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More machinery falling to the hammer

Reflecting back over the year, Brown & Co auctioneer Ken Pritchard says farm machinery auctions are on the rise and reports an increase in prices fetched at the fall of the hammer.

Last year Brown & Co held 17 auctions on farms throughout East of England and the East Midlands with lots totalling over £2.5 million.

“The value of pre-owned farm machinery has remained stable over the last few years, particularly for well known manufacturers and where it has been well maintained,” says Ken Pritchard. “This year has seen increased activity – better commodity prices have enabled some farmers to take advantage of a window of opportunity and renew machinery which they’ve been unable to do for the last few years. Some of the sales have been subsequent to land and farm sales which have been strong in Lincolnshire, Cambridgeshire and Norfolk, particularly due to interest from overseas buyers.”

During the spring and autumn auction sales of 2007, some of the best prices achieved included a 2005 Massey Ferguson 7495 Tractor, which fell to the hammer for £35,100, and a 2004 JCB 533 60 Teleporter, which made £24,500 at a Brown & Co auction in Cambridgeshire. At recent Norfolk auction sales a 2005 New Holland TM190 Tractor fetched £24,000 and a 1997 Claas Lexion 450 Combine Harvester made £35,800. Meanwhile, at autumn auctions in Lincolnshire a 2003 Fendt 818 Tractor made £44,500, while a 1998 New Holland TX62 Combine Harvester fell to the hammer for £39,800.

Brown & Co’s ten-strong team of auctioneers are based at seven offices throughout the region serving an ever increasing geographical area. To satisfy the increasing demand for auction sales, the firm is training additional auctioneers from its land agency and agricultural business consultancy teams.

In 2008, Brown & Co's first auction is a large sale on 21 February at Friskney, near Boston, featuring arable machinery from a 1,650-acre farm. For further information, or to register to receive e-mail updates of future Brown & Co machinery auctions, visit brown-co.com.

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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.