

info Holstein

August/September 2014 issue no. 129

A Holstein Canada publication providing
informative, challenging, and topical news.



Sky's the Limit at Skycrest Holsteins:

A visit with Alberta's Crest Family

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Three generations of the Crest family with four generations of one Skycrest Cow family: (L to R) Skycrest Outside Lover EX-91-4E-CAN 2* with John, Skycrest Mailing Lifesaver EX-93-2E-CAN with Rob, Skycrest Lou Lip Smacker EX-92-2E-CAN with Katelyn and Skycrest Dempsey Lip Synch VG-85-2YR-CAN with Chad. Read more about the Crest family and their Skycrest herd on PAGE 8.

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by Holstein Canada President,
Mario Perreault, Saint-Esprit, Québec



Treasuring the Connections with Our Members



PRESIDENT MARIO on a visit to the farm chats with Dave McMorrow of Kawartha Holsteins during the summer Board meetings.

IN MY FIRST EDITORIAL, I highlighted Holstein Canada's great teamwork and the importance of maintaining this "team" mentality. While still keeping this objective in mind, I have discovered yet another great strength of our association: a real sense of belonging among our Holstein Canada members. What an invaluable strength!

This summer, I had the good fortune to connect with several Holstein Canada members in Ontario, Québec and Atlantic Canada. What a fantastic summer!

The adventures began on the shores of Lake Huron at the 75th anniversary of the Huron County Holstein Club. This milestone was celebrated at their annual Twilight meeting where we were among more than 550 people gathered at the superb Heather Holme Holsteins owned by the McNeil family. On the way back, we spent a wonderful afternoon visiting with the Pfister family of Ulmar Holsteins – a new Master Breeder herd this year. The following week, the Holstein Québec Picnic was held at Ferme Bofran in Dorchester County. 2,500 Holstein enthusiasts gathered together on a beautiful Saturday in July to visit this high-calibre and top genetic farm. We were proud to once again participate in this great annual Québec tradition!

Holstein Canada's presence at the Dairy Farmers of Canada (DFC) AGM in July did not go unnoticed. In addition to visiting yet another beautiful province and meeting some of our New Brunswick members, the national setting also allowed for productive conversations with directors from all provinces – many whom are also Holstein Canada members – in order to further promote our effective and invaluable

supply management system. We stressed the importance of continuing to harmonize all our efforts, and we reiterated Holstein Canada's commitment to working alongside DFC at both the Board and management levels.

Three years ago, the Holstein Board began the tradition of holding our summer Board meeting in a different region of our beautiful country each year. This year's meeting was held in Central Ontario where we had the opportunity to visit seven outstanding farms of all sizes and management styles and attend the Ontario Summer Show in Lindsay, ON where we took in the 4-H, Jersey and Holstein shows. The week began with our attendance at the Markvale Open House. Following a tragic barn fire last year that claimed both their barn and their Master Breeder herd, the Markus family made the decision to rebuild for the next generation. What an inspiration! Yet another example of the passion our members have for their work.

In August, we were back in beautiful Atlantic Canada on Prince Edward Island for the newly-revamped National Judging Conference. We had the opportunity to meet judges from each province, and to share information and hone skills to ensure dairy cattle judging remains relevant and consistent across the country. We are also very proud of the new Young Leader component added this year. Like our members, we are always thinking of the next generation!

You will notice that for each of these outings, I refer to "we" instead of "I." This is because at every member event and visit I have the pleasure of being accompanied by that region's Board members and by our CEO Ann Louise – and often by other members of our team as well. This is, of course, in addition to what my fellow Directors already do in their own regions.

As YOUR Board members and managers, it is our pleasure to put a lot of time and energy into attending events and meetings with you, our members, because these meetings allow us to exchange ideas and get a better sense of what you need from your Association. This is important to ensure our programs continue to meet your needs. We are listening to you, and seeing the pride you have in showcasing your superb herds and operations is a real bonus.

Up to this point, I have been traveling in Eastern Canada. This is just the way the schedule has worked so far this year. To our members in Western Canada – rest assured I will have the pleasure of visiting with you before the end of the year. In fact, 2015 is also shaping up to be a "western" year with our summer Board meeting and the DFC Annual meeting heading for your beautiful part of the country next year. 🇨🇦



ANN LOUISE and the Board of Directors visited with the Callaghan family of Maryland Farms in Ontario's Victoria County during their Summer Board meetings.

