

Black Beauties Blessington

5th December 2020

Auctioneers: J.P. & M. Doyle

What a fitting finale for breeders of the South of Ireland Branch of the Suffolk Sheep Society when the final Suffolk Sale of the year in the south went under the hammer of renowned auctioneer, John Doyle, at Blessington Livestock Mart on Saturday, 5th December. The Black Beauties organisers took a brave decision back in October when the country moved to Level 5 to move their sale from the usual second Saturday in November to the first Saturday in December and this move paid dividends with a 100% clearance with brisk online and ringside bidding to give a sale average of 1,880gns. The quality of sheep and depth of genetics on offer from the Castleisle, Shannagh, Barrowlands, Annakisha and Clyda Flocks as well as guest consignees Ballyboe, Glyde, Malinhead and Finnvale was exceptional across the board and the sheep on offer found new homes, not alone, in the four corners of Ireland but they were also exported to Scotland, England and Belgium with over a quarter of the lots on offer exported.

The progeny of the 2019 Sire of the Year, Limestone Aston Martin, were in particular demand with Shannagh and Castleisle selling their 18 gimmers for a whopping average of 2,800gns. Sale topper, at 6,500gns. was a daughter of the aforementioned Aston Martin scanned in lamb to the 31,000gns Cloontagh Chieftain from the Shannagh Flock of Richard Wilson. She was a joint purchase for Mark Priestley, Limestone and Brian Doyle, Kilmacoo. Richard also received the second highest price of 6000gns. for a daughter of Strathbogie A Kind of Magic in lamb to Ballynacannon Royal Flush. Andrew Wilson of the Castleisle Flock sold his top gimmer by Aston Martin for 4400gns. to the Sullom Flock in Lancashire. She was scanned carrying a pair to, the 2016 Sire of the Year, Birness Murray. Wilsons sold two others at 3,600gns. and 3,400gns. to the Myddle Flock in Shropshire.

The Annakisha and Clyda flocks also had a very successful day's trading with their pen topper selling to the renowned Cairness Flock in Scotland for 3,000gns. This gimmer by Kinbally Black Panther was scanned in lamb to Castleisle Kiltleskin Prince who earlier this year sired a number of ram lambs selling to the UK and Spain for the O'Keeffe family. The O'Keeffes also received over 2,000gns. each for 2 other gimmers exported to Belgium and Scotland while Finnvale's top 2 gimmers sold for 2,100 and 2,000gns.

It was also a day to remember for the Gahan Family of the Barrowlands Flock in Carlow. They sold their 3 ewe lambs to average 2370gns. Pick of the pen and top price Suffolk ewe lamb sold at auction in the South of Ireland this year at 4,000gns. was a stylish daughter of the 20,000gns Castleisle Kiltleskin Prince. She found a new home in the very successful Mullinvale Flock of Darragh McMenamin of Donegal while their other ewe lambs were exported to Belgium.

The Black Beauties Sale will take place in 2021 on Saturday, 13th of November at Blessington Livestock Mart.