**Buoyant Trade at Cootehill Texel Twilight Sale**

Texel in-lamb females have met a brisk trade at sales North and South in the pre and post Christmas period. This trend was very much in evidence at the first ever sale of in-lamb Texel females at The Station Road Mart, Cootehill on Friday December 28th. A packed sale ring saw record prices been paid with the 59 ewes catalogued averaging €712.

It was a night to remember for father and son team, Pat and Barry Farrell, with a pen of seven ewes from their Oberstown flock. Topping the sale at €2130 was lot 9, a daughter of PFI12002, the 2016 All Ireland Champion Senior ewe. The Farrell’s’ went on to average €1580 for their pen of seven. Bidding was brisk from breeders who came from all corners of the country for this pen. The sale topper was purchased by an undisclosed breeder. The next highest price was another Oberstown ewe, lot 8 that was purchased €1785 by Sean Mc Gee, Navac Texels and Peter Gibbons, Macetown Texels. John and Michael Donohoe, Crosserlough Texels, purchased two of the Farrell ewes at €1720 and €1344. Another of the Farrell females was purchased by Eddie Lynch, Cavan for €1595. Pascal Keogh, Grangegeith, Slane, purchased the last ewe sold from the Farrell pen at €1470.

Charles Clarke Jnr, Mullaghrafferty, had two ewes from his pen of eight sell for four figures. The first ewe of the sale sold to John Canty for €1110. This ewe was a daughter of the double five €Stared ram Hillcrest Topshot. Michael Bird purchased Lot 34 for €1050 to give the pen an average price of €810.

All animals in this sale came from flocks participating in Sheep Ireland’s LambPlus Scheme and had €Star values. A feature of the sale was the extra demand for 5 €Star animals. The average price for the eighteen 5 €Starred animals was €972 compared to the overall sale average of €712.

John Canty’s lot no 30 was sold to William Byrne, Finglas, Co Dublin for €880. John and his family are donating the proceeds of this sheep to The Irish Cancer Society in grateful appreciation of the Society’s care for his father Joe (RIP), who passed away last year. John has raised over €1500 from the sale and donations for this worthy cause.

The North East Texel Club wishes to express its gratitude to Jimmy Reilly, Manager of Station Road Mart Cootehill, Kiernan Milling and the North East Club members who put in such a special effort to ensure the success of inaugural in-lamb in the North East Region. We wish all purchasers and especially new breeders every success with their purchases.