

SPARKLING TRADE AT THE 2023 WILLSBRO SALE

Holstein breeders from throughout the UK and Southern Ireland descended on Messrs Wills Brothers' Cornish farm for a sale and open day, celebrating the work and memory of Anthony Wills, who sadly passed away a year ago. Many were present the day before the sale to view the impressive facilities at Pawton Dairy, where 1,700 cows presently average over 14,400kg at 4.06% fat and 3.24% protein. Visitors could not fail to be impressed with the quality of the cattle, which recently won this year's Holstein UK Premier Herd Competition.

On sale day there was a frenetic trade throughout, fuelled by high genomic figures and classification scores, when 100 milking cows and heifers and 250 heifers and calves went under the hammer in nearly 9 hours of trading with demand remaining right to the end of the sale, resulting in a total close on a million pounds.

It was towards the end of the sale that the top price was achieved when after a fierce bidding duel, Bryan and John O'Connor of the Bawnmore herd in Co.Cork secured the 10 month old Willsbro Lambda Baywatch 4536 ET for 14,500gs. She is a granddaughter of the World Dairy Expo Champion Rosiers Blexy Goldwyn (Ex-97) and her dam has several prizewinning sisters, both in the UK and across the Atlantic.

Top priced cow was another Lambda, a VG-87 pointed heifer from the Roxy family, bred from 10 generations of this popular family and descended from one of Anthony Wills's most notable purchases, Stardale Leader Roxy (Ex-95), that has produced a wonderful legacy in the Willsbro herd. Malcolm McLean, bidding on Marteye, paid 13,000gs to take her back to the Relough herd, Co Tyrone and he later purchased another outstanding Lambda daughter from the Pammy family for 9,500gs. Lambda daughters were in particular demand and the O'Connors went to 9,500gs for one of the first heifers sold over here from the outstanding European Galys-Vray family.

Willsbro Perennial Elaya 4320 ET is the current No 1 PTAT female in the world and made 12,000gs to Mike Potter, bidding on behalf of a syndicate and the highest PLI calf in the Sale at over £800, a Cookiecutter Holysmokes daughter from the Lila Z family made 7,400gs to Messrs Crummy, Co Roscommon in the Republic of Ireland.

More than 50 animals made 4,000gs or more and over 130 individual buyers were recorded. There were still plenty of bargains among the lower prices and plenty of breeders will have secured valuable animals for the future of their own herds at reasonable figures.

The atmosphere throughout the two days was excellent, with entertainment provided on Friday night at the Royal Cornwall Showground by a local band singing sea shanties, followed by an interesting talk by leading American breeder Jordan Siemers. On sale day the Wills family members and their helpers kept everyone supplied with an array of Cornish produce and no one would have left the farm hungry or thirsty.

It was certainly a sale to remember from what must now be regarded as one of the world's foremost dairy units and the Willsbro herd will continue to strive to go ever onwards and upwards. Anthony's children Robert, Mathew and Melanie are perpetuating their father's legacy and put on a great show for all those fortunate to attend.

