

## Ryeland Flock Book Society Sale Report: Worcester 21.08.2021

Back to "Business as usual" at the 2021 RFBS Sale.

This year saw entry numbers bounce back to somewhere near their normal levels after a depleted entry in 2021. The return of the pre-sale show brought a buzz to the market that was necessarily missing in Covid blighted 2020, so hopes were high for a good trade. Vendors were not disappointed with this year's sale seeing increased averages in most categories.

The top price of the day was for a Ryeland ram lamb from the Hawthorns flock of A Robinson, Wigton, Cumbria. Hawthorns Bunde Aki, sired by Hawthorns Zinzan Valentine and out of a home bred ewe, was described by his purchaser, D Lewis, Narberth, Pembrokeshire, as "the best ram lamb I've ever seen". Bidding was fierce and the result was a sale price of 2100gns, a new record for a Ryeland ram lamb. He was placed second in the morning's show by judge Mrs E Parry, Gaerwen, Anglesey, who put his flock mate Hawthorns Beno as her male champion. Beno, sired by Archways Xander out of a home bred ewe, also made an excellent price, selling for 1100 gns, joining the Kneeton flock of M Cook, Richmond, Yorkshire.

Demand for Ryeland rams was strong across the board, with three shearlings making four figures. Pembroke Apollo from N Morgan, Crymych, Pembs, was placed second in the show and sold to A Hunter Blair, Castle Douglas, for 1400gns and Bryn Caffo Aled, unshown as his breeders A & E Parry were judging, to E Parker, Bromyard, also for 1400gns. The third ram was the last animal ever to be sold from the Westfield flock of Q & N Jones. Retiring from keeping Ryelands, Mrs & Mrs Jones have been supporters of the breed for many years and it was a fitting end to see Westfield Albion go to the Devon based flock of J Cottey for 1300gns.

Ryeland females also saw a solid trade. Again, the Hawthorns flock was prominent, winning the female championship, judged by Mr A Parry, Gaerwen Anglesey, with a January born ewe lamb, also sired by Hawthorns Zinzan Valentine. She was purchased for 1850gns by M Dolden, Maldon, Essex. The reserve champion went to the first placed shearling ewe from the Mansel flock of R & A Howell, Gower, Swansea. Sired by Cagedale Woodman, out of a home bred ewe, she went north to join the Ochiltree flock of D Stainton, Glasgow for 800gns.

Coloured Ryeland females saw an excellent trade with the shearling ewes being in particular demand with the average more than doubling since last year. The top price of the day went to the Coloured Ryeland champion, a shearling ewe from the Teme flock of J Webb, Ashford Carbonel, Ludlow. The judges, S Gilbert, Ballaghadreen, Rep of Ireland and D Duggan, Aymestry, Leominster, picked her out as the best of the day. Sired by Snelson Zorik, out of a home bred ewe, she sold for 1350gns to O Reade, Pickhill, Thirsk. Third placed shearling ewe from the Arberth flock, D Lewis, was sought after too, making 950gns. She now heads to Norwich to join the Scoulton flock of J Stone. The reserve female champion was a ewe lamb from the Uppertown flock of A Wright, Tenbury Wells. Sired by Hawthorns Xanto, out of a home bred ewe, she sold for 700gns, also to J Stone.

Trade on the Coloured Ryeland males was patchy, as it has been in recent years, with this year's highest prices going to two ram lambs. The top slot went to reserve male champion, Allerdale Black Magic, bred by A & E Robinson, Wigton, Cumbria. Sired by Allerdale Zeko out of a Moss Barn ewe, he made 600gns and went to the Teme flock of J Webb. Next highest was fourth placed ram lamb, Drumson Bairstow, bred by S Bradbury, Narberth, Pembs. Sired by Highwood Vigilant, he sold for 550gns to the Ashley Moor Hall flock of B Summerfield. Ludlow. The male champion, shearling ram Little Cleaves Amadeus, sold for 450gns to M Pritchard, Hereford.

Auctioneers: McCartneys

Averages: Top Price gns (average £)

*Coloured Ryeland Shearling Ewe: 1350 (547.50)*

*Coloured Ryeland Shearling Ram: 450 (325.50)*

*Coloured Ryeland Ram Lamb: 600gns (296.60)*

*Ryeland Shearling Ewe: 800 (377.70)*

*Ryeland Ewe Lamb: 1850 (330.75)*

*Ryeland Aged Rams: 720 (693.00)*

*Coloured Ryeland Ewe Lamb: 700 (377.50)*

*Coloured Ryeland Aged Ram: 400 (336.00)*

*Ryeland Breeding Ewe: 400 (195.00)*

*Ryeland Shearling Ram: 1400 (682.50)*

*Ryeland Ram Lambs: 2100 (550.20)*