

AIRIES PEDIGREE TEXELS

— Est. 1989 —

2nd Annual Flock Production Sale of **50 STOCK GIMMERS**

Bred for lambing-ease and profit

Treat yourself to an “Airies Ewe”

At C & D Auctions Limited, Dumfries,
Huntington Road, Dumfries DG1 1NF
1pm on Friday 22nd September 2023

One or a Float Load – Your Opportunity Awaits



**34 YEARS SELECTING MATERNAL TRAITS
TO BUILD THE LOW COST “AIRIES EWE”**

Mains of Airies, Ervie-Kirkcom, Stranraer, Wigtownshire. DG9 0RD

www.ervieherefords.co.uk/texels



Ellen, Olivia, John, Alexandra, Kristina, Rosie

WELCOME to everyone attending our 2nd Airies Texel Flock Production Sale today and to anyone viewing and taking part on-line, and thank you for your interest.

Allow me to introduce ourselves and our flock to you. I am John, my wife is Alexandra and we have four daughters who we have raised helping us with our Hereford & Angus herds and Texel & Romney flocks.

We have been breeding Texels now for 34 years, and have done so mainly “under the radar” of most pedigree Texel flock masters. This has been primarily due to my aversion to feeding any breeding stock to their long-term detriment in preparation for shows and sales. We are lucky though to have a strong base of repeat commercial customers for our sale rams though, who appear to value our Texel genetics in their flock production.

My wife Alexandra and our four daughters all enjoy the lambing season and other sheep handlings and share my passion for our Airies Texel flock.

John Douglas

AIRIES BREEDING PHILOSOPHY

- ✓ *Maximise the number of live lambs born whilst keeping vet & labour costs low.*
- ✓ *Produce a high-quality product to sell from a low cost of production.*
- ✓ *Keep things simple & enjoy a better sleep at lambing time.*

ESTABLISHING THE AIRIES TEXEL FLOCK

Our flock foundation females were mostly bought at Lanark from the East Middle flock, with others added over the early years from flocks with a similar type of unforced flock to our own. Successful early rams for us were from Annan, Boghouse, Cambwell, East Middle and Tinwald. We produced and sold rams and gimmers at Lanark and Carlisle sales, but also sold rams more locally at Castle Douglas, Newton Stewart, Ayr & Dumfries. Our sheep were well enough received but were very much selling at a commercial level with only "OK" prices. Roughly twenty years ago, we had become disillusioned with the increasing amount of feed used in preparing Texel sale stock and disappointed with stock rams purchased. The progeny were plainer and lacked the brightness and quality I looked for. We bought a Dutch Texel ram and were pleased with the return to type and quality in our flock. I divided our flock's ewe families into five separate tribes and selected home-bred rams from each tribe to use on the ewes in the following tribe. Since then, we have been satisfied with the type of Texel we have and continue periodically to buy a ram to complement our flock and introduce him to only one of the tribes. We can then extend his influence through sons & grandsons and their progeny. This form of Linebreeding has worked well for us with our Ervie Hereford herd and has helped us achieve consistency and uniformity just as much with our Texels.

From the start as a Texel breeder, I have been passionate about breeding Texel sheep to suit the commercial flock master, **PRODUCTIVE, LOW-COST and PROBLEM-FREE.**

PRODUCTION. In 1989 when I was establishing my Airies flock, the main criticism I heard from other commercial shepherds was that they did not get as high a lambing percentage from Texel tups, so taking heed, I tried to avoid using rams born as singles in a bid to establish a ewe flock who would mostly produce twins.

Continued overleaf

LOW COST. My second aim was to breed a flock of ewes who would live and thrive on grass with minimal feeding of concentrate. The only concentrate we provide ewes are feed blocks during the weeks we are lambing. Our lambs never have creep, and our sale rams never have any concentrate feed other than the odd feed block in mid-winter. The ewes lamb in March and are housed from the 1st March but back to the field a couple of days after lambing.

PROBLEM-FREE. The third trait I strived to establish was to breed a ewe who would mostly lamb without any need of aid. Our flock replacement policy is to select from unassisted lambings and to use rams also born unassisted. This has resulted in a negligible number of lambing problems, and I honestly do not remember the last time we needed veterinary aid for a lambing.

