

CROWD FLOCKS TO AVIARY HERD DISPERSAL AT BEESTON!

The Dispersal Sale of the very good AVIARY herd of pedigree and unregistered Holsteins took place on Friday 9th February at Beeston Castle Auction on behalf of MR & NJ Brassington, Aviary Farm, Ledsham, Wirral, Cheshire who have decided to cease milking. The sale numbered almost 240 head and was attended by a buyers representing most local regions and in particular throughout the Midlands and North Wales, plus a large Cheshire contingent.

Make no mistake this was a great herd of cattle and contained cows that were ideally suited to large herd milk production displaying all the qualities of width, strong loins, super udders and wonderful legs and feet as well as being very milky.

A huge turnout of potential buyers flocked to the sale with bids flying from every corner of the ring and a wonderful trade was experienced from start to finish, with a total of 49 separate buyers being recorded on the day. As is the usual practice the older cows were offered first, they were in great demand, but by the time the younger cows and milking heifers were being sold trade was absolutely flying.

The herd followed an all year round calving pattern, with a favourable bias towards late summer and early autumn milk production. Along with anything sold fresh, the summer calving cows commanded a real premium on the day, ensuring trade rarely dipped throughout the course of the sale.

The top price of the day was achieved on two occasions, firstly for an unregistered heifer, sired by Bomaz Ingenious and a distant descendant of the Roxy family, she had calved in April 17 and sold in-calf to Colonial for late June, giving a daily yield of over 30 kg, selling for £2250. She was purchased by J F Owen of Wrexham who also purchased another unregistered fresh calved heifer, having calved in January and sold giving 27 kg, selling again for £2250. Next in the price list was £2100, a Picston Shottle daughter who had calved fresh with her second in December, and sold giving 40 kg daily again travelling to North Wales. £2080 was paid by JDR & MJ Warburton of Warrington for a heifer coming with her second for July, sired by Merrick and giving a daily yield of 37 kg. Also realising £2080 was a Jettie daughter who sold fresh with her first, giving 27 kg, she was purchased by G W Roberts & Co, Denbigh.

Heifer calves were keenly sought throughout the sale and topped at £440 for a two month old daughter of Bullseye. Carnival calves sold to £420 again at two months old, with every calf selling in excess of £200, nothing older than 3 months and eight selling for more than £360.

In-calf heifers met a fast trade, particularly for those calving in the spring. Topping at £1550 for a daughter of Franchise, with others by Zeber, Shottle and Bolton all selling in excess of £1500. Bulling heifers were really good, just like all the young stock, but these appeared to be the best buys, generally trading from £550 to £650 and topping at £760.

AVERAGES:

29 Cows and heifers calved since October £1659; 55 Cows and heifers due to calve late spring to early summer £1425. 154 Cows and Milking Heifers (including 14 Heifer Calves born since November at £345.71) £1268.51; 5 In-calf heifers £1514.00; 13 recently served heifers £897.69; 48 Maiden Heifers (3–15mo) £456.04.

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