

Innovation

NZ Suffolks

For 3 years we have used 100% NZ pedigree ram on some ewes to provide our buyers with a choice of shearing ram, realising that the market is looking for easy lambing, grass based sheep to reduce feed and management costs. We are delighted that our homebred lambs are equally easily lambed and vigorous at birth. Robyn Hulme, Easyrams, breeder of NZ Suffolks, Texels and Suftexs, bought this 50% NZ / 50% Essie ram at Kelso Ram Sales 2015.



CT Scanning

An Essie Shearing ram, with a top CT Scan result for UK Suffolks in 2014, was chosen as one of the rams for a project for SRUC to improve the eating quality and production efficiency of home-grown lamb in the UK. He was one of 15 Essie rams CT scanned annually to help us identify rams with superior breeding traits, especially to maximise the yield of muscle and maximise meat to bone ratio (ie even fleshier sheep). In conjunction with ultrasound scanning, this helps us increase the rate of genetic progress of the Essie Flock.



Ram Compare

Ram Compare is a major new partnership which will enable the UK sheep industry to drive genetic improvement forward through the inclusion of commercial data in genetic evaluation. 6 commercial farms will test rams from 5 breeds – Suffolk, Texel, Charollais, Hampshire Down and Meatlink – and data from their lambs will be collected through to slaughter. An Essie ram was chosen as one of the Suffolks for natural service and has been working on Bowhill Estate in Berwickshire. Sion Williams, manager, was very pleased with the appearance of the ram on his arrival and is delighted that the lambs have been very good and vigorous. We look forward to the results.

Rumenco

Ensuring that Essie Suffolks can grow and mature on a grass based system is key so that we can see what they can do using their own genetics. We've been lucky to find a supplement bucket that supports and balances our system. Rumenco Lifeline Lamb and Ewe provides a concentrated formulation of nutrition prior to lambing, to optimise colostrum production colostrum and vigorous lambs at birth. All yearlings (male and female) are also provided with appropriate buckets all winter because they are out wintered on grass (even in the cold, windy North East of Scotland). "Irene is a prime example of how excellent grassland management can produce top quality stock for the commercial market by identifying nutritional gaps and using Lifeline buckets to support flock performance. With more sheep farmers looking for high quality breeding stock that requires minimum concentrate input, it seems Mrs Fowlie's flock may have an important role to play in the future of the Suffolk breed in the commercial market." Sheep and Beef Producer Spring 2016.



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Sheep Innovator of the Year

SHEEP INNOVATOR OF THE YEAR

BRITISH FARMING AWARDS 2015



Black Isle Show Awards

MV ACCREDITED

PERFORMANCE RECORDED

ESSIE

SCRAPIE MONITORED

CLA TESTED

Top UK Performance Recorded ram lamb 2016, 2015, 2013, 2012 & 2011
Top ewe lamb 2016, 2015, 2014 & 2012 - Top UK Stock Sire and Ewe 2014



Shearlings and Gimmers FOR SALE on farm.
Export and UK Semen FOR SALE from 20 top 1% rams



ESSIE GOLD STAR
Top Recorded Ram Lamb 2012

Semen exported to Canada,
Norway, Sweden, Czech Republic.

Rams and Gimmers exported to
Romania and Germany



ESSIE SAMSON
Top Stock Sire 2014



www.essiesuffolk.co.uk - Irene Fowlie - 07721 517969

Terminal & Maternal (top 1% EBVs)

Raymond Campbell

Raymond Campbell manages the Island of Pabbay, a 2000 acre island off the coast of Harris in the Outer Hebrides off the West Coast of Scotland. The island is now organic with 700 ewes, (Cheviots, Blackface and Suffolk cross) including 160 gimmers. He breeds some Cheviots and Blackface pure and uses Essie Suffolks to produce store lambs and replacement Suffolk cross ewes. Essie Suffolk cross lambs are well suited to our outdoor lambing on the island with only our family as the lambing team. "There are no frills on Pabbay". The lambs are quick on their feet and suckle well. Our Essie Suffolk cross ewes are good mothers with plenty milk and easy lambing and we are gradually increasing their percentage in the flock.

By using Essie Suffolks our lambs grow faster and reach bigger store weights and so increases our profit. The better females make good replacement ewes (important in our Organic system). "We like the look of Essie rams – well bodied, tight fleeces and not too heavy on the bone." Raymond, and his father before him, has bought Essie Suffolk rams for more than 15 years - 2 or 3 every year.



Charlie Brooks

Charlie Brooks, farms 14000 acres of hill and 200 acres of grassland (including silage, hay and barley) in Ross-shire. He has 90 AAx breeding cows to AA bulls and 800 breeding ewes – Blackface, Cheviot and increasing number of Suffolk x BF.

"We were delighted with the scanning rate of the Blackface ewes sired by Essie Suffolks – 161% with only 2 yield out of 100. This was by far the highest scanning rate of all breeds (cheviot, texel and Blackface). "The Blackface x Essie Suffolk lambs get up with vigour. We retained 30 Suffolk cross ewe lambs (and Blackface and Cheviot) for breeding. The Suffolk X females are good mothers. "All the remainder were sold store at Dingwall Auction Mart. Since we started using Essie rams the Suffolk lambs have produced the top prices due to the heavier carcass. "We are impressed by the sound quality of the feet of Essie rams. This is the third year of lambing with Essie rams and we have bought 4 rams. We managed to economise last year – the rams were still strong."