TOP PRICES			
269	W. Lambda Baywatch 4563 ET	B & J.O'Connor (Bawnmore)	14,500
46	W. Lambda Roxy 2966 ET (VG-87 2yr)	M.McLean (Relough)	13,000
100	W. Perennial Elaya 4320 ET	M.Potter	12,000
136	W. Lambda Galys-Vray 4697 ET	B & J.O'Connor (Bawnmore)	9,500
206	W. King Doc Pammy 410 ET (VG-89)	M.McLean (Relough)	9,500
226	W. Holysmokes Lila Z 4717 ET	S.Crummy – Co Roscommon	7,400
208	W. Hanans Pammy 5003 ET	Feizor Holsteins (Feizor)	6,700
1	W. Riveting Amber 296 ET (VG-88)	SB Farms Ltd (Brynhyfyd)	6,000
227	W. Holysmokes Lila Z 4742 ET	N. Donaghy (Mountbeeceh)	6,000
287	W. Mitchell Roxy 2867 (VG-87 2yr)	J.L.P.Roberts (Crosland)	5,800
161	W. Hullabaloo Ghostie 4540 ET	D. Murphy (Lissaniskey)	5,400
276	W. Hullabaloo Amber 4602 ET	R.D.Fleming (Hillhead)	5,400
	W, Hotjob Roxy 2816 ET (VG-87 2yr)	J.Allen (Liskey)	5,300
139	W, Perennial Galys Vray 4428 ET	W.W.Neilson (Overside)	5,300
3	W. Riveting Amber 271 ET (VG-88)	K.J & C.Wilson Ltd (Warnelview)	5,200
69	W. Arrow Pammy 2980 ET (VG-86 1yr)	K.J & C.Wilson Ltd (Warnelview)	5,200
152	W. Dateline Amber 244 ET (VG-89)	ML Farming (Crystalclear)	5,200
299	W. Miami Rozelle 116 (VG-88)	Blaise Tomlinson (Charnwood)	5,200
20	W. Lambda Frosty 4255 ET	Greentower Farms Ltd (Greentowers)	5,000
22	W. Rapid Adina 40 (VG-89)	Riverdane Holsteins (Riverdane)	5,000
50	W. Emerald Roxy 365 ET (VG-86)	A.D.Thomas (Wolston)	5,000
60	W. Dreambig Lila Z 3296	G.B.Moorhouse (Aireburn)	5,000
101	W. McDonald Elaya 4442	Greentower Farms Ltd (Greentowers)	5,000
124	W. Choice Katrisha 4603 ET	M.J & L.Robertson (Ashlea)	5,000
137	W. Perennial Gala Vray 4635 ET	P & S.Harris Ltd (Racewood)	5,000
140	W. Mardi Gras Roxy 195 (Ex-94-3)	G.Smyth (Ballyweaney)	5,000
183	W. Hullabaloo Sharon 4429 ET	N. Donaghy (Mountbeeceh)	5,000
259	W, Tropic Dior Rae 2956 ET	R. Stewart (Quinton)	5,000
271	W. Lambda Bitcoin 4896 ET	Greentower Farms Ltd (Greentowers)	5,000
22B	W. Hullabaloo Adina 4731 ET	Greentower Farms Ltd (Greentowers)	4,800
49	W. Emerald Roxy 370 ET (VG-87)	J.Allen (Liskey)	4,800
251	W. Lambda Rae 4821 ET	Greenlawn Farms Ltd (Greenlawn)	4,800
287B	W. Lambda Roxy 4892 ET	T.Haffey (Kilvergan)	4,800
25	W. Arrow Adina 2968 ET (VG-86 1yr)	J.Burrow & Son (Stardale)	4,600
289	W. Cadillac Roxy 4634 ET	P.Haffey (Glasson)	4,500
2	W. Riveting Amber 297 ET (VG-87)	Riverdane Holsteins (Riverdane)	4,400
21	W, Lambda Frosty 5 ET	D.Hodgson (Wormanvy)	4,200
42	W. McDonald Angel Red 4666 ET	S.W.Roan (Colvend)	4,200
46A	W. Hanans Roxy 5097	Grove Dairy Ltd (Grovedairy)	4,200
47	W. Lambda Roxy 2948 ET (VG-85 2yr)	J.Allen (Liskey)	4,200
154	W. Hotjob Amber 2844 ET (VG-87 2yr)	W.Bradbury & Partners (Doveside)	4,200
93	W. Radio Aderyn 2784 (VG-86 2yr)	J.Allen (Liskey)	4,100
22A	W. Parfect Adina 4616 ET	M.J & L.Robertson (Ashlea)	4,000
53	W. Hullabaloo Roxy 4445	R. O'Flynn (Graffin)	4,000
75	W. McDonald Pammy Red 4498 ET	R.Downes (Longnor)	4,000
120	W. King Doc Dolly 138 ET (VG-86 2yr)	Lucy Heys	4,000
126A	W, Tropic Rozelle 4762	D & S.Gethin (Brymar)	4,000

138	W. Perennial Galys Vray 4420 ET	D.W & G.N.Renfree (Hayvalley)	4,000
141	W. Shimmer Roxy 394 (VG-87)	G & M.Rudd (Grassings)	4,000
145	W. Drogo Roxy 4786	D.B & A.Fry (Sturcombe)	4,000
156	W. Brass Amber 267 ET (VG-88)	I.L.Harries (Eola)	4,000
182B	W. Ranger Sharon 4652	D.Chestnutt	4,000
235	W. Tropic Pledge 143	J.Allen (Liskey)	4,000

AVERAGES

103 cows & calved heifers £ 3,773-88

166 maiden heifers £ 2,566-17

78 heifer calves £ 1,626-00

347 head £ 2,713-36

73 embryos £ 560-31

AUCTIONEERS: NORTON & BROOKSBANK & KIVELLS