

26 February 2008

Fierce bidding at Lincolnshire farm machinery auction

Over 350 potential buyers from across the UK, and from as far a field as Poland, turned out to Brown & Co's machinery auction at Willowdene Farm, Friskney, last Thursday (21 February).

One of the largest dispersal sales in the area for some time, the auction included 600 lots of arable, potato and grassland machinery and equipment.

The late Bernard Bray purchased Willowdene Farm in 1938 and, from small beginnings, built up the 1,650acre enterprise. On his death some 17 years ago, the farm passed to his three daughters who have managed it ever since. This quality agricultural land, including outstanding toft silt, is among the most productive in the UK and is used to grow cereals, vegetable and potato crops. The farm included a sucker herd of cows.

With the retirement of two of the sisters, Brown & Co sold 1,190 acres of the farm last year with the third sister retaining the remaining land.

A large crowd gathered for the auction sale last week and bidding proved highly competitive. The star lots were two 1995 New Holland TX66 combine harvesters which fell under the hammer for £47,000 and £46,000. Other prime lots included a 1998 Bateman Contour self-propelled 24m sprayer, which sold for £37,400. After strong trading for the 13 tractors, a 2000 Claas Challenger 55 fetched the highest price at £34,000. The sale also featured several vintage horse equipment lots, including a governess cart.

"We had a tremendous turnout and in general prices exceeded expectation," says Brown & Co auctioneer James O'Brien. "Trade for used farm machinery is very buoyant due to the renewed air of optimism in agriculture and with new machinery in short supply."

Brown & Co's next farm machinery auctions are at White House Farm Donington, near Spalding, on March 4 and at Coates, near Whittlesey, on March 11. For further information, and an auction catalogue, visit www.brown-co.com or call 01775 722321.

ENDS

For further information, please contact

James O'Brien

Brown & Co

01775 722321

j.obrien@brown-co.com

Sue Jupe

SMJ Communications

01603 614319 / 0780 390 6356

sue@smjcommunications.co.uk

Notes to editors

Brown & Co is a firm of independent rural property, land and business specialists operating from ten offices in the East of England, London, Poland and St Lucia.

Specialist services include:

- Land Agency
- Residential Agency and Lettings
- Commercial Property
- Agricultural Business Consultancy
- Estate Management
- Planning and Development
- Building Services and Surveys
- Auctions
- Overseas Consultancy Services
- Dispute resolution.