EVERY Member is important to us!

by Holstein Canada Chief Executive Officer, Ann Louise Carson

AS DAIRY FARMERS and industry professionals, we have a lot to be positive about and thankful for. As a rule, I tend to be a happy person. It's just who I am. I have the good fortune to work in an industry I was born into and absolutely love. When I travel across our beautiful country, the opportunity to meet with various members from coast to coast is certainly one of the "perks" of the job that provides a great deal of happiness and satisfaction for me as your CEO.

There are certain times though, when I meet with Holstein Canada members that I am reminded of the reality of who we are as an Association but also, where we've been and where we want to go in the future. It is disheartening for me when a dairy producer I visit says any of the following: "I am just a commercial farmer", "I don't show cattle", "My cows aren't good enough", "Why would you want to come to my farm?" or "I don't have Holsteins." These words go straight to my heart and it is disappointing to know some members feel this way. Please allow me to be very clear on my responses to the above statements:

- All dairy producers are commercial — commerce makes the world go round. Some people sell animals, while almost ALL Holstein producers sell top quality milk first and foremost. The labels "breeder" and "producer" are simply that, only labels — you are all business people.
- Shows are an important promotional tool for our breed and are also constructive networking and social events. However,

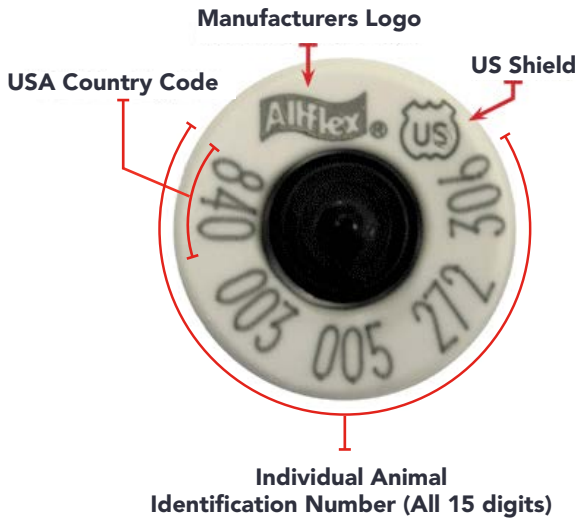
Holstein Canada's services are about increasing profitability at your farm — not just about red ribbons. Some producers participate and show; some are spectators and watch; and others don't participate at all. This is purely a personal decision of what works best for you and your breeding goals.

- Every farm has something we can all learn from — a great management practice, an interesting building feature, a special family story, an inspiring success along the way, a hope and dream, or a great piece of advice on how Holstein Canada can be more effective in today's world — the list is endless and we are proud of every one of our members.
- A good cow is a good cow. Holstein Canada is proud to classify all breeds, to currently register three breeds, and to sell NLID tags and offer genotesting to all dairy breeds. Whatever the colour of the cow, milk is the same colour. And that brings us back to the first statement.

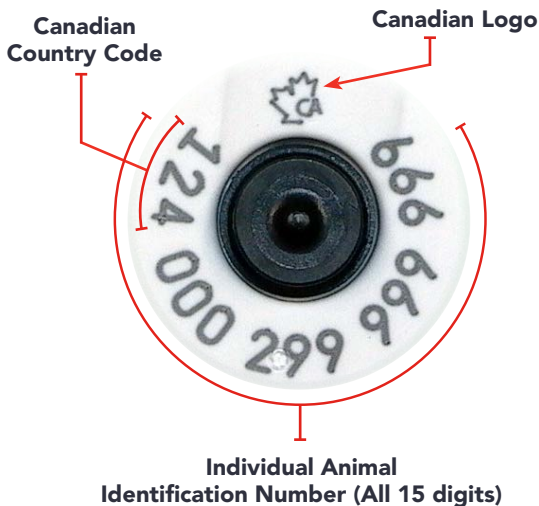
Please know Holstein Canada is here for you — to offer you services and support you in meeting your goals. These goals are diverse among our members, except for the one common goal: to continuously increase the profitability of our very functional Holstein cow in these changing times — and to be happy while doing it! 🇨🇦

Tagging USA - Imported Animals

FRONT - USA



FRONT - Canada



Official Canadian tags start with "124" and have a half maple leaf/CA logo on the tag representing the international numeric country code for Canada. The international recognized code for the US is "840" plus the US shield and cannot be reproduced on tags printed in Canada.

