

ORGANSDALE BROWN SWISS TO £1820 TWICE AT BEESTON

It was a hard days trading for father and son team Robin and Philip Latham of Brook House Farm, Chorley, Nantwich when they offered their entire June to October calving portion of their Organsdale Brown Swiss Herd at Beeston Castle Auction. The sale was brought about following their decision to reduce cow numbers and concentrate on producing milk from grass from a calving herd. It has to be said that the cattle were of good quality with many fine examples of the breed included in the sale and of course were at or close to profit. However, and there is no doubt about it, that attendance at the sale was clearly blighted, entirely due to the fact that the herd had had a severe TB breakdown last year and everyone knew about it, despite the fact that the owners conscientious and determined co-operation with DEFRA to rid their herd of the disease for which they have been very successful in such a short time period.

Nevertheless the sale got under way and although the older cows to start with were quite sticky, once the sale moved onto the third calvers and younger, bidding was quite brisk and there was plenty of competition for the milkers. However it has to be said there did appear to be many animals that would be perceived as good value for money under certain circumstances. The top price was £1820 which was achieved twice and both for fresh second calf daughters Red Brae Prelude Zeus; the first at this figure was Organsdale Zeus Zwartkop who had calved at the end of June and sold to JE Jerman & Sons of Welshpool. The second, Organsdale Zeus Emma 30th had calved just over a month and was one of a load of very smart cattle purchased by Leigh House Farm Ltd of Chard, Somerset. They also purchased another fresh second calf Zeus daughter at £1800 and a fresh heifer by Top Acres Brinks for the same money.

Served heifers topped at £1420 for another Zeus daughter due in August and purchased by GAG Evans & Son of Guilsfield, Welshpool.

AVERAGES:

Cows in milk and dry and Heifers in milk £1306.09; Served Heifers £1267.22; Overall £1299.73

WRIGHT MANLEY of Beeston Castle Auction, Cheshire were the Auctioneers.