

JAD heifer demand hits \$20,000 twice

CORONAVIRUS plus many additional challenges were defied last Friday when the JAD Speckle Park team went one better than last year's successful inaugural sale to effect a total auction clearance.

All 22 stud and commercial bulls sold to a top of \$16,000 and averaged \$7591.

However, it was the registered purebred heifers that attracted the big money, with two of all 20 lots selling to a top of \$20,000 to average a healthy \$13,050.

The sale was conducted for Justin and Amy Dickens who made the decision two days prior to transfer the sale location from the Dulcidene selling centre, Dubbo, to their property at Greenvale, Yeoval, due to the coronavirus pandemic. Their decision paid off handsomely with 299 registered bidders in total and at one point there were 150 in the AuctionsPlus listing alone.

Outside of agents and JAD staff, there were just 17 clients or interested parties on-site at the sale - a stark

contrast to the packed grandstands at the inaugural sale.

Amy Dickens said there was such a contrast in the number of people in so many ways.

"Last year the Dulcidene sale barn was jammed pack with hundreds of people, but coronavirus restrictions has us making sure no attendee could be at risk, so social distancing was a large consideration," she said.

"Luckily the sale was held prior to the 'two person' regulation and family or buyer units sat together but were well separated."

The complete offering of 2018-drop bulls, purebred heifers, pregnant recipients, embryos, semen and commercial F2/F3 Speckle Park heifers grossed \$529,000 - up exactly \$1000 on the inaugural sale last year.

JAD once again offered new Speckle Park genetics to Australia, as well as a comprehensive suite of raw data, Breedplan EBVs, independent structural soundness scores, and genetic testing, leading to animals being

sold to all states of Australia except Western Australia.

The \$16,000 bull, JAD Patience P74, sold to returning buyers, the James family, Lucindale, South Australia, who purchased five bulls to average \$11,800.

The first heifer at \$20,000, JAD 52B Moya P30, sold to multi-lot on-site buyers, Tony and Liz Sutcliffe, Toebelle Speckle Park stud, Duns Creek near Maitland, who bought three registered heifers to average \$17,000 and semen straws of Minnamurra Montezuma M25 at \$150/straw.

Liz Sutcliffe said while they were well established Limousin stud breeders, they could see the potential of Speckle Park cattle and began their stud with the purchase of a heifer at the Scone event last year.

Saying they don't like paddock fillers, the Sutcliffes purchased a power-punch trio on the day.

"We had viewed Moya P30 (\$20,000) in the video and she appeared to have that extra length of frame," Mrs



Tony and Liz Sutcliffe, Toebelle Speckle Park stud, Duns Creek, with \$16,000 JAD 52B Flora P3, one of three heifers they purchased to top average \$17,000.

Sutcliffe said. "In the flesh we were right and she have that little bit more body, and we think she will make an excellent donor."

"Flora P3 (\$16,000) showed more depth and more muscle. She looked softer and had that broody look about her. She definitely looked like a really good female as a foundation female for our herd."

The Sutcliffes set their goals to purchase a Unique family female as they wanted to invest in that particular cow family and paid \$15,000 for Unique P1.

"We had set our goals on this heifer. She was a very exciting opportunity to purchase and had the most

depth of the offering and will also make an excellent donor," Mrs Sutcliffe said.

The other \$20,000 heifer, JAD 25U Yasemin P58, went to another multi-lot buyer, Jon Sinn, Longwarry, Victoria, who bought four registered heifers to average \$16,250.

Mr Sinn also purchased a pregnant recipient for \$8000 and two pens of five pregnant commercial heifers to average \$3300 a head.

Three of three PTIC recipients sold to \$8000 to average \$6333 each, and all four of the four-embryo packages averaged \$1350.

All nine of the 10-straw semen packages averaged \$133 a straw, and to finish the sale

all 15 pregnant commercial heifers (sold in pens of five) averaged \$3200.

JAD stud principal, Justin Dickens, said the result was an endorsement of the extensive measurement conducted and comprehensive information provided.

"With such a small crowd in attendance, we were certainly a little anxious so we were glad for the huge support shown via AuctionsPlus," he said.

"We are so grateful for the support shown by so many people."

The sale was conducted by Bowyer and Livermore, with Brian Leslie, Dairy Livestock Services, as guest auctioneer.

- MARK GRIGGS

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