Good News! Effective July 1, 2014, the U.S. RFID ear tags with identification numbers beginning with "840" applied to bovine dairy animals are considered equivalent to approved Canadian tags.

UNDER CANADA'S HEALTH OF ANIMALS REGULATIONS, imported animals for dairy purposes must be identified with an approved Canadian tag or an official tag deemed equivalent to Canadian-approved tags regardless of the duration of their stay in Canada. Cattle imported for immediate slaughter do not need to be identified with an approved tag.

"Breeding cattle imported into Canada must have a tag applied before import or as soon as they arrive at initial destination under the national livestock identification program in accordance with section 189 of the Health of Animals Regulations" **unless they have been identified with a compliant "840" U.S. RFID tag.**

With this new ruling, recognizing "840" RFID U.S. tags for traceability in Canada will enhance the ability to manage health issues by maintaining the identity of livestock that crosses the Canadian border. It will also eliminate the need to insert another Canadian official tag to imported animals for dairy purposes.

NLID and ATQ require dual/security tagging for dairy in support of traceability and Holstein Canada for registration. In Québec, ATQ regulations require **double identification** of each calf, steer and cow raised in Québec and destined for human consumption to ensure the animal remains identified in the event of a lost tag.

What if?

The animal is identified with two official US tags starting with "840" (RFID button and visual panel tags).

The animal is only identified with an official US electronic button tag starting with "840".

The animal is not identified with official US RFID tags starting with "840".

What to do:

The owner does not need to re-identify the animal; no official Canadian tag needs to be purchased.

In Québec, the owner must complete the identification of the animal by affixing a blank tag with the same number written on it. For all other provinces, contact NLID to order your secondary tag.

In Québec, the owner must purchase a set of official Canadian tags from ATQ, or use a set from your tag inventory and report import event info to ATQ. For all other provinces, the owner must purchase a set of official Canadian tags from NLID, or use a set from your inventory and report the import event to CCIA.

If a registered animal is imported to Canada from the US for dairy purposes, the Associations exchange the herdbook data to support registration of future progeny. As part of this process, Holstein Canada will continue to report import events to CCIA.

STILL A MUST!

Information for imported cattle must be reported to Canadian Cattle Identification Agency (CCIA) within 30 days; Owners in Québec have seven (7) days to report animal information to ATQ!

WHAT TO REPORT:

Event type (i.e. import) and event date; destination and source of origin premises or account number; tag number and animal information (sex, birthdate).

WHERE TO REPORT:

- Report information to CCIA, or in Québec, to ATQ.

CCIA

- Online on CCIA website using CLTS file upload: www.canadaid.ca
- Online Tutorial: <http://support.canadaid.ca/wp-content/uploads/13A-Imported-840-Tags.pdf>
- Call CCIA directly at 1-877-909-2333.

ATQ (QUEBEC ONLY)

- Online, using ATQ Direct, or by using Form CLIC software.
- Call ATQ directly at 1-866-270-4319.
- Fax or mail your duly completed form to ATQ.

* The requirement to report "Import" events applies to all dairy cattle bearing an "840" tag or not.

U.S. RFID Tag Loss

If a dairy animal loses its official US electronic button tag starting with "840", or both US tags (electronic and visual) beginning with "840":

The owner must purchase a set of official Canadian tags from NLID (or ATQ if in Québec) or use a set from the owner's inventory. Canadian approved tags with the marking "USA" will no longer be available or required to be applied.

If a dairy animal loses its visual US panel tag starting with "840":

In Québec, the owner must complete the identification of his animal by affixing a blank tag and write the same number on it. For all other provinces contact NLID to order a secondary panel.

Replacing lost "840" tags with "124" official tags requires the animal's owner to report both numbers to the administrator database so the numbers can be cross referenced.

840

Benefits of Having Dual Tagging for dairy with RFID button and visual tag with matching unique number:

1. Enhances visual recognition of animal for herd management.
2. Harmonizes herd management ID systems for dairy in Canada.
3. Ensures a back-up in case of tag loss; security tagging for dairy; and one number for the life of the animal.





