

## Pro-Cross Dispersal raises eyebrows

Messrs Smiths Farming Ltd who farm Lower Castle Hayes near Burton-on-Trent sold their impressive herd of 600 Pro-Cross cattle on farm on November 4<sup>th</sup> and surprised many of the substantial crowd that packed the sale barn. This would be the first large sale of these increasingly popular cattle, made up from a 3-way crossing of the Holstein, Scandinavian (Viking) Reds & Montbeliarde breeds. Buyers from Cornwall, Somerset, Lincolnshire, Wales & Northern Ireland ( 199 head in total) as well as a strong contingent from Cheshire and the midlands as well as huge interest on Marteye, that provided bidders on 61% of the lots, provided the foundations for a highly successful sale. We approved no less than 1647 bidders on Marteye prior to the sale with 22% selling to successful on-line bids.



### The packed 'dual' ring

The herd of 300 block calved from late summer to the autumn and is managed in cubicles on a simple TMR of grass & whole crop wheat with limited concentrates. Twice daily milked the herd average was a profitable 9,000kg 4.4fat & 3.3protein. The group of 300+ youngstock were a feature with calves at foot reaching £4-500 on many occasions and peaking at £580 for a 3month old Thiago daughter. The main buyers in this section was Richard Thompson from Lincolnshire who purchased 70 calves and Roger Heenan from Co Down who also claimed over 70 calves. Yearlings & bulling heifers were a tremendous trade averaging almost £800 and peaking at £900.

The cows were in great demand with 5<sup>th</sup> calvers soon getting to 4-figure prices and plenty of buyers chasing the younger cows well into the teens. 17 made £1900 or more including 5 at £2,000+. many of the best cows including the top priced Crasat daughter at £2,200 went to Mr Darren McCormick from Enniskillen, N Ireland who bought 90 head in total, including several bulling heifers. Stephen Cookson was a determined bidder on the better cows and claimed 19 for his herd near Hatton in Cheshire.

The large sale took just 6 ½ hours to complete at a strike rate of over 85 head per hour with two rings going side by side so the large group of heifer calves could be sold quickly and easily. The superb organisation and handling skills of the Clipaholics team and the calm temperament of the cattle allowed the auctioneers to keep a brisk pace throughout the day.



**Lot 134 - £2,200**

**TOP PRICES**

<b>LOT</b>	<b>SIRE</b>	<b>BUYER</b>	<b>PRICE £</b>
134	Crasat	D. McCormick, N.Ireland	2,200
192	Borat	D. McCormick, N.Ireland	2,150
182	Borat	D. McCormick, N.Ireland	2,050
45	Picston Shottle	S Cookson, Cheshire	2,000
98	Crasat	S. Cookson, Cheshire	2,000

**AVERAGES:**

<b>255</b>	<b>Cows &amp; Calved Heifers</b>	<b>avg. £1,456.07</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Served Heifers</b>	<b>avg. £1,100.00</b>
<b>128</b>	<b>Yearlings / Bulling heifers</b>	<b>avg. £ 798.67</b>
<b>143</b>	<b>Heifer calf 'A' Lots</b>	<b>avg. £ 392.09</b>
<b>26</b>	<b>Heifer Calves</b>	<b>avg. £ 320.00</b>
<b>555</b>	<b>Head</b>	<b>avg. £ 975.17</b>

**Auctioneers: NORTON & BROOKSBANK  
With KIVELLS**