Maternal (top 1% EBVs)

Ewan Macdonald

Ewan Macdonald farms extensively in The Black Isle, Inverness-shire and on the West coast of Scotland - as Cononbrae Farms with his brother. As well as both a large arable and a beef suckler cow enterprise, he has 2000 ewes – 900 Suffolk cross and Texel, Cheviot and Mule. "I am fantastically happy with Essie Suffolk cross ewes which consistently produce the top 10% of prime lambs in Scotland and top our local the market all the time. The scanning results of these ewes are 200% this year. At the end of the day, the cull price of the Suffolk cross ewe is £30 more than a Mule." The Essie shearlings are selected on maternal traits (high Maternal EBVs) as well as sound mouths and feet and good conformation. The lambing percentages from Essie rams are higher than any other breed. Ewan has bought Essie Suffolk rams for more than 15 years and has bought 3 or 4 every year.



Peter Brewis

Peter Brewis farms extensively an arable / grassland unit on the North East coast of Northumberland. He has a closed herd of 200 Stabiliser breeding cows, buying only bulls. He runs 1000 ewes, 350 Mules and 650 Essie Suffolk cross ewes. The sheep are used as an important break in the crop rotation, adding fertility and organic matter to the soil. "The Mules are bought specifically to breed our own replacement Suffolk cross ewes. It is important to source rams with high Maternal EBVs. Essie Suffolk rams combine high Maternal EBVs with high Scan weights and Muscle depths. Nowadays our Suffolk cross lambs definitely have more vigour and are quicker on their feet. "Our Suffolk cross ewes, tupp'd by Texels in October, have plenty of lambs with good length, and are milky good mothers. 80% of our lambs are sold off their mothers and off grass from the last week of May, June and are all away by the beginning of July (approx 12 weeks old) and so maximise profitability." Peter has bought Essie Suffolk rams for more than 8 years, replenishing rams as required – sometimes 2 or 3, sometimes only 1 because the older ones are doing fine.



Terminal (top 1% EBVs)

Jackie and Morag Rennie

Jackie and Morag Rennie, have a mixed farming unit in the lowland North –East coast of Scotland. They use Essie Suffolk rams on their 300 Mule cross ewes. Lamb vigour at birth is an important essential with a spring lambing on a family farm which also has a busy farm shop, growing all their own vegetables. "We are especially pleased with consistent fast lamb growth rates, with 50% of lambs finished off their mothers off grass in July /August to catch the higher lamb price. This also releases pasture for other stock. We find that Essie rams are strong, fleshy and vigorous and can last. Biosecurity is important to us and the high health of Essie rams directly consigned to our farm ensures that we do not introduce unwanted disease." Jackie and Morag have bought Essie rams for over 15 years – 2 / 3 every year.



Pedigree

Andre Vrona

Andre Vrona and his daughter Jo farm A C Farms as a family run farm at Langham, Rutland, near Leicestershire, that breeds pedigree South Devon and Beef Shorthorn cattle for breeding stock, showing and sale. They also have pedigree Ryeland and Hampshire sheep as well as arable and grassland. AC Farms were looking for quality in numbers for starting their own pedigree Suffolk flock. "Although we have a great belief in performance recording, it was important we also found a sheep type of length, style, with less heavy bone and performance growth rates to match. This is why we chose to buy from Essie flock for both our foundation females and a ram. "We purchased 25 core females and one ram, Essie Uther, in June 2015 to establish the Langhams Flock. The lambs have been all we wished for – thrifty, with good growth and weights. We have just weighed and they are all in the top 10% UK Suffolks. "We look forward to building on this foundation. We of course are continuing with performance recording as we are confident of this tool to measure progress in the development of the breed."



Export - Sheep

Romania, Holland, Germany

Magyari Szabolcs, a Romanian vet, imported 10 top performance Essie Suffolk gimmers and a ram lamb to begin a Suffolk flock in Romania in 2014, having first visited the flock the previous December. They were in the top 1% of UK Recorded Suffolk sheep. The ram lamb was a son of home-bred Essie Gold Star and was a full brother of the top recorded ram lamb in the breed in 2013. Gold Star (top lamb in 2012) has sired lambs in Canada and Czech Republic. Patrick Haccou, a Suffolk Pedigree breeder from Holland, has bought Pedigree sheep from us over the past 8 years. Initially he bought 4 ewes and a ram. His most recent purchase was a shearling ram at Kelso Ram Sales 2014. Volker Derbis, a Suffolk breeder from Germany, visited the farm in August 2015 with 3 colleagues. He farms around the city of Cologne. He bought 1 shearling ram and plans to return to Scotland in Summer 2016.



Export - Semen

Canada, Norway, Sweden, Czech Republic

Mireille Theriault, Quebec, Canada imported 350 dozes of semen from 3 Essie rams. 242 ewes were AI'd over 4 Pedigree flocks. "The first ewes gave birth to 77 lambs and globally we have fertility results over 70%. We are very happy with the quality of the semen....and the lambs too." Dominique Brisson, Quebec, was so pleased with Essie lambs that she visited the flock and ordered more semen. She has 180 Pedigree Suffolks and 1200 Suffolk/Romanov Dorset ewes. "I am totally delighted with your lambs. They are very beautiful and strong. They are exactly the vision of my breeding. 2013." "Official weighing 2016 – Essie rams sired lambs to 121 lbs at 83 days. That's wonderful! Thank you very much to move my genetics." Kathy and Glen Parker from Parker Stock Farm in Alberta, Canada, are delighted with their lambs from Essie Samson, Essie Ulysses and Essie Universe. Semen has also been exported to Norway, Sweden and Czech Republic.

