

Robert Towers achieves Easter prime lambs double at Skipton

Red Rose farmer Robert Towers, of Farleton, Lancaster, landed a championship and reserve championship double at the Easter prime lambs show at Skipton Auction Mart. (Mon, March 29)

Two pens of pure-bred pairs of Charollais lambs secured a notable one-two for Mr Towers, who trades as JD & V Towers.

The 42kg title winners returned to Lancashire when sold for £148 per head, top price in show, to butcher George Cropper for his shop in Accrington Market, with the 40kg reserve champions bought at £120 each by show judge Nick Dalby, of Hartwith, Harrogate, on behalf of Calderdale butcher Stephen Maskill Quality Meats, Hebden Bridge.

For good measure, Mr Towers made it a clean sweep in the Continental-x class when also sending out the third prize pen of 43kg Charollais lambs, also acquired by Maskill's Butchers at £107 each.

First prize winners in the Down-x class were a pair of 41kg Suffolk-cross lambs from Steeton's Mark Evans, sold for £115 a head to Lancashire wholesale butchers Riley Brothers for their shop in Crawshawbooth, Rossendale.

The show, which catered primarily for regional butchers seeking prime quality lamb for customers' Easter tables, was sponsored by Guy Machinery, based at Skipton Auction Mart. Hawick-based livestock identification company Allflex Europe (UK) Ltd's Jane Chapman also presented a £50 cash prize to Gary Wilson, who exhibited the champion lambs on behalf of Robert Towers.



Pictured with the Easter prime lamb champions and reserve champions at Skipton are, from left, judge Nick Dalby, Gary Wilson, who exhibited the lambs on behalf of Robert Towers, and Guy Machinery's Rebecca Turner.



Mark Evans, left, with his first prize Suffolk-cross prime lambs at Skipton's Easter show, joined by Guy Machinery's Rebecca Turner.

BAMFORTH DOUBLE IN PRIME CATTLE SHOW

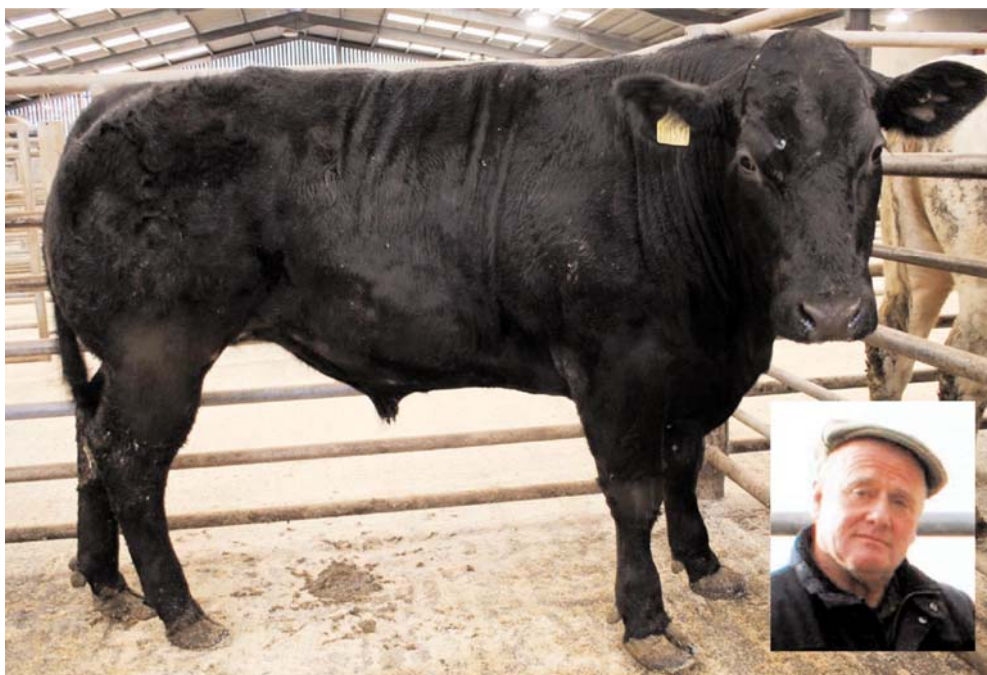
There was a second double in the monthly prime cattle show when David Bamforth, of L Bamforth & Sons, Wainstalls, Halifax, exhibited both the champion and reserve champion.

The victor, a 545kg black and white British Blue heifer, sold for the show-topping price of £1,179 (216.5p per kilo) to Keelham Hall Farm Shop at Thornton, Bradford, with the reserve champion, a 595kg British Blue bullock, knocked down for £1,139 (191.5p per kilo) to James Dewhirst on behalf of Stanforths Butchers, Skipton. Mr Dewhirst regularly officiates at Skipton prime shows.

Keelham Hall Farm Shop, regular buyers of Skipton prime beef and lamb title winners, also purchased the champion pen of five prime hogs from Craven Cattle Marts' Stock Person of the Year Jimmy Baines, Trawden.



David Bamforth with his March prime cattle champion at Skipton.



David Bamforth's prime cattle reserve champion with buyer James Dewhirst, inset.