

WILLSBRO PREMIER HERD SALE DRAWS THE CROWDS

More than a thousand breeders and farmers from far and wide attended Holstein UK's Open Day at Messrs Wills Brothers' Cornish farm which was held to celebrate their victory in last year's Premier Herd Competition. The impressive facilities at Pawton Dairy were open for inspection and visitors were able to view the best cows in this wonderful herd, where 1,700 cows presently average over 14,800kg at 4.08% fat and 3.27% protein.

An excellent Cornish lunch was followed by the Sale, commencing at 2 pm, when 40 outstanding young milkers were offered together with 160 heifer calves, all under a year old, and a choice selection of embryos from some of the herd's best females.

At the last sale from the herd, which took place last September, the progeny of Farnear Delta-Lambda were in hot demand, providing the top two prices, and it was another Lambda daughter that topped this year's event at 7,000 guineas in the shape of the super stylish 4 month old calf Willsbro Lambda Nita 5991 ET. Her dam, a 93 pointed Unix daughter, purchased from Messrs Wilson's Warnelview herd in Cumbria is one of the best cows in the current Willsbro herd and is a daughter of the legendary Final Cut Nita, that scored 97 points and gave over 120 tonnes of milk as well as breeding 10 Excellent daughters and many high priced bulls. Many fancied this lovely calf, but it was Phil Stubbs who had the final say to take her home for the Whitgreave herd in Staffordshire,

There were a number of top quality red and white calves on offer, one of the best being a Holliman daughter from the Amazon family which traces to the famous Luck-E herd in the USA. John Sherratt secured her for Derbyshire based Hope Valley Holsteins at 6,200gs. Members of the Sharon family, which produced the noted Picston Shottle, were in demand and calves by up and coming sires Perfect and Dropbox made 5,800 and 5,000gs respectively to Messrs Thomasson, Cheshire and Greentower Farms Ltd, Scotland,

All the milkers were sold for prices in excess of £3,000 and averaged over £4,000. Most expensive was a VG 2 year old by DG NH Arrow from the Ashlyn family, whose dam and grandam both gave over 16,000kg. She herself was on course for over 13,000kg in her first lactation, calving under 2 years old, and was bought for 6,000gs by Peter Waring for the Winton herd in East Yorkshire.

The first animal through the ring was an 88 point Hotjob daughter from the Lila Z family, giving over 60kg daily, and knocked down for 5,600gs to Harry Roper, bidding on Marteye, for the Lymehouse herd in Lancashire. He later added a stylish red heifer from the Ghost family for 4,700gs.

Another Lambda from the Ashlyn family made 5,300gs to James Evans of Martin Evans Farming Ltd, who purchased 10 animals for the Priddbwill herd on the Shropshire/Welsh Border.

There was a strong trade for the embryo lots, with a top price of 1,000gs for embryos by Hulu or Pace from the Knonaudale Mud family, purchased by Tom Hull for the Fortland herd.

100 individual buyers were recorded, many bidding on Marteye, and animals dispersed throughout England with 41 heading to Wales and 32 to Scotland. Unfortunately animals are currently prevented from being exported to Ireland, thus making the trade at this sale even more remarkable as Irish customers have been an important factor in recent Willsbro sales.

A great atmosphere prevailed throughout the day, with the Wills family members and their helpers keeping everyone supplied with an array of Cornish produce and no one could have left the farm hungry or thirsty.

It was another excellent showcase for the pedigree Holstein industry and for the Willsbro herd in particular, where Robert, Mathew and Melanie are perpetuating their late and much missed father Anthony's legacy in impressive fashion.