GENERAL INFORMATION

LOCATION: The sale will be held at C & D Auctions Limited, Dumfries Mart, Huntington Road, Dumfries. DG1 1NF

METHOD OF SALE: All sheep will be sold in pounds sterling.

CONDITIONS OF SALE: The sale is held under normal Dumfries Mart breeding sale conditions.

SETTLEMENT & CLEARANCE: Settlement in full is due to the Auctioneers at the close of the sale. All sheep must be removed from the market on the day of sale. **PURCHASERS UNKNOWN TO THE AUCTIONEERS MUST SUPPLY A BANKERS REFERENCE BEFORE PURCHASING.**

FLOCK HEALTH STATUS: The Airies Flock is Maedi Visna accredited.

The breeding flock is on the Heptavac P vaccination program.

The flock is closed apart from rams bought from known hi-health flocks.

To our knowledge our sheep have no contagious disease, and we value highly our flock's disease-free status.

Whilst there is no apparent reason for infertility, no future breeding warranty is given.

PEDIGREE REGISTRATIONS: Shearling gimmers are birth notified and can be fully registered with the Texel Society.

REFERENCE SIRES

AIRIES COMET



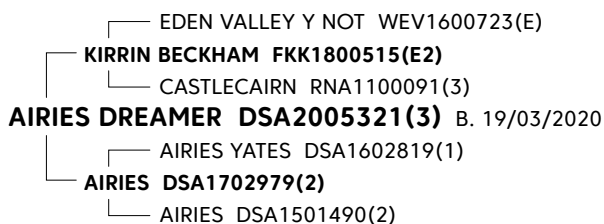
AIRIES DAKOTA



AIRIES CLINT I



AIRIES DREAMER



AIRIES STOCK GIMMERS

LOT 1 **DSA2206767** **TAG 7076** Born as 2 09/03/22
SIRE: AIRIES DAKOTA DSA205299
DAM: DSA183647

NOTES: Good body & gigot with a tight skin.

LOT 2 **DSA2206844** **TAG 6844** Born as 3 22/03/22
SIRE: AIRIES DAKOTA DSA205299
DAM: DSA183653

NOTES: Triplet. Same dam as senior stock ram Airies Digger and last years £1150 shearling ram. Tremendous breeding here.

LOT 3 **DSA2206795** **TAG 6795** Born as 3 17/03/22
SIRE: AIRIES DREAMER DSA205321
DAM: DSA183689

NOTES: Triplet. Bare skinned & correct. Same dam as £800 shearling ram last year.

LOT 4 **DSA2206789** **TAG 6789** Born as 3 16/03/22
SIRE: AIRIES DARK KNIGHT DSA216599
DAM: DSA183657

NOTES: Triplet. Good skin & correct.

LOT 5 **DSA2206790** **TAG 6790** Born as 2 16/03/22
SIRE: AIRIES COMET DSA194350
DAM: DSA205288

NOTES: Gimmers lamb. Correct attractive gimmer.

LOT 6 **DSA2206921** **TAG 6921** Born as 1 11/03/23
SIRE: AIRIES COMET DSA194350
DAM: DSA205324

NOTES: Gimmers lamb. Powerful & correct with lots of character. Cracking gimmer.

LOT 7 **DSA2206884** **TAG 6884** Born as 3 24/03/22
SIRE: AIRIES DAKOTA DSA205299
DAM: DSA194293

NOTES: Lengthy bare-skinned triplet gimmer with a good gigot. Demands your attention. Same dam produced gimmer £420 last year.

LOT 8 **DSA2206848** **TAG 6848** Born as 3 22/03/22
SIRE: AIRIES DREAMER DSA205321
DAM: DSA172917

NOTES: Power length & conformation.

LOT 9 **DSA2206912** **TAG 6912** Born as 2 01/04/22
SIRE: AIRIES DAKOTA DSA205299
DAM: DSA194290

NOTES: What a prospect! Bright head great body & skin. Another that's close to perfect for me. Twin to lot 14.