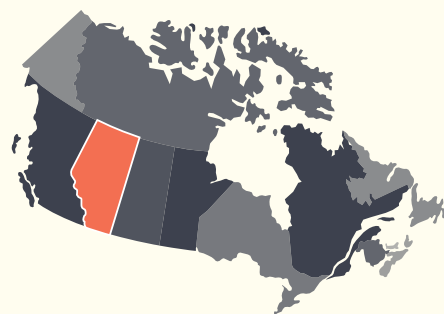
The Skycrest "Girls" at Calgary Spring Show — just one of many shows across Canada and the US the Crest Family participates in each year.

(Photo by: Sue Crest)

Sky's the Limit at Skycrest

By Erin Loogman

Located 150 km north of Edmonton, near the town of Athabasca, Alberta, is Skycrest Holsteins – a 5th generation dairy farm operated by John and Vicky Crest and Rob and Sue Crest and their children Chad (23) and Katelyn (20). In addition to the dairy operation, the Crests farm 2,200 acres of grain, 500 acres of hay, and have 240 acres of pasture land.



RANKING IN THE TOP 10 Classifying Herds in Canada for farms with 40-59 registrations per year, the family is very proud of their herd with a current classification of 13 ME, 6 EX, 55 VG and 16 GP, and an average BCA of 210-223-203. About 10 years ago, the Crests converted their existing free-stall operation to a 66-cow tie-stall facility to increase the efficiency of their breeding program. The family is very active on the show circuit and has been showing cattle

for over 35 years. They are long-time Holstein Canada members, with John Crest receiving his 30-year Veteran Member pin from Holstein Canada just last year. The Crest family has also been awarded Alberta's Breeder of the Year twice – once in 2005 and again in 2013. Recently, we met with the Crest family to talk about Skycrest's success and the family's goals for the future.

MORE ON NEXT PAGE >



University of Alberta graduate, Erin Loogman, sits down for a chat with the Crest family — 2013 Alberta Breeder of the Year.

ERIN LOOGMAN (EL): To what or whom can you attribute the success of the herd in recent years?

CREST FAMILY (CF): We would have to say Rob's dad (John) has certainly contributed a lot to our success with the Skycrest breeding program – he has keen cow sense and enjoys breeding cows with big frames, good feet and great udders. It's a lot easier to breed a better cow when you have good bones to work from. Along the same lines, we are always very thankful to our parents for their support and manpower at home as we head off on the road to many shows year-after-year. Also contributing to the success is sire selection. Selecting bulls mostly for type has also helped us achieve our breeding goals.

EL: What are some of your breeding goals for the farm?

CF: We dream of one day receiving our Master Breeder Shield from Holstein Canada, as well as someday winning Premier Breeder at the National Holstein Show at the Royal.

EL: Is there a particular cow family or bull that has most impacted your herd?

CF: Significant cow families within our herd are *Riview BC Noelle* and *Skycrest Highlight Sasha*. Both families have produced several generations of high type cows that last for many lactations in our herd. Sires that have positively impacted our herd are *Sanchez, Damion, and Blitz*.

EL: What sort of reproductive technologies are you incorporating into your breeding program?

CF: Embryo Transfer has been a huge success for us. We currently implant about 80% of our heifers with eggs from our top proven breeding cow families. This has allowed our top cow families to flourish.

EL: I understand your family shows cattle all over Canada. How would you suggest others get involved in the show circuit?

CF: Our suggestion for someone wanting to get involved is to have your children join 4-H. It's a great program and has so much to offer. If that is not an option, or you don't have kids, take the plunge and take an animal or two out to the show. This industry is very willing to help out newbies! Another way would be to

MORE ON NEXT PAGE >



The Crest family left to right: Chad, Sue, Vicky, John, Rob and Katelyn.



Herd favourite and the herd's highest scoring Two-Year-Old: Skycrest Seaver Prairie Chick VG-88-2YR-CAN 1st Sr. Two-Year-Old and Res. Grand Champion 2014 Alberta Dairy Congress.

offer to help out a show herd and learn the ropes that way.

EL: What shows do you normally attend in Canada or the US? Are there any more that you aspire to attend in the future?

CF: We usually attend shows here in Alberta, as well as in Saskatchewan, British Columbia and Manitoba. We also attend the Royal Winter Fair in Toronto, and just recently we have begun attending World Dairy Expo in Madison, Wisconsin. This is probably the extent of our showing; at this point we don't foresee us trying to get to any others in the future.

