

## The Magowan Family Northern Ireland



*The Magowan family has been farming close to the Mourne Mountains in County Down for generations. Today, their enterprise consists of "On the Hill" Suffolks - a flock of 30 pedigree ewes, rams and replacements, as well as dairy and beef enterprises on their 50 acre farm.*

Andrew Magowan started using Select Sheepware seven years ago. His sons Cameron and Robert now farm with him. Initially all information was entered using a PDA reader and two years ago they started using a Psion reader. Robert said

"With three of us using Select Sheepware and the reader it's important that it's straightforward to use and that the reader and PC software synchronise quickly and with certainty.

We have found the psion reader to be really



Cameron and  
Robert Magowan



beneficial. The main advantage is that all information is stored on it so you can look up an animal's details when you're working with it. There is also a place for writing in comments and we use this a lot. When the rams are with the ewes we record which ewes have been tupped on a daily basis, this is easy to do with the psion reader when in the field." Cameron added

"We keep half of our lambs as replacements and use reports generated by the software to decide which ones to keep back. Although our flock is a pedigree flock we take into consideration the weight gain per day when deciding on which lambs to keep as replacements and analysing the performance of our rams. We analyse each animal's family tree using the reports, this would be impossible using a paper based system.

Using Select Sheepware has really cut down on our paperwork and with all records stored electronically, complying with regulations has become a lot easier."

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