

News from University of Missouri Extension – Adair County

Inaugural Show-Me-Select Heifer Sale at Kirksville a Success

Tumbling cattle markets the past few months' triggered considerable uncertainty prior to the maiden Show-Me-Select (SMS) Bred Heifer Sale in Kirksville recently. However, when the last of 195 heifers left the ring, the average price of \$2,386 left producers with a feeling of relief. With the epic collapse of the cattle market "consigners were bracing for the worst," according to Zac Erwin, University of Missouri extension livestock specialist and sale coordinator. In the end, buyers showed up with optimism and confidence in the SMS program and the quality of the heifers it offers.

High-selling heifers for the day were five head from Richards Farms of Keytesville, MO. They were Angus heifers carrying a Tier 2 designation and bred to Connealy Irish. The buyer was Greg Young, Keytesville, MO for \$3,100. Richards topped the overall consignment average with a \$2,792 price on 29 heifers. Heifers qualify for Tier 2 in the Show-Me-Select heifer program based on minimum EPD accuracies for heifer sires on five traits. The five respective traits are calving ease direct, calving ease maternal, weaning weight, carcass weight, and marbling.

David Clark, Edina had the second high consignor average at \$2,346 for 15 head of Angus cross heifers. Kevin and Beth Strange, Edina and Rick Bennett, Browning followed along closely with averages of \$2,264 and \$2,245 on purebred and registered Angus heifers, respectively.

The volume buyers of heifers were Trevor Shafer, Green City, MO, who took home 24 head and following him, Young ended up with 10 head.

The 123 head of AI bred heifers sold for \$2,455 per head. The bull bred heifers averaged \$2,263, \$192 behind. Thirty-four head tagged as Tier Two heifers averaged \$2,599 versus the Tier One heifers averaging \$2340, a \$259 difference.

Show-Me-Select heifers have met minimum standards for reproductive soundness, pelvic size, body condition and weight and are free of blemishes. Heifers have been bred to bulls meeting strict calving ease/birth weight EPD requirements and have followed a strict immunization program. Heifers will calve from late January to May 1 of the following year.

For more information on Tier 2 or for details on how to participate in the value added program contact your University of Missouri extension livestock specialist. Rules and regulations may be found at <http://agebb.missouri.edu/select/prgmreq.htm>.

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