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THAME FARMERS AUCTION MART LTD

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24TH SHEARWELL THAME SUMMER SHEEP SALE

Our annual Shearwell Thame summer sheep fair was held last Thursday and Friday on the Thame Show Ground, which looked more like the "Pilbara" than the home counties.

The only thing green was paint on the advertising banners! However, record average and record and record turnover were miraculously achieved.

A sale total of over £3.3 million and an average of £220 for 14674 heads sold, 95.3% clearance was against all odds.

TFAM Ltd, thank all concerned with making the sale a huge success, especially Shearwell Data for their continued sponsorship of the show and our staff who work tirelessly to ensure a successful sale. A big thank you to our judges. Rebecca Ringer kindly judged the White Face sheep awarding the Chairmans Trophy to Harrison Bros, Calverton for their pen of Texel x Scotch Mule Theaves which went on to sell for £340.00 per head. Will Hockenhull judged the Suffolk x awarding the Micheal Capel Smith trophy to Rob & Caroline Mole, Cheersley with their run selling at £330.00. The NC Mules were judged by Philly Batchelor, Eydon who the Best Run of NC Mule Theaves and The Best Pen of 20 or more NC Mule Theaves to T J Smith & Son, Puxley.

On Thursday we sold the White-faced sheep and Suffolk crosses. Buyers were choosy but stuck to what they wanted. Harrison Bros sold their usual quality Texel x Scotch Mules to £340 and Texel Mules to £302 all lambed. J A Shaw and partners took the top of this section at £355 for run dry. Dry sheep generally sold at a premium as condition was king! Texel x from G E Haynes and Son sold to £300 run dry.

Micheal and Jean Cross sold their usual smart Texels all out of Cheviot Mules to £320 with 6 pens of 25 selling at £300 or more. Pure texels from Messrs. Shaw hit £365 for 10. Miss Eleanor Barlow sold her homebred North country Cheviots at £290 while Texel x Cheviot found £325 from Garfield Stephens.

The best showing of Suffolk cross we have seen found favor with our returning Welsh buyers to average £268 and top at £330 from Rob and Caroline Mole. Messrs. S F and A J Deeming followed at £320 twice followed by Eddy Bullman at £315. Older ewes from Tommy Tustian reached £250

Friday is always Mule and store lamb day. We were short of older ewes as most have been sold already in the weekly fat markets. Those on offer kicked the Friday off in style to £240 for full mouth from Rory Wagstaff who followed with a second pen at £235. Messrs. A Pearson and Son sold their annual consignment to £205.

Messrs. T J Smith and Son, Puxley are making a habit of topping the North of England Mule theaves with their run dry winning the best pen and topping at £330. Other pens from the same run sold to £315 and £310. J and H Tustian took £310 along with Messrs. Deeming followed by Milton Keynes Parks Trust at £305.

Store lambs were the best trade we have ever seen, the few vendors who thought themselves clever by entering and then selling at home hard luck - you missed out big time!

Off the clock would be the way to describe the lamb trade and completely against the logic of 60 days without rain and non-forecast in the near future. An average of £114.80 up £11.50 on the year and selling to £145 from D R Walker for Suffolk X, Jake Belgrove took £140 for Texel X for pens of 50 and £134. Charollais x from Rob and Caroline Mole sold to £130.50 out of tegs for a pen of 52. Micheal and Jean Cross sold smart Texel X Cheviot Mule wether lambs to £138 and £137 along with Charmoise x out of tegs at £129. Just short of 5000 lambs met a real trade the smaller the dearer! And most going locally to Thame. Cheshire and Yorkshire buyers could not get started.

What a way to end 48 years as an auctioneer! Simon Draper FLAA.

Top prices & averages

Breed	Average	Top
NC Mule Theaves	£281.33	£330.00
NC Mule Ewes	£199.73	£240.00
Suffolk x NC Mule Theaves	£268.99	£330.00
Texel Mule Theaves	£276.91	£355.00
Texel X Scotch Mule Theaves	£318.94	£340.00
Texel x Cheviot Theaves	£300.23	£320.00
Texel Theaves	£330.00	£365.00
Store Lambs	£114.80	£145.00

Ram Ring Report

The ram ring met fierce demand for strong tups ready to go to work. Who needs to go to Kelso to buy strong Charollais rams? Sarah Toombs sold her pen to £1600 for shearlings.

Suffolk ram lambs from J M L Farming Thame topped at £1300.

MV shearling females sold to £690 for Charollais from G A and J A Curtis.

Auctioneers:

Greg MacDougall FLAA (Bentham Mart), Thomas Hiorns FLAA & Daniel Slade FLAA.