

THE DAVLEA CELEBRATION SALE

A large crowd of breeders from all over the country and from the Republic of Ireland gathered at the Davies family's Somerset farm to celebrate their Davlea herd winning last year's Holstein UK Premier Herd Competition. A highlight of the day was a special sale of over 40 of the herd's very best animals in all age groups, and this brought some spirited bidding for the outstanding animals on offer.

The first animal in the ring set the tone for the sale and proved to be the day's top price, with Cyril Millar of Millar Farms, Coleraine, bidding on the telephone, giving 12,000gds to secure the super heifer Davlea Sidekick Raven. This lovely uddered heifer is potentially the eighth generation Excellent from one of the world's great families and is due again in October carrying a sexed heifer calf to Vogue Solarpower.

One of the best cows in the herd at present is the Reserve UK Dairy Expo Champion Davelea Sidekick Wattle and her daughter by Stantons Chief, in calf to Farnear Delta-Lambda, drew huge interest and is another bound for Northern Ireland to the Beechview herd of Jason Booth for 11,000gs.

The Davlea herd is universally recognised for its Alicia family, with the previous National Show Champion Davlea Bradnick Alicia (Ex-95), being one of the most admired show cows in the country in recent years. A choice of her Chief or Lambda daughters, born in February made 7,500gs to join the many outstanding in animals in Wills Bros Ltd's Willsbro herd. Two Chief daughters out of Bradnick Alivia's Excellent Solomon sister made 5,200 and 4,800gs and a June born sister made 4,600gs to Randolph Miller, breeder of their mother in his noted Moorshard herd.

John and Brian O'Connor, Kanturk, Co.Cork, are always in the market for high quality individuals and gave 7,000 and 5,800gs for heifers from the Pledge and Lulu families.

One of the most interesting lots was a first choice heifer from six pregnancies due later this year from three of the famous prizewinning Canadian Jacobs herd's best families. Messrs Bird of the Bartonwood herd, just over the border in Devon, were the successful purchasers at 5,000gs,

Attendees were superbly refreshed with outstanding complimentary food and drink throughout the day and Ian and Max Davies are to be complimented not only on the quality of the cattle put forward for sale, but on the whole herd which was much admitted by those present. Up and coming breeders were able to secure heifers with great pedigrees for between 2,000 and 3,000gs and the whole day was one of tremendous encouragement for the pedigree Holstein industry;

TOP PRICES			
36	D. Sidekick Raven (VG-87 2yr)	Millar Farms (Glenleary)	12,000
26	D. Chief Wattle	G & J.Booth (Beechview)	11,000
16	D. Chief Alicia 4 ET	Wills Bros Ltd (Willsbro)	7,500
22	D. Delta Lambda Pledge 3	J.O'Connor (Bawnmore)	7,000
23	D. Delta Lambda Rachael	John Leahy	6,200
9	D. Crushtime Lasenza (VG-86 2yr)	W & A.Patton (Ards)	6,000
34	D. Doorman Lulu 3	J.O'Connor (Bawnmore)	5,800
27	D. Chief Wattle 2	J.Stewart (Quinton)	5,600

29	D. Chief Alicia 2 ET	J.M & B.S Jones (Larchwood)	5,200
33	First choice heifer from 6 Jacobs pregnancies	J.S.Bird & Son (Bartonwood)	5,000
28	D. Chief Alicia ET	W & A,Watson (Muir)	4,800
19	D. Delta-Lambda Alicia 4 ET	R.K & S.G.Miller & Sons (Moorshard)	4,600
14	D. Beemer Impala (VG-88)	Wills Bros Ltd (Willsbro)	3,800
14A	D. Sidekick Impala	Greenlawn Farms Ltd (Greenlawn)	3,500
24	D. Octane Wattle (VG-85 2yr)	D.R & B.M.Thomas (Churchvale)	3,200
41	D. Sidekick Pledge	A.J & W.J.Reed (Beaconhill)	3,200
35	D. Chief Lulu	A.Neill (Brackagh)	3,100
10	D. Delta Lambda Lasenza	R & E. Butterfield (Ingleview)	3,000
12	D. Chief Lulu 3	A.J & W.J.Reed (Beaconhill)	3,000
18	D. Unix Alicia 2	A.C.Birkle (Whinchat)	3,000
32	D. Barolo Roxy	S.Brown (Moneyhaw)	3,000

AVERAGES

4 cows & calved heifers	£6,562.50
12 served heifers	£3,963.75
26 maiden heifers & calves	£3,634-61

42 female lots	£ 4,007-50
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2 bulls	£ 813.75
13 embryos	£ 928.84

AUCTIONEERS: NORTON & BROOKSBANK