

3500 GNS TOP BID FOR EAST ANGLIAN HOLSTEIN HERD AT BEESTON CASTLE

Beeston Castle Auction was the venue for the dispersal of the entire Swaffham Herd of Pedigree Holstein Cattle following the decision of Tony and Jenny Mallon who trade as The Fransham Farming Co Ltd to cease milk production on their farm at Little Fransham, Norfolk. A huge crowd of buyers were out in force to acquire cattle in all age groups and the cattle were distributed to farms from the Scottish Borders, Cumbria, Yorkshire, Lancashire, Norfolk, Gloucestershire, Somerset, Cornwall, West Wales as well as Cheshire and all its surrounding counties. Trade was very fast throughout the sale and there were 24 cattle that sold for 2000 gns or more.

The top price was 3500 gns for the milking heifer featured on the cover of the catalogue; Swaffham Iron Grey 1312th is a daughter of Boss Iron who calved in January, was bred in March to Buckeye and was sold giving 34 kg daily. She makes the long journey back to Norfolk selling to Peter and Ava Barrell of East Dereham, Norfolk for their Gemini Herd. They also purchased another of the best heifers, Swaffham Starr Ivory, a daughter of Hilmar CVC Starr and sold giving 30 kg, for the joint second highest price of 2900 gns. The other to sell at this price was the outstanding cow Pinebreck Starboy Faith, a daughter of Roseland-View Black Starboy milking with her third calf and due again in October to Buckeye. She was purchased by M & AM Bunby of Boncath, Ceredigion, West Wales.

Heifers calving in July and August were a tremendous trade and sold to a top of 2500 gns for Swaffham Shottle Dora purchased by John Fisher of Longtown. He also bought two daughters of Ladys-Manor Wildman at 2400 gns each. The Pine-Shelter Lyle Vincer daughter Swaffham Lyle May also sold at this price selling to Andrew Jones of Narberth, Pembrokeshire. Recently served heifers sold to 1550 gns twice; Swaffham Bradley Geraldine and Swaffham Atom Shirley had both been served by the stock bull Forte Cosmonaut to calve in December and both were purchased by EM and ADW Davies also of Narberth, Pembrokeshire.

Andrew Thomas of Penryn, Cornwall purchased the top maiden heifer, Swaffham Shottle Lydia at 1750 gns as well as purchasing Swaffham Champion Brenda, the 1st prize winning calf at the 2008 Norfolk Calf show for 1500 gns. Heifer calves were a tremendous trade and sold to 980 gns for the 8 month old Swaffham Shottle Belise 2nd purchased by JW Jones & Co of Denbigh.

AVERAGES:

191 Cows and Milking Heifers (including 51 Heifer Calves at £700.41) £1500.01; 19 Summer Calving Heifers £2196.71; 30 Recently Served Heifers £1220.45; 51 Maiden Heifers £1090.35. 291 HEAD £1444.88

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