TOP PRICES		MILKERS	
80	W. Arrow Ashlyn 3249 (VG-86 2yr)	P.J.Waring & Son (Winton)	6,000
1	W. Hptjjob Lila Z 502 (VG-88)	E. Roper & Sons (Lymehouse)	5,600
76	W. Lambda Ashlyn 3417 ET (VG-85 2yr)	Martin Evans Farming Ltd (Priddbwl)	5,300
40	W. Hotjob Rae 3032 (VG-87 2yr)	M.J.Webber (Oxenacres)	4,800
166	W. Milio Lila B 209 ET (VG-89)	Drointon Farms (Drointon)	4,800
67	W. Rompen Ghost Red 3821 ET (VG-85 2yr)	E. Roper & Sons (Lymehouse)	4,700
66	W. Rompen Boegin Red 3850 ET (VG-85 2yr)	Baltier Farming Co (Baltier)	4,600
77	W. Lambda Ashlyn 3508 ET (VG-85 2yr)	D & S.Gethin (Brymar)	4,500
71	W. Ryder Rachel Red 3583 (VG-85 2yr)	G.B.Moorhouse (Aireburn)	4,400
13	W. Dreambig Ashlyn 3490 (VG-86 2yr)	D.W & C.E.Jones (Wiltor)	4,300
44	W. Lambda Amber 3847 ET (VG-85 2yr)	E.T.Tomlinson & Son (Sandyford)	4,100
69	W. Ryder Attitude Red 3505 ET (VG-87 2yr)	E.T.Tomlinson & Son (Sandyford)	4,100
171	W. Have It All Roxy 3360 (VG-85 2yr)	N.W & J.M.Coulthurst & Son (Edenfield)	4,100
9	W. Tropic Roxy 450 (VG-86)	S.Forshaw & Sons (Longshaw)	4,000
51	W. Have It All Sharon 3562 ET (VG-87 2yr)	T. Roberts (Crosland)	4,000
16	W. Hanans Adina 3501 ET (VG-85 2yr)	Martin Evans Farming Ltd (Priddbwl)	3,900
7	W. Hotjob Amber 345 ET (VG-87)	Martin Evans Farming Ltd (Priddbwl)	3,800
21	W. Have It All Pammy 3740 ET (VG-85 2yr)	Martin Evans Farming Ltd (Priddbwl)	3,800
26	W. Sidekick Frieda (VG-88)	Baltier Farming Co (Baltier)	3,800
42	W. Espn Amber 3790 (VG-85 2yr)	E.T.Tomlinson & Son (Sandyford)	3,800
50	W. Have It All Sharon 3536 ET (VG-87 2yr)	Martin Evans Farming Ltd (Priddbwl)	3,800
68	W. Ryder Ghost 3611 ET (VG-85 2yr)	L.F & A..J & J.L.Bartlett (Hayne)	3,700
43	W. Maker Amber 318 ET (VG-89)	N, J,Broom & Sons (Logshayne)	3,600
56	W. Rubels Sabine 3272 ET (VG-86 2yr)	R.J.Gay (Walkabout)	3,600
86	W. Lambda Adina 4002 (VG-86 1yr)	E.T.Tomlinson & Son (Sandyford)	3,600
87	W. Hanans Adina 3381 ET (VG-85 2yr)	M.Mouland	3,600

TOP PRICES		CALVES	
100	W. Lambda Nita 5991 ET	Stubbs Partners Ltd (Whitgreave)	7,000
73	W. Holliman Amazon Red 5916	Hope Valley Holsteins	6,200
53	W. Parfect Sharon 5733 ET	M.J & M.C Thomasson (Astlowhall)	5,800
50A	W. Dropbox Sharon 5734	Greentower Farms Ltd (Greentowers)	5,000
120	W. Hulu Katrisha 6133 ET	D.W & C.E.Jones (Wiltor)	4,300
142	W. Dynasty Rae 5856 ET	B & J.O.Connor (Bawnmore)	4,000
160	W, Dynasty Lila Z 5558	Rebecca John (Rinaston)	4,000
143	W. Luster Rae 6031 ET	A.P & J.H.G.Wyatt (Penbryn) and P.Sevenoaks (Sevenoaks)	3,800
71A	W. Holliman Rachel Red 5692	W.G & R.Roberts	3,700
91	W. Hardy Bitcoin 6020 ET	J.Mycock	3,700

54	W. Dropbox Sharon 5857 ET	B & J.O.Connor (Bawnmore)	3,600
101	W. Lambda Nita 6033 ET	S.Forshaw & Sons (Longshaw)	3,600
61	W. Holliman Pammy Red 5907	T.Vasami (Santarosa)	3,300
10	W. Parker Roxy 5592	D & S.Gethin (Brymar)	3,000
65A	W. Holliman Jodie Red 6023	Lord Grantchester (Grantchester)	3,000
70	W. Ranger Attitude Red 5716 ET	O.Walker	3,000
207	W. Dropbox Ashlyn 5922	B & J.O.Connor (Bawnmore)	3,000

AVERAGES

40 cows & calved heifers £ 4,071-38

54 2003 born calves £ 1,961-94

104 2004 born calves £ 1,740-58

198 head £ 2,271-82

77 embryos £ 677-00

AUCTIONEERS: NORTON & BROOKSBANK and KIVELLS