

BEESTON MAKE'S NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION COME TRUE!

The Famous Wright Marshall Mid Month Dairy Cattle Sale including sections for the Western Holstein Club's Focus Milk pedigree cows and heifers attracted an entry of 220 head of which 192 were forward on the day. The first major dairy sale of the New Year, particularly in terms of numbers, took place at Beeston on Tuesday, 9th January. In light of the recent downturn in the milk market and increased national production volumes, pre-sale expectations were uncertain. However nerves were soon to be settled, with just the 10th milker through the ring realising £2000, the trade had been set, kicking of 2018 with a very pleasing and above all consistent trade. It would be fair to say the ringside wasn't bursting to the gunnels, that said, with 37 active purchasers all requiring volume, travelling extensively throughout the Midlands, South Wales as well as Cheshire and its surrounding counties. Quality as always sells, with those rewarded for the better cattle on offer, stock on the whole wouldn't quite be of our usual standard, with frailer heifers a little harder to place than pre-Christmas. With a heifer average of £1558 for 143 animals and just one failing to find a new home, trade remains better than anywhere else!

MILKING COWS AND HEIFERS

171 milkers were presented for sale this month, all rattled through in three hours, and such was the levelness of trade throughout, there was still time to sell the second to last lot through the sale ring for £2000. Something for everyone once again, to suite all taste and pockets, from the very best at £2450, to three quartered or uneven in the udder.

Heifers met fierce competition, emphasised by the list of top prices below:

<i>Lot</i>	<i>Animal Name</i>	<i>Calving date</i>	<i>Yield</i>	<i>Vendor</i>	<i>Price</i>
119	S. Shottle Zwarktop 2nd	3 rd December	42kg	G Thompson & Sons	£2450
68	F. Torch 196 th	22 nd December	37kg	H & VE Jolly	£2280
122	S. Classic Margje 2nd	4 th December	37kg	G Thompson & Sons	£2200
116	R. Krusader Eleanor 3rd	25 th December	30kg	G J Sutton	£2080
109	F. Baxter Gypsy	30 th December	Fresh	Speirs Farms Ltd	£2080
66	F. Naomi 53 rd	12 th December	35kg	H & VE Jolly	£2080
77	L. La Bron Pansy	17 th December	39kg	Lachstone Farms Ltd	£2080
185	B. Million Pami	7 th December	39kg	J & I Garth	£2000
214	B. Cancun Ruby	7 th December	36kg	Hilltop Farming Company	£2000
188	S. Twist Beauty	20 th December	35kg	Goss Bros	£2000
118	S. Doberman Braziliana	20 th November	36kg	G Thompson & Sons	£2000
17	F. Diana 2nd	26 th December	44kg	H & VE Jolly	£2000

Cows unfortunately lacked a little power and strength on the whole, with the odd exception. Peaking at £2000 for a second calver from H & VE Jolly, Preston, a Curtismill Incredible daughter giving over 40kg daily, two others from the same home both sold for £1850, firstly a Wiltor Cruise second calver, who had freshed on Christmas day and giving a yield of 41.2kg, followed by a 81 point daughter of Cosmo who calved on 28th December and giving 37kg daily. Then at £1820 was a cow from returning vendor G Thompson & Son, Bishop Auckland, a third calver by Penntastic who calved on 29th November, sold giving 36kg.

IN-CALF HEIFERS

18 In-calf heifers met a strong trade, with a definite improvement to that of December. Topping the trade was the first heifer through the ring from JJ & JD Hughes, a close calving Ayers daughter, sold in-calf to Angus for £1320. Perhaps somewhat of a collector's item, this report finally features the illustrious George Drinkwater! Admired for his past achievements, George sold a 53mo in-calf heifer; due at the end of the month to a 'Holstein' stock bull, and selling for £1310 (there was nearly time for a smile). Others sold to £1280 for F R Buckingham & Son and £1270 for A F Darlington & Sons, as part of their ongoing dispersal, with plenty more surpassing £1200.

HEIFER CALVES

Just one forward this month, a three week old unregistered heifer by Welcome Gerwyn, selling for £160.

AVERAGES:

28 Cows £1248.67; 142 Milking Heifers £1558.95; 18 In-calf Heifers £1101.33.

WRIGHT MARSHALL of Beeston Castle Auction, Cheshire were the Auctioneers.