LOT 10 DSA2206756 TAG 6756 Born as 3 05/03/22
SIRE: AIRIES COMET DSA194350
DAM: DSA205340

NOTES: Gimmers lamb. Correct & feminine triplet. Will make top ewe.

LOT 11 DSA2206858 TAG 6858 Born as 1 22/03/22
SIRE: AIRIES COMET DSA194350
DAM: DSA205327

NOTES: Gimmers lamb. Good body & deep gigot.

LOT 12 DSA2206920 TAG 6920 Born as 1 11/03/22
SIRE: AIRIES DARK KNIGHT DSA216599
DAM: DSA194274

NOTES: Close to perfection. - great skin, shape character & style. Same dam as £950 shearling ram last year.

LOT 13 DSA2206758 TAG 6758 Born as 2 05/03/22
SIRE: AIRIES DAKOTA DSA205299
DAM: DSA194288

NOTES: Fault-free & deep bodied.

LOT 14 DSA2206913 TAG 7075 Born as 2 01/04/22
SIRE: AIRIES DAKOTA DSA205299
DAM: DSA194290

NOTES: Smart looking gimmer with a tight skin. Twin to lot 9.

LOT 15 DSA2206878 TAG 6878 Born as 2 24/03/22
SIRE: AIRIES DAKOTA DSA205299
DAM: DSA194356

NOTES: Powerful lengthy gimmer with good carcass.

LOT 16 DSA2206827 TAG 6827 Born as 2 20/03/22
SIRE: AIRIES COMET DSA194350
DAM: DSA205333

NOTES: Gimmers lamb. Sharp looker.

LOT 17 DSA2206876 TAG 6876 Born as 2 24/03/22
SIRE: AIRIES COMET DSA194350
DAM: DSA205291

NOTES: Gimmers lamb. Lively & attractive.

LOT 18 DSA2206788 TAG 6788 Born as 3 16/03/22
SIRE: AIRIES DARK KNIGHT DSA216599
DAM: DSA183657

NOTES: Triplet. Smart gimmer, medium framed & correct.

LOT 19 DSA2206834 TAG 6834 Born as 2 21/03/22
SIRE: AIRIES DREAMER DSA205321
DAM: DSA172911

NOTES: Bare-skinned long & good.

LOT 20 DSA2206833 TAG 6833 Born as 3 21/03/22
SIRE: AIRIES COMET DSA194350
DAM: DSA205292

NOTES: Gimmers triplet. Tight skin & carcass. Twins to lots 29 & 24.

LOT 21 DSA2206804 TAG 6804 Born as 2 19/03/22
SIRE: AIRIES DAKOTA DSA205299
DAM: DSA194291

NOTES: Attractive alert gimmer with length shape & tight skin.

LOT 22 DSA2206849 TAG 6849 Born as 3 22/03/22
SIRE: AIRIES DREAMER DSA205321
DAM: DSA194295

NOTES: Attractive feminine gimmer with good length of body. Triplet to lot 48.

LOT 23 DSA2206908 TAG 6908 Born as 2 28/03/22
SIRE: AIRIES COMET DSA194350
DAM: DSA205342

NOTES: Good lengthy gimmers lamb.

LOT 24 DSA2206832 TAG 6832 Born as 3 21/03/22
SIRE: AIRIES COMET DSA194350
DAM: DSA205292

NOTES: Gimmers triplet. Twins to lots 29 & 20. Powerful upstanding correct gimmer.

LOT 25 DSA2206875 TAG 7077 Born as 2 23/03/22
SIRE: AIRIES DREAMER DSA205321
DAM: DSA194265

NOTES: Upstanding attractive correct gimmer.

LOT 26 DSA2206857 TAG 6857 Born as 2 22/03/22
SIRE: AIRIES COMET DSA194350
DAM: DSA205306

NOTES: Gimmers lamb. Tight slinned with a deep gigot.

LOT 27 DSA2206835 TAG 6835 Born as 2 21/03/22
SIRE: AIRIES DREAMER DSA205321
DAM: DSA172911

NOTES: Good skin and shape with a bright head.

LOT 28 DSA2206906 TAG 6906 Born as 2 27/03/22
SIRE: AIRIES COMET DSA194350
DAM: DSA205325

NOTES: Gimmers lamb. Tight skinned & long bodied.

