

Western Spring Spectacular Featured 53 Lots

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Mercer Co. Correspondent

GROVE CITY (Mercer Co.) - The Mercer County Holstein Club recently hosted its Western Pennsylvania Spring Spectacular at the Mercer County 4-H Park in Grove City.

The 21st annual event, a Holstein auction designed to benefit buyers as well as sellers, attracted a crowd of more than 250. Fifty-three animals were sold.

The top-selling animal, a fresh two-year-old Lindy daughter from eight generations of excellence, sold for \$4,050 to Bill Casper of Carrollton, OH.

Dean Kind of Slippery Rock consigned the cow, whose pedigree can be traced to the Gray View Farms Crissy cow family of the early 1960s.

The second high-selling cow was a fresh Jolt two-year-old consigned by Ron and Eleanor Kalinowski from Cochranon. The cow's dam was a GP-84

Melwood with more than 33,000 milk, 1,158 fat, and 979 protein. The animal sold for \$2450 to Jeff and Susan McFarland of New Wilmington. As the auction's volume buyers, the McFarlands spent more than \$10,000 for a total of five fresh cows. Cows in the sale averaged \$2,135.

The top bred heifer, an Adonis cow, was sold for \$1,650 by Ken Challener of Meadville to Robert Shine of Jamestown. Bred heifers averaged \$1,387.

Yearlings averaged \$1,030. March 2000 calves averaged \$475, December '99 calves averaged \$635, September '99 calves averaged \$725, and the June '99 yearlings averaged \$850. Top calves included a September '99 Tesk Terry consigned by Ransom and Kathy Riedel of Corry.

While the annual sale provided a service to farmers looking to expand or reduce their herds, said sale chairman Jim Bates, it also offered a service

to local kids by featuring a number of calves that were suitable for 4-H and other show projects. The auction offered a five-percent discount on animals born after June that would be used by kids for show, said Bates.

In addition to the annual sale discounts, said Bates, the Holstein club participates in a number of other youth-oriented causes. In addition to giving to the Les Firth memorial scholarship fund, which is awarded to students attending Penn State, each season the club provides plaques to all Mercer County 4-H kids who show Holsteins. The club also presents kids who show with gifts such as grooming equipment or halters. Because sales and sponsorship, said Bates, profits from this year's event will be put toward future community giving projects.

The Mercer County Holstein Club has existed for more than 40 years and has between 50 and 60 members.



Bill Casper of Hycrest Farms in Carrollton, OH with sons Clint and Codi purchased the top selling cow at the sale.

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