EL: Where do you see your farm in the next 5-10 years, and what other goals do you have for the future?

CF: On the cow side, in the future we are hoping to receive more Lifetime Production Awards and Star Brood Cow Awards. From a farm standpoint, we hope that in a few years our children and their families will want to join the farm business and continue the Skycrest breeding.

EL: If there is interest from the next generation to continue with the operation, how do you plan to bring them into the business?

CF: Our thought would be to first make sure the operation is capable of taking on more people. If not, the size of the operation may need to be increased to support another family or partner. Additionally, we think it would be wise to form a company because of the additional tax benefits. Discussing financials with an accountant would also be helpful, as they can prepare any loans or other documents for the next generation when they are ready to come into the business.

EL: Why do you feel membership with a breed organization, such as Holstein Canada is important?

CF: We feel membership is important as it is essential to keep all producers active and aware of what is going on with the association and in the industry.

EL: What Holstein Canada service or program do you feel is the most valuable to your farm and why?

CF: We feel classification is a valuable program as it provides accurate data on a bull's offspring to ensure accurate proofs are calculated. It also builds pedigrees allowing greater marketability of both females and males. Additionally, we like to see how our herd is doing compared to the national average. It was rewarding to see our herd ranked in the Top 10 Classifying Herds in Canada for the 40-59 registrations per year. We are also very impressed with the Young Leader Program – It's awesome to see our youth travelling; being involved with others who have similar interests; and taking part in meetings, events and shows around the world.

EL: Where do you see the dairy industry in the future?

CF: We see the industry continuing to move towards more robotic operations, and herd size continuing to increase, with these herds more focused on a more commercialized breeding philosophy.

EL: If you could offer one piece of advice to young dairy men and women to make their operation profitable, what would it be?

CF: Breed and buy young cows with the ability to milk. The longevity of your animals is also important so they last more than one or two lactations. It's not profitable to always be buying replacement animals! 🐄



Skycrest Breeder's Herd at Calgary Spring Show.



The milking row in the Crest's recently renovated tie stall barn.


2014 NATIONAL JUDGING CONFERENCE

Charlottetown, PE.I August 5-7, 2014

2014 NATIONAL JUDGING CONFERENCE: Leading the Way in Dairy Cattle Judging

EVERY THREE YEARS, 50 of Canada's top judges gather for the National Judging Conference. These judges are selected by their respective provincial branches and participate in two very full days of in-class and practical judging sessions geared at honing their skills as a judge.

This year's conference was one of firsts in several very notable ways beginning with the location. Held in beautiful Charlottetown, PE, this is the first time the National Judging Conference has been held in Atlantic Canada. The addition of 10 Young Leader judges this year brought a lot of fresh perspective and discussion during both the in-class and practical sessions as well. Likewise, for the first time, three senior classifiers were on-hand to discuss the functionality of traits sparking great discussion during the in-class session as well as throughout the practical judging exercise.

Everyone in attendance agreed the Canadian Holstein cow is the best she has ever been and that Canadian judges are leading the way in selecting and supporting the right type of animal that best represents the Holstein breed. Judges also provided productive feedback in helping to develop key ideas to be included when Holstein Canada develops a national show and judging strategy in late 2014-early 2015. The National Judging Conference serves an important step to ensuring our Holstein Canada judges are trained on relevant topics to be the best they can be, not only as judges, but as ambassadors for the Holstein industry. 



Young Leader Pipeline Profile



JOEL HUIZING AND HIS FAMILY milk 200 cows in a sand-bedded free-stall barn and crop 200 acres in BC's Fraser Valley. The farm is operated by Joel, his dad, two full-time and two part-time employees. The farm is proud to have received the DHI High Herd award for 175+ cows three out of the last four years. Active in his dairy community, Joel is a Director on the local DHI Banquet Committee and has participated in Holstein Canada's Young Leader Program at Convention. Joel plans to continue dairy farming while continually looking for ways to improve efficiency and working towards earning a top herd management score from DHI.

1 **WHAT IS IT ABOUT DAIRY FARMING THAT MADE YOU WANT TO CONTINUE WITH A CAREER AS A DAIRY PRODUCER?**

When I was given my own responsibilities on the farm, it started to become less of a "job" and more of a lifestyle. Setting goals in areas that need improvement and implementing strategies to reach those goals is a challenge I like, and being able to look back and see improvement is rewarding. Also, the variety of work is tough to beat. Taking a break from the barn chores and getting out in the field is something I always enjoy.