LOT 29 DSA2206831 TAG 6831 Born as 3 21/03/22
SIRE: AIRIES COMET DSA194350
DAM: DSA205292

NOTES: Gimmers triplet. Twins to lots 24 & 20.

LOT 30 DSA2206892 TAG 7074 Born as 1 25/03/22
SIRE: AIRIES DAKOTA DSA205299
DAM: DSA194308

NOTES: Long powerful & bare skinned.

LOT 31 DSA2206770 TAG 6770 Born as 3 10/03/22
SIRE: AIRIES COMET DSA194350
DAM: DSA205309

NOTES: Gimmers triplet lamb. Bright alert & attractive.

LOT 32 DSA2206919 TAG 7073 Born as 1 09/04/22
SIRE: AIRIES DARK KNIGHT DSA216599
DAM: DSA172941

NOTES: Nice feminine type of gimmer with tight skin.

LOT 33 DSA2206772 TAG 6772 Born as 2 11/03/22
SIRE: AIRIES DAKOTA DSA205299
DAM: DSA183616

NOTES: Deep bodied attractive gimmer with good skin. Twin to lot 34.

LOT 34 DSA2206773 TAG 6773 Born as 2 11/03/22
SIRE: AIRIES DAKOTA DSA205299
DAM: DSA183616

NOTES: Great skin & shape. Twin to lot 33.

LOT 35 DSA2206829 TAG 6829 Born as 2 20/03/22
SIRE: AIRIES DAKOTA DSA205299
DAM: DSA194323

NOTES: Good honest sort of gimmer with good skin.

LOT 36 DSA2206864 TAG 6864 Born as 2 23/03/22
SIRE: AIRIES DAKOTA DSA205299
DAM: DSA194324

NOTES: Tremendous body & skin. Great gimmer. Good job Dakota!

LOT 37 DSA2206894 TAG 6894 Born as 2 25/03/22
SIRE: AIRIES COMET DSA194350
DAM: DSA205323

NOTES: Gimmers lamb. Good stretchy gimmer.

LOT 38 DSA2206821 TAG 6821 Born as 3 20/03/22
SIRE: AIRIES DREAMER DSA205321
DAM: DSA183633

NOTES: Good compact fault-free triplet gimmer.

LOT 39 DSA2206801 TAG 7078 Born as 2 18/03/22
SIRE: AIRIES COMET DSA194350
DAM: DSA205341

NOTES: Gimmers lamb. Smart looker with a great skin.

LOT 40 DSA2206781 TAG 6781 Born as 2 13/03/22
SIRE: AIRIES DAKOTA DSA205299
DAM: DSA173002

NOTES: Another bright looking gimmer with good tight skin and shape.

LOT 41 DSA2206915 TAG 6915 Born as 2 06/04/22
SIRE: AIRIES DAKOTA DSA205299
DAM: DSA194381

NOTES: April born twin. Will make a fine ewe. Twin to lot 50.

LOT 42 DSA2206840 TAG 7080 Born as 2 21/03/22
SIRE: AIRIES COMET DSA194350
DAM: DSA205335

NOTES: Gimmers lamb. Not the biggest, but one of the best, alert & attractive.
Great prospect.

LOT 43 DSA2206914 TAG 6914 Born as 2 02/04/22
SIRE: AIRIES COMET DSA194350
DAM: DSA205330

NOTES: Gimmers lamb. Tight slinned and feminine.

LOT 44 DSA2206885 TAG 6885 Born as 3 24/03/22
SIRE: AIRIES DAKOTA DSA205299
DAM: DSA194293

NOTES: Triplet. Correct gimmer with a good skin. Same dam produced gimmer
£420 last year.

LOT 45 DSA2206867 TAG 7079 Born as 2 23/03/22
SIRE: AIRIES COMET DSA194350
DAM: DSA205349

NOTES: Gimmers lamb. Medium sized, thick body with a great skin & perfectly feminine. Close to perfection for me.

LOT 46 DSA2206808 TAG 6808 Born as 2 19/03/22
SIRE: AIRIES DAKOTA DSA205299
DAM: DSA194344

NOTES: Lengthy tight skinned gimmer with a deep gigot.

