



P R E S S R E L E A S E

ORGANIC PRODUCER GROUP SHOWS ITS CLASS IN BEEF CARCASS COMPETITION

Members of Wales's largest independent organic livestock marketing group, Graig Producers, swept the board in the organic class of the at this year's St Merryn Beef Carcass Competition at Merthyr Tydfil. Members of the independent organic marketing group took the top 4 places in the competition.



Gwyn Williams with John Dracup of St Merryn (left) and John Driscoll from Tesco

Indeed, not only did Gwyn Williams of Slwch Farm, Brecon win first and second prize in the Organic Class, but his winning animal was also Reserve Champion Welsh carcass. And Gwyn is no stranger to success at Merthyr, as one of his animals also won the organic class in 2008.

This year's winning animal, a 27 month old Limousin cross steer weighed 344 kg, was finished on the Williams' Slwch Farm which is close to the town of Brecon. The farm is a 465-acre lamb and beef finishing farm, growing its own barley and oats. It is run by Gwyn, his wife Hazel and son Mike. They fatten most of their stock off grass, and believe that is an important part of their success.

The carcass placed second by the judges was also from Gwyn Williams and was also a Limousin cross weighing 378 kg. Both first and second placed carcasses graded as U-3.

Bob Kennard, Managing Director of Graig Producers was delighted at the success of Graig Producers' members in the competition. *“Our members have consistently succeeded at the St Merryn beef competition over the years.”* he said. *“Indeed, the quality of the best organic animals is now at least on a par with the best non-organic livestock. At a time when organic food consumption has taken something of a knock, it is essential that organic meat is seen to be not only delivering huge benefits for the environment and human health, but it is also seen to be offering the very best quality. A competition like this shows that the organic sector is indeed still ahead of the game.”* he added.

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