2 **WHAT TYPES OF WORKSHOPS OR PROGRAMS DO YOU FEEL ARE THE MOST BENEFICIAL TO YOU AND OTHER YOUNG PRODUCERS AS YOU START OUT IN THE INDUSTRY?**

I think succession planning workshops are time well-spent. Also, workshops that just go over the basics can be beneficial. These workshops address areas that often get overlooked, but provoke participants to take a good look at their everyday operations: How is your milking system maintenance and performance or are you cleaning water troughs enough?

3 **WHAT ARE SOME IDEAS YOU HAVE FOR INCREASING YOUR OPERATIONS EFFICIENCY?**

From a herd standpoint, we are really focusing on transition cows by lowering stocking density and doing our best to maximize Dry Matter Intake. Those pre/post 21 days can make or break the next lactation. As far as equipment goes, I like the concept of a self-propelled TMR mixer. Feeding equipment is used every day so there is a lot of potential for fuel and labour savings, as well as improving feeding accuracy.

4 **WHAT DO YOU THINK IS THE MOST SIGNIFICANT CHALLENGE FACING THE NEXT GENERATION OF DAIRY PRODUCERS?**

Definitely consumer awareness!

5 **WHAT IS ONE WAY YOU CAN HELP BETTER EDUCATE CONSUMERS ABOUT OUR INDUSTRY?**

Inviting people to see the farm is a good way to educate consumers. We have people come out to the farm if they want to see a cow give birth, and we have also done a few tours with school groups and day cares.

6 **DESCRIBE YOUR IDEAL COW!**

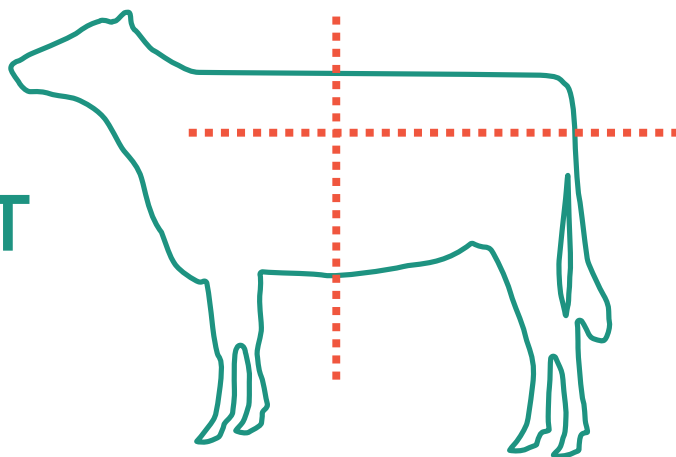
My ideal cow is a well-balanced, medium-sized cow, who has positive deviations in milk and components over the herd and breeds back quickly with minimal health issues. 🐄



Joel Huizing
HUSO
Abbotsford, BC

RESEARCH PROJECT BEGINS:

Evaluating Heifers



WITH A COMMITMENT to genetic improvement and dairy producer profitability, Holstein Canada has embarked on an exciting 18-month research initiative. The objectives of the study are to assess heifer conformation at breeding age in order to **(1)** enhance first breeding and first lactation conformation evaluation; **(2)** extend management information as a tool for producers regarding heifer rearing; and **(3)** discover the most appropriate use of physical evaluations in conjunction with genomic testing at a young age.

The conformation data collected as a part of this research project will be combined with the existing animal records to facilitate meaningful research on heifer development. As such, herds were selected during the month of August based on **(1)** accurate and consistent herd records for registration, performance (classification

and milk testing), health and genomics; and **(2)** farm location and herd size (a sufficient number of heifers to minimize number of visits required).

There will be no cost to the producer to collect the heifer data other than the time required to open their doors for the evaluation process for 1-2 days. Senior classifiers will be assessing approximately 2,000 breeding age heifers throughout September and October 2014. Initial data analysis will be shared with the Classification Advisory Committee and Board of Directors during the winter months. These 2,000 heifers will be followed through breeding and into first lactation when their first official classification will be conducted as a lactating animal. Data analysis will continue until the end of 2015. 🐄

20th Anniversary

19 great cows have gone before...

Who will be next?

