

PAT JESS

Right Sean, you're the manager here in the Sheep Farmers Cooperative; what exactly is going on today?

SEAN MCCLOSKEY

Well at the moment we're starting off an auction. Here for us on offer for us today is ewe, ewe lambs and wethers and rams. It's just the general run of the sheep. Normally, this is the first time for this to happen this year, normally we wouldn't have this going on; we usually sell the wether lambs off by weight. This last 12 years we've been doing that. But we've sort of created another option for the farmers to sort of give as a produce. They normally went to a local market which is about nine, ten miles away, but the cost of transport and things like that now have encouraged us to get involved in selling by auction at this place here, you know.

PAT JESS

So you think actually the farmers are going to get a better price.

SEAN MCCLOSKEY

Well, they, even if they don't get a better price here, they have saved their money in transport ways and they have, when they go away it costs them about £3 a head, you know, to transport, along with feeding themselves for that day and all the rest of it, you know, whereas they're quite local here, they can skip home for a meal or and they don't have any costs here, you know.

PAT JESS

Well what sort of distance are they coming to get here?

SEAN MCCLOSKEY

Well the longest distance today is 14 miles, you know. Our area of the cooperative itself, it catches about 27 miles radiational in County Donegal. We go from say Bruckless to Ardara area generally, the Glencolmcille peninsula itself.

PAT JESS

Even though William lives within the area served by the Cooperative, he seems reluctant to move entirely over to that form of marketing.

His reluctance, and remember he could be regarded as progressive, mirrors a generally conservative attitude towards innovation, a suspicion about new methods. People wait and see.

WILLIAM FULLER

I am a member of it yeah.

PAT JESS

But?

WILLIAM FULLER

I don't, I just don't send the lambs to it. Although they didn't send away that many lambs this years all together; they only sent away something like 400 lambs or something, 400 to 500. So like there's men still waiting on where to get them away and they haven't got them away yet so that's no good either like, you know.

PAT JESS

And what happens to them then?

WILLIAM FULLER

Well they just have to take them out and sell them as I did.

PAT JESS

Yes.

WILLIAM FULLER

At local marts.

PAT JESS

Yes.

WILLIAM FULLER

You know.

PAT JESS

Yes, yes well are you guaranteed the price at the local market?

WILLIAM FULLER

No, no.

PAT JESS

You just take a chance.

WILLIAM FULLER

Just take a chance.

[End of recording]