FREDERICKSBURG—A record number of buyers registered and bought a record number of sheep to highlight the 12th Annual Texas Hill Country Dorper Association’s Show/Sale held Sept. 7-8 at the Gillespie County Fair Grounds Show Barn here.

            The annual show/sale, one of the top Dorper shows in the country for many years, attracted 127 registered buyers, who purchased 209 Dorper and White Dorper sheep from a record number of sheep consigned.  The previous record for registered buyers was 126 in 2017.  A total of 64 buyers purchased sheep at this year’s show.

            The previous record for number of sheep sold was last year’s 204 head.

            This year’s show/sale did not offer an unhaltered division as it had in the past.  The haltered division had 105 head of sheep sell for an average of $1,169 per animal, while 104 ewes were sold in pens for an average of $668 per head.

            “Our show and sale continues to grow in the number of sheep consigned and in the overall quality of those sheep,” said THCDA president Mike McKinnerney of Richland Springs.

            Pieter van Schalkwyk of Namibia, South Africa, one of the world’s foremost authorities on Dorper sheep, judged the show and concurred with McKinnerney.

            “This is my third time to come judge this show,” said van Schalkwyk, who previously judged the THCDA event in 2010 and 2014.

            “Each time I have come, the overall quality of sheep here has been much better, and that continued this time.   There were a lot of very good sheep in this year’s show.  It’s really encouraging to see so much high quality in these sheep.”

            Among show highlights were sheep consigned by Powell Ranch Dorpers, operated by Johnny Powell near Eldorado, TX.

            Powell showed the grand champion Dorper ewe and grand champion Dorper ram in the highest quality field yet in the annual THCDA event.

            Powell’s grand champion ram, a spring ram, sold for $2,500 to Enrique Yurrita of Bandera, TX, while Phillip Glass, of Water Valley, TX, bought Powell’s champion Dorper ewe for $4,500.

            The champion White Dorper ram was shown by M Bar W Ranch, operated by Aaron and Edie McDaniel of Thorndale, TX.

            The champion White Dorper ewe was exhibited by Shortes White Dorpers, operated by Zach Shortes of Cisco, TX.  It sold for $2,600 to Wesley Glass of Sterling City, TX.

            The highest-selling sheep in the sale was the reserve champion Dorper ewe exhibited by Holman Ranch Dorpers of Sonora, TX and bought for $5,000 by Bill and Diane Moy of Suisum, CA.

            The reserve champion White Dorper ewe was shown by Wildcat Ranch of Sterling City, TX.  It sold for $4,500 to John Edwards of Stephenville, TX.  The reserve champion White Dorper ram was exhibited by Powell Holman of Sonora, TX.  It sold for $3,000 to Bill Woodson of Gatesville, TX.

            Half Circle Six Ranches of Water Valley, TX and operated by Phillip Glass showed the reserve champion Dorper ram.

            Four sheep sold for more than $4,000.  The fourth was a Dorper spring ram shown by the 3C Ranch of Ft. Stockton and bought for $4,250 by Chad Wilson of Fancy Farm, KY.

            In the pens of 3 division, Oak Hill Ranch of Sonora, TX exhibited the champion White Dorper pen of 3, while the Bernhard Ranch of Harper, TX showed the champion pen of 3 Dorper ewes.

            Top-selling pens were exhibited by N & K Ranches of Sonora, operated by Norman Kohls.  His White Dorper ewes brought $2,500 each, while his Dorper ewes were sold for $2,100 each.

            The show was held on Friday, while the sale was conducted Saturday.

            In the THCDA’s annual business meeting on Saturday, members approved changes to the bylaws and elected Carlos Gutierrez of Alton, TX as vice president to succeed Justin Marschall of Harper, whose term is ending.

            Present THCDA treasurer Chris Summers of Center Point, TX was re-elected to another 2-year term.   McKinnerney and Garet von Netzer are halfway through their terms as president and secretary respectively and will continue in those roles for another year.

**​**