Nominations for the **20TH ANNUAL COW OF THE YEAR** contest are now open! For official competition rules and selection criteria, visit www.holstein.ca. Nominations close: **Friday, October 24, 2014.**

NOMINATIONS CAN BE SUBMITTED VIA:

The online nomination form found on Holstein.ca or fax at 519.756.5878



LPI Modifications On Hold



LAST FALL AND WINTER, Holstein Canada consulted producers in order to garner feedback on how they wished to modify the LPI formula. At that time, the resulting changes were intended to be implemented in April 2014. In February 2014, CDN held a Strategic Planning session with industry partners and as a result, the CDN Board put all modifications to the LPI formula on hold to allow time for the investigation of a possible second selection index related to profitability.

The CDN Board already approved an increased emphasis of 5% to the Health and Fertility component of the LPI, as well as the addition of the new Mastitis Resistance

index instead of the three traits used to predict udder health, namely somatic cell score, udder depth and milking speed. Furthermore, no decision was made as to which section(s) to remove the 5% emphasis or any additional modifications to traits within the sections.

For the past few months, CDN has been analyzing the relationships between bull proofs and actual daughter profit. The goal of this research is (1) to assess the strength of the relationship between profit and the current LPI; and (2) to determine the combination of traits which are the most predictive of daughter profit.

Producers and industry partners will have the opportunity to learn the results of this investigation and ask questions at the CDN Dairy Cattle Improvement Industry Forum in Alliston, ON. on September 23rd and at the Open Industry Session for the Genetic Evaluation Board on October 21st in Guelph, ON. Formal decisions about whether to proceed (or not) with a second national selection index will be tabled at the October GEB meeting and subsequent December CDN Board meeting. Earliest possible implementation of a new selection index or modifications to the LPI would be April 2015. 🇨🇦

Call for National Director Nominations

THIS FALL, there will be a call for nominations for National Directors in the Electoral Districts listed below. Clubs located in these districts will receive official notification of the call in September, and nominations will close **December 8th, 2014**. Ballots will be mailed out to all voting members in the districts with more than one candidate by January 8th, 2015 and voting will close on February 8th, 2015. The criteria for National Director eligibility can be found in the Association By-laws on Holstein.ca and nomination forms can be obtained from your local Holstein Club, Provincial Branch or by contacting Catherine McGill at cmcgill@holstein.ca or 1-855-756-8300 ext. 241. 🇨🇦

Nominations for Electoral Districts in 2015

- Western Québec
- Eastern Ontario (Director Retiring)
- Central Ontario
- British Columbia (Director Retiring)
- Eastern Québec
- Atlantic Canada
- Western Ontario

Congratulations!



CONGRATULATIONS to the Whale family of Clovermead Farms Inc. in Alma, ON on receiving the 2014 Dairy Farm Sustainability Award presented by Dairy Farmers of Canada and sponsored by DeLaval. The Whale family milks 150 head of registered Holsteins and farms 475 acres in Ontario's Wellington County. The farm's mission statement reads: "Clovermead Farms strives to sustainably produce milk profitably, and have fun doing it!" This is a perfect summation of the family recognized for their continued efforts in reducing their farm's environmental footprint. Scan the QR code with your smartphone device to learn more about their on-farm sustainability practices. 🇨🇦



Congratulations to Holstein Canada member Clovermead Farms for winning the 2014 Dairy Farm Sustainability Award at the DFC AGM. From left to right: Wally Smith, DFC president, Kelly and Korb Whale of Clovermead Farms, and Jason Cleveland, DeLaval Canada. (Photo Courtesy of: CNW Group/ DFC)


Keep In Touch With Us



HOLSTEIN CANADA REQUESTS YOUR CONSENT as a means of keeping you up-to-date on information regarding Holstein Canada programs and services. Holstein Canada currently sends media releases and news bulletins via email. This is an efficient way to make sure our news and important information reaches our large audience of members, clients and industry supporters as quickly as possible.

AS OF JULY 1ST, 2014, CANADA'S NEW ANTI-SPAM LAW (CASL) TOOK EFFECT.

In light of this new law, Holstein Canada must have express consent to continue sending you media releases, news bulletins and other pertinent Holstein Canada information.

If you are not an active Holstein Canada member and wish to continue receiving Holstein Canada communications via email, please send an email to strategiccommunications@holstein.ca 

NOTE: You may withdraw your consent and unsubscribe from our communications at any time.

