

Priestland reigns supreme in Ayrshire championship

By Julie Hazelton

A tremendous event with excellent quality cattle and a high standard of showmanship was how Scottish judge Kevin Lawrie described the Ayrshire entry at the 18th Multi-Breed Dairy Calf Show, held at Dungannon.

There was strong competition in the showmanship section, with brother and sister Jack and Amy King, Kirkinriola Herd, Ballymena, coming head-to-head to claim the champion and reserve awards in the final line-up. Honourable mention went to Katie Gordon from the Grove Herd based at Ballyclare.

The calf classes were also hotly contested, with the coveted Ardmore Trophy for the supreme overall champion awarded to the McLean Family from Bushmills for their home-bred heifer Priestland Superstud Honey.

Born in October 2020, and sired by the home-bred Priestland Superstud, she a daughter of the 2019 RUAS Winter Fair breed champion Sandyford Lucky Honey – one of 10 pedigree Ayrshire cows in the Holstein dominated Priestland Herd.

Judge Kevin Lawrie from the noted Brieryside Ayrshire and Arranview Holstein prefixes, described the supreme overall champion as faultless. “This young heifer has everything I look for in a show winner – power, style, dairyness and great width through the frontend.”

Claiming the day’s reserve championship title were Alan and Leanne Paul from Maghera, who exhibited the seven-month-old heifer Slatabogie Hector Alice. Sired by Biddesden Hector, she is out of the home-bred Slatabogie August Alice.

“This is another lovely feminine calf with great style and dairy strength. She has great presence side-on, but I gave the advantage to the champion for her ability to track well on her back legs.”

The honourable mention award went to Robert and Caroline McConnell’s Beechmount Marie Girl 32, who stood second in her class to the reserve champion. Born in January 2021, she was sired by Pam Ayr’s Hawaiian, and is out of the VG87 classified Beechmount Marie Girl 15.

Kevin Lawrie commented: “Another very correct and stylish heifer calf, and certainly one to watch out for in the future.”

The Ulster Ayrshire Cattle Club is indebted to its sponsors for their continued support of the calf show – OB Construction; United Feeds and Farm Wardrobe.

Club secretary Jayne McConnell also expressed her thanks to Kevin Lawrie for giving up his time to officiate in the showing; Michael Taaffe for commentating at the show; and to the Wylie family for the use of its excellent facilities at Dungannon Farmers’ Mart.

Results from the showing....

Showmanship

Fullerton Trophy for the champion handler: Jack King. Reserve: Amy King. Honourable Mention: Katie Gordon.

Junior handler, seven-years-old and under – 1, Jaden Farren; 2, Cody Paul.

Intermediate handler, aged 8 to 15-years-old – 1, Jack King; 2, Matthew Gordon; 3, Harry Fleming.

Senior handler, aged 16 to 26-years-old – 1, Amy King; 2, Katie Gordon; 3, Stephanie Farren; 4, Ellen Henderson.

Calf Classes

Ardmore Trophy for the champion calf: McLean Family. Reserve: Alan and Leanne Paul. Honourable Mention: Robert and Caroline McConnell.

Heifer, born on or after 1/3/21 – 1, Robert and Caroline McConnell, Beechmount Sandy Rose 6 by Marbrae Bigtime; 2, Robert and Caroline McConnell, Beechmount Astral 15 by Palmyra Power Remsburg; 3, Drummond Family, Cottown Yellow Rachel by Pie X Yellow; 4, Raymond Stewart, Fortfield Focus Ray by Lyner Oblique Focus.

Heifer, born between 1/12/20 and 28/2/21 – 1, Alan and Leanne Paul, Slatabogie Hector Alice by Biddesden Hector; 2, Robert and Caroline McConnell, Beechmount Marie Girl 32 by Pam Ayrs Hawaiian; 3, Martin King, Kirkinriola Perfector Velma 2 by Ardmore Perfect Outcome; 4, Thomas Gordon, Grove Rosie 63 by Harpersfield Wind in the Willows.

Heifer, born between 1/9/20 and 30/11/20 – 1, McLean Family, Priestland Superstud Honey by Priestland Superstud; 2, Martin King, Kirkinriola Famous Blossom by Hunnington Famous; 3, Drummond Family, Cottown EP Debra by Cottown Emerging Power; 4, Martin King, Kirkinriola Famous Joy by Hunnington Famous.

Heifer, born between 1/5/20 and 31/8/20 – 1, Robert and Caroline McConnell, Beechmount Molly Winks 15 by De La Plaine Blink; 2, Drummond Family, Cottown EP Tina by Cottown Emerging Power; 3, Stewart and Nyree Baxter, Erne Bigtime OPA by Marbrae Bigtime; 4, Robert Fleming, Mossburnhill Gillian 18 by Beechmount Jackal.

Heifer, born between 1/1/20 and 30/4/20 – 1, Robert and Caroline McConnell, Beechmount Sandy Rose 3 by Palmyra Tri-Star Burdette; 2, Robert Fleming, Mossburnhill Rosemary 40 by Cochranes Purity; 3, Stewart and Nyree Baxter, Erne Bigtime Dea 2 by Marbrae Bigtime; 4, Stewart and Nyree Baxter, Erne Challenger Conceit by Willhome Challenger.