, judged by Robert Bradley of the Far Hey flock. Sportsman's Oxo was purchased by Frank Rushton of Matlock as a Ram Lamb, worked in his Fresh Fields flock last winter and has been shown very successfully throughout this summer. By Mellor Vale Missile, out of a Baltier Kracker sired dam, he went home to Peak Forest in Derbyshire with Mr A Hadfield.

Rob & Barbara Smith always bring a decent pen of shearling rams to Chelford and saw their leading ram, by the homebred ram Slapton Lucky, make 500 gns to local finished lamb producer David Venables.

Leading the ram lambs was the fourth placed Ram in the Show, from Messrs Boden and Davies, Sportsman's Pacific, a March born twin by Hen Gapel On Your Nelly, and out of a ewe by Glenside Legacy made 580 gns to Robert Cartlidge, Doveholes, Buxton.

Stuart Currie from Settle, Yorkshire, saw his leading Ram Lamb, sired by Millar's Omen out of a ewe by Llyfni Lewis make 460 gns to another local finished lamb producer, C F Fox, Barthomley, near Crewe.

A decent trade for Shearling Gimmers was topped by the Reserve Champion, and first prize in the Gimmer Class, also from the Sportsman's Flock. This February 2008 born twin by Castlecairn Nile God and out of a ewe by Annan Elite made 600 gns to G S Jones, at Llanrhaeadr, Denbigh. The Slapton Flock of Messrs Smith also produced a decent pen of gimmers, peaking at 400 gns with top bid from A C Simpson, Hope Valley, Derbyshire.

All in all, trade was reasonable for all well bred ram lambs, shearling rams and gimmers, with decent conformation and skins. Most vendors went home reasonably satisfied with their days work, despite the shortage of customers.

Averages:

23 Shearling Rams	£410.67
51 Ram Lambs	£297.41
33 Shearling Gimmers	£313.03

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