

INCREDIBLE TRADE FOR UNREGISTERED FRIESIANS

The Dispersal of the ENTIRE Chosenhome Herd of purebred unregistered British Friesians attracted a huge crowd of buyers to Home Farm, Churchdown, Gloucester following the decision of brothers Ben and Adam Pullen to cease milking and sell their cattle.

The interest prior to the sale was phenomenal which is not surprising because of the interest in British Friesians from the commercial milk sector especially. They are a commodity that is rarely on the market in any numbers and a dispersal of a large herd, albeit unregistered, created much excitement in the dairy sector, especially those who rear all their calves. Buyers flocked from all over, but mainly from the North Midlands to the South Coast with many going into Derbyshire, Leicestershire and to West Wales and the South Western Counties. Many buyers travelled long distances including Scotland and East Anglia and were unsuccessful in acquiring any new stock.

The herd had been bred pure for eighty years and in the forty years that Adam and Ben had been at the helm only two cows had ever been purchased and not an ounce of Holstein blood had ever been used. The herd was very commercially managed achieving most of its production from grass. Herd average was 7933 kg. 4.34% butterfat and 3.29% protein. Durability was a key feature with almost half the herd being fourth calvers or more.

The top price female was 2500 gns for a fresh calved heifer sired by Winnoch Officer selling to an undisclosed North Midlands client. Eight other milkers sold from 2000 gns to 2400 gns with A Jones & Co of Tregaron, Ceredigion purchasing two other fresh heifers by the same sire at 2400 and 2300 gns each.

Top price for a cow was 2000 gns realised for a second calf daughter of Tittenser Frans who had given over 8300 gns as a heifer and was giving 35 kg. daily after having calved her second at the end of June. She was one of a super load of 15 young cows purchased by Victor McNaugher of Audlem, Nr. Crewe, Cheshire.

In-calf heifers were probably the trade of the day with half calving this side of Christmas and the others next Spring. The top price was 2050 gns for a daughter of Officer purchased by JA & AJ Coxon of Church Broughton, Derby and two others by the same sire making 2000 gns each and both selling to AA Seabridge & Son of Barlaston, Stoke-on-Trent.

Maiden Heifers sold to 920 gns twice; firstly for a daughter of Winnoch Officer selling to RM & AE Evans & Son of Lydbury North, Shropshire and secondly for a daughter of Lakemead Rancher selling to WLS Morgan & Son of Raglan, Monmouthshire.

Heifer calves born this year sold well to a top of 520 gns for a February born daughter of Lakemead Rancher selling to Messrs Coxon of Church Broughton. The only bull calf in the sale a six week old son of Rancher sold for 550 gns to Messrs Evans of Lydbury North and the vendors donated the proceeds of this calf to the British Friesian Breeders Club.

There were two other males selling; the first was the homebred two and half year old stock bull, Chosenhome Dick, by Winnoch Officer which sold for 2400 gns to BV & H Evans of Kidwelly, Carmarthenshire and the pedigree Saler bull, Seawell El Cid, also born in April 2009 which sold for the days top price of 3400 gns to JD & P Chapman of Redmarley, Gloucestershire.

AVERAGES:

145 Cows and Milking Heifers £1629.38 (including 34 Heifer Calves at £375.83 and 1 Bull Calf at £577.50); 32 Served Heifers £1560.23; 57 Maiden Heifers £690.78; 236 HEAD £1405.30

WRIGHT MANLEY of Cheshire and Voyce Pullin of Gloucestershire were the Joint Auctioneers.