



Barney has put his faith in Suffolk for 40 years

DURING 40 plus years involved in sheep farming Barney Moss has witnessed many changes but for the Castlederg producer one thing has remained the same - the Suffolk is his preferred choice when it comes to selecting a ram. Farming on the slopes of Scraghey mountain, just outside Killen, Mr Moss has embraced modernisation and new technologies and over that extended period has watched many new breeds come and go.

From his first days involved in quality sheep production he has put his faith in the Suffolk and the numerous attributes of the breed has provided the cornerstone of his breeding policy ever since.

The sagacious farmer runs a flock of 1000 ewes, the majority of which are home-bred Crossbreds (Blackface X Border Leicester), and they are crossed almost exclusively with the Suffolk.

Mr Moss currently has 28 Suffolk rams in his possession and while some may label him as something of traditionalist in terms of sheep breeding, the Derg man has learned from years of experience what serves his purpose best.

"The Suffolk is simply hard to beat," he said.

" I fatten some lambs, sell some off as ewe lambs but the bulk are marketed as stores. By now I should have fair idea what the buyer wants. Year upon year I have many of the same buyers purchasing my Suffolk lambs and that tells its own story. They wouldn't buy them if they weren't serving the purpose for which they were being bought in the first place."

Much of Mr Moss's land is upland ground and, the breed's superior growth

rate, early maturity and conformation qualities apart, he insists the Suffolk offers greater versatility, flexibility and can withstand harsher conditions if and when the need arises.

"There is no question about that, the Suffolk can rough it if needs be," added Mr Moss, who also runs a 50-cow suckler herd along with his flock that lambs down from April 1.

"In bad weather and on the occasions when grass may be in short supply, the Suffolk will perform better than the rest. Over the years I have watched with interest some neighbours change their breeding policy by bringing in new breeds but some of those very same men have changed back to using the Suffolk again.

"For all round performance the Suffolk is simply a cut above the rest."