LOT 47 DSA2206805 TAG 6805 Born as 2 19/03/22
SIRE: AIRIES DAKOTA DSA205299
DAM: DSA172956

NOTES: Decent sort of gimmer with a good skin. Will make a fine productive ewe.

LOT 48 DSA2206851 TAG 6851 Born as 3 22/03/22
SIRE: AIRIES DREAMER DSA205321
DAM: DSA194295

NOTES: Alert lengthy gimmer. Triplet to lot 22.

LOT 49 DSA2206845 TAG 6845 Born as 1 22/03/22
SIRE: AIRIES COMET DSA194350
DAM: DSA205305

NOTES: Gimmers lamb. Active correct gimmer with really good skin. Give her second look.

LOT 50 DSA2206916 TAG 6916

Born as 2 06/04/22

SIRE: AIRIES DAKOTA DSA205299

DAM: DSA194381

NOTES: Sturdy gimmer with some style and a good skin and backend. Don't dismiss her, she's one of the best. Twin to lot 41.

AIRIES FLOCK SELECTION & BREEDING POLICY

Since 1989 we have selected for traits important to commercial flock profit, considering both efficient finished lamb production **and** functional female flock replacements.

Balanced trait selection maximises uniformity and consistency of type.

LAMBING EASE

Profit from sheep in the UK is dependent on low production costs. Very difficult to achieve profit in flocks that require veterinary aid and have high mortality at lambing.

For over 30 years we have been monitoring and selecting for unassisted lambings with worthy results.

PROLIFICACY

Lambing percentage is an important profit factor in most flocks with increased number of twins being the aim.

By selecting our replacements mostly from twins or triplets we have made our Texel flock more prolific.

LOW INPUT WITH HIGH OUTPUT

We have always bred for medium sized ewes that are hardy, thrifty and milky enough to produce a good crop of lambs from grass. We do not creep feed any lambs. Our replacements are therefore selected from our best natural performers and has gained us a good hardy ewe type. Longevity is another trait that has benefited and is an important factor in keeping replacement costs low.

Continued overleaf

THE VALUE OF WOOL

Whether wool is a high price or low, we still breed our Texels to have a good fleece. Our Texel flock has naturally tight skins and a dense wool staple which is invaluable in cold wet weather and to us much more cost-effective than housing sheep. Difficult to fathom, with all the carbon footprint hype, why the world population continues to use synthetic fibres over natural product such as wool, linen & cotton for clothing and house fabrics.

UNIFORMITY & SIZE

Our selection has always been for deep-bodied, medium-sized sheep. Large sheep are not necessary for finished lamb production and require a lower lock stocking density. We like a medium-sized ewe who can lamb in March and rear twin lambs at grass to weigh 40 to 48kg by August.

FINER POINTS

Good **feet**, well up on their **pasterns**. Should stand **narrower in front** than behind with a **smooth shoulder** into the neck to produce the correct shape of lamb for an unassisted lambing. **Moderate length** and to handle along top with good loin. Select a ram **without a thick tail so as to produce red meat lambs finishing without excessive fat**. A **good tight skin**, but not too bare as good wool cover aids lamb survival outdoors after birth. Shun a large coarse **head** to avoid requirement of lambing aid. **Correct mouths** are important for both suckling and grazing efficiency. A **bright head** with good **hard white hair and a black nose is attractive**. This does not increase profit on a line of lambs in the abattoir, but it helps draw buyer attention in the mart.

AIRIES TEXELS = BREEDING FOR PROFIT



AIRIES PEDIGREE TEXELS



2nd Annual Flock Production Sale of **50 STOCK GIMMERS**

- Offering a large proportion of our replacement shearling gimmers.
- This is not a flock reduction. We retain roughly half our stock gimmers along with 50 one crop ewes and our ewe lambs.
- 34 years of Airies Texel breeding, offering you the chance to buy our best. A superb opportunity to purchase a group of Texel females with an established “type”.
- The ewes and gimmers have not been pampered and polished and are shown straight from the field without feed supplement.
- The flock is Maedi Visna accredited.

J & J S Douglas

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