

## **Skipton Calves Auction brings winter cheer**

The New Year's arctic weather brought a welcome drop of winter cheer for David Smith, of Bent Farm, Sutton-in-Craven, who opted to attend Skipton Auction Mart's January Calves Show and Sale despite the big freeze - and then took the top honours as his British Blue-cross bull-calf was named champion by the judges.

The event helped 2010 get off to a lively start at Skipton Auction Mart. A large and impressive entry of well over 120 British Blue, Limousin, Native and Black and White bulls and heifers generated strong interest and equally strong prices.

The champion was bought for £400 by J. Kemp, of Mount Tabor, near Halifax, who also paid £400 for another British Blue bull, this time from A. Sowray & Son, of Bishop Thornton, Harrogate. The victor, David Smith, also sold an Aberdeen Angus heifer calf for £295 and a Limousin bull calf for £272.

Reserve champion, named by co-judges Robert Foster, of Bramham, and Peter Lambert, of Bedale, was a Simmental cross-bred heifer sent out by Carol Mellin, of Oakworth. This sold for £295 to Tony Binns, of Clint, near Harrogate, and Carol Mellin also saw a second heifer make £285.

With the prize classes divided into calves under six weeks, and stirks over six weeks, there were numerous prices well over £300 per head. Top breed prices paid were as follows: Bulls - Friesian/Holstein £220 (vender A.S.E Crisp of Airton), Red & White Hereford £235 (W. A. Brown of Earby), Limousin-cross £340 (D. Wells of Wilsden), Murray Grey-cross £122 (W. A. Brown, of Earby), Aberdeen Angus £280 (A. J. Ogden of Cowling and C. Mellin of Oakworth). Heifers - Limousin-cross £252 (F. Spence of Sutton), Belgian Blue-cross £352 (A. Sowray of Bishop Thornton).

The average price per head for calves in all classes – bulls and heifers - was £189.77.



*(Left to right) Judges Robert Foster and Peter Lambert with David Smith, of Sutton-in-Craven, and the Champion British Blue-cross bull calf.*