

The Suffolk Cheviot Revival



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Increased farmgate returns in 2020 has added much more confidence into the sheep sector. It has been a particularly strong year for female replacement sales and included in this is a resurgence in demand for Suffolk Cheviot sheep. The Tullow Sheep Breeders Association and Borris Sheep Breeders Association have a lifetime of experience in breeding sheep and it was heartening to see breeders who have stuck with the production system rewarded. Sales in Blessington and Baltinglass also excelled.

Good-quality hoggets were anywhere from €15 to €25 dearer than in 2019 with a high percentage

of hoggets in sales topping the €200 mark. Ewe lambs also witnessed prices rising from €15 to €20 on average and well-presented sheep expressing the sought after characteristics of the Suffolk Cheviot cross averaged from €120 to €160 for lambs weighing 40kg and upwards.

It was also a good year for a relatively new group with the Donegal Cheviot and Cheviot Cross Breeders group witnessing record prices for Suffolk Cheviot sheep. It was also encouraging to see a strong attendance at sales from young people interested in sheep farming and hopefully this will bode well for the future of the sector.

