

Ailstree British Friesians draw the crowds

A busy crowd of determined bidders created an excellent trade for John & Bruce Swift's dispersal of their good Ailstree herd of British Friesians, held on farm in West Yorkshire on Tuesday this week. The 19 buyers came from as far afield as Argyll, Pembrokeshire, Devon & Dorset as well as strong support from Yorkshire and neighbouring counties. We suspect several potential buyers went home with empty trailers as the trade fizzed along all morning.

The herd had a long history dating back 75 years and enjoyed an excellent health status in a TB4 area. The cattle looked in fine fettle in their home surroundings.

Top price on the day was 2,000 guineas achieved 3 times for two fresh young cows by Wolfa Gem and a September calver by Skyhigh Patrol. Most of the dairy herd had had between 4 & 10 calves but still produced an average of £1,226 with just 7 calves at foot included. The first & second lactation milkers averaged £1400.

The main buyer of milking cattle was John Trott from Dorset who purchased over 50 head for his expanding herd. Messrs Dixon from Haverfordwest were in unstoppable form for served and bulling heifers taking 15 back to their farm at Hayscastle

The trade of the day was for the young stock with served heifers peaking at 1400 guineas and bulling heifers at £958 apiece up to 1180 guineas. Yearlings were almost £800 average.

AVERAGES:

90 Cows & Calved Heifers	avg. £1,226.75
18 Served Heifers	avg. £1,213.92
16 Bulling Heifers	avg. £ 958.78
14 Yearlings	avg. £ 796.50
138 Lots (inc 7 'A' lots @ £297)	avg. £1,094.82
1 unregistered bull	£ 861.00

AUCTIONEERS:

NORTON & BROOKSBANK