

## **2200 GNS IMPRESSION EWE LAMB LEADS THE WAY AT TOMCROFT SUFFOLK SALE**

A huge crowd descended on Manor Farm, Marston, Nr. Church Eaton, Staffordshire for the first sale from the noted Tomcroft Flock of Pedigree Suffolks, the Property of Steve and Tom Cox. The Flock was established in 2000 and much success has been achieved in a very short time including winning the Suffolk Sheep Society's Bristol Gold Cup for the Champion Flock in the National Flock Competition in 2006.

The sale was further enhanced by the inclusion of a draft of brood ewes from the Sitlow Flock of Steve Buckley at Dove Holes, Derbyshire and the Dispersal of the entire Becton Flock of Paul Fenton and Becky Johnson from Yarlet, Staffordshire.

Buyers were recorded from all over the country and the sheep were distributed to breeders resident in Northumberland, Cumbria, Lancashire, Suffolk, Cambridgeshire, Leicestershire, Worcestershire, Herefordshire, Monmouthshire, Vale of Glamorgan, Carmarthenshire, Ceredigion, Pembrokeshire, Powys, as well as Staffordshire and its surrounding counties plus Northern Ireland and Belgium.

The quality of the sheep on offer was very good from all three flocks and the number of buyers competing to acquire this quality resulted in a very buoyant trade throughout. However it was near the end of the sale that the top price was achieved when the very exciting ewe lamb LAS-K33 entered the ring; earlier on in the year she had won the Female and Reserve Breed Champion at this year's Royal Show. She paraded like a true Champion into the ring and bidding quickly rose to 2200 gns with the hammer being knocked down to Gary Beacom from Kesh, Co Fermanagh, Northern Ireland who was buying for his Lakeview Flock.

The next top price was 1400 gns paid for the in-lamb gimmer LAS-J20; this outstanding sheep is a daughter of Tomcroft Persuader and out of a Muirensk ewe by the 50000 gns Stockton Caesar's Son and she has a very high index of £3.44 and a muscle depth of 40.4mm. She was sold carrying twins to an undisclosed Shropshire breeder.

Not far behind and selling at 1300 gns was another Persuader gimmer from Tomcroft; LAS-J17 sold carrying twins to Cairnton The Conqueror to Ruth Watson for her Sunrise Flock at Cockermouth. She also bought LAS-J64 another smart gimmer for 920 gns. The leading Tomcroft ewe was LAS-D39 a three crop daughter of Muirensk Adrenaline which sold for 700 gns to MA & KD Tett of Leatown, Preston.

Top price from the Sitlow Flock was 1200 gns for the four crop ewe 45Z-C53, a daughter of Strathisla Sinatra and carrying triplets to Perrinpit High Peak, who had bred a renowned son, who sold for £7000 at Kelso. The ewe was purchased by Ruth Watson.

### **AVERAGES**

24 Tomcroft Ewes £432.25; 34 Tomcroft Gimmers £507.71; 12 Tomcroft Ewe Lambs £520.63. 70 HEAD £484.05.

13 Sitlow Ewes £523.38.

14 Becton Ewes £263.25; 8 Becton Gimmers £213.94. 22 HEAD £245.31

Overall Average – 105 Head £438.90.

WRIGHT MANLEY of Beeston Castle Auction were the Auctioneers.