TOP SIRES ACCORDING TO AVERAGE FINAL SCORE OF 1ST LACTATION DAUGHTERS

Based on 1st Lactation Classifications from May/June 2014

Top 10 Sires with 100+ Daughters Classified in Two-Month Period

Top 10 Sires with 30-100 Daughters Classified in Two-Month Period

Sire	Daughters Classified	Avg. Daus Score	Avg. Dam Score	Sire	Daughters Classified	Avg. Daus Score	Avg. Dam Score
DEMPSEY	325	81.92	81.47	DUPLEX	48	81.77	82.04
SID	418	81.87	82.09	DAMION	48	81.46	81.96
WINDBROOK	777	81.42	81.78	GUTHRIE	50	81.44	81.58
SEAVER	166	81.13	80.73	SEAGUAL	64	80.53	79.91
FEVER	700	80.73	80.74	SHOT	45	80.49	79.84
REGINALD	204	80.60	80.22	BALTIMOR	83	80.48	79.65
ALTAIOTA	158	80.17	79.89	ALTADAZZLER	83	80.43	80.25
STEADY	469	79.85	80.13	ALTAEXTREME	50	80.42	80.60
JORDAN	360	79.84	80.36	BUTZE	35	80.34	79.69
LADNER	217	79.69	79.78	LONGTIME	39	80.31	79.10

NOTE: Daughters are included in the statistics only if both the daughter and her dam calved for the first time before 30 months and were both first classified within the first six months of lactation. Sires listed must have >=50% of daughters that improve in score over the dam.

CLASSIFICATION SCHEDULE

MID-ROUND **MR**

SEPTEMBER

ON Dundas, Stormont, Glengarry, Niagara, Wentworth, Brant
 ON **MR** Perth
 QC Compton, Richmond, Missisquoi
 QC **MR** Rivière du Loup, Témiscouata, Rimouski, Matapédia, Matane, Bonaventure, Arthabaska, Mégantic, Wolfe

EARLY

ON Haldimand, Norfolk, Russell
 QC Stanstead, Sherbrooke
 BC **MR**

MID

ON Prescott, Carleton
 ON **MR** Leeds, Grenville, Renfrew, Lanark
 QC Frontenac, Beauce
 QC **MR** Lotbinière, Nicolet, Yamaska, Drummond

LATE

OCTOBER

ON **MR** Grey, Bruce, Huron, Halton, York, Peel, Simcoe, Dufferin, Ontario
 QC Dorchester
 QC **MR** Abitibi, Témiscamingue

EARLY

ON Lambton
 QC Lévis, Québec & Montmorency
 QC **MR** Bagot, Saint-Hyacinthe, Labelle, Papineau, Gatineau, Argenteuil, Pontiac, Deux-Montagnes, Terrebonne
 AB South/Central

MID

ON Middlesex, Essex & Kent, Elgin
 ON **MR** Northumberland, Lennox & Addington, Frontenac, Hastings, Prince Edward
 QC **MR** Richelieu, Verchères, Rouville
 AB Northern
 MB

LATE

NOVEMBER

ON **MR** Peterborough
 QC Bellechasse, Montmagny

EARLY

ON Oxford
 ON **MR** Victoria, Durham, Waterloo
 QC L'Islet, Kamouraska
 QC **MR** L'Assomption, Montcalm, Joliette, Berthier, Maskinongé, Saint-Maurice, Champlain, Laviolette, Portneuf, Lac Saint-Jean, Roberval, Lapointe, Dubuc, Charlevoix, Chicoutimi

MID

PE, NB, NS, NL **MR**

Selection for Mastitis Resistance: Now a Reality!



By Lysay Beavers, Industry Liaison
Services Coordinator, CDN.

IN AUGUST 2014, CDN began publishing official genetic evaluations for Mastitis Resistance. This tool will allow producers to simultaneously select for resistance to clinical mastitis and sub-clinical mastitis.

The index equally combines evaluations for three traits:

1. Clinical Mastitis in first lactation cows
2. Clinical Mastitis for cows in later lactations
3. Somatic Cell Score (SCS) evaluated across the first three lactations

The heritability of Mastitis Resistance is estimated at 12%, indicating genetic selection is possible. Proofs for Mastitis Resistance have a desirable correlation of 79% with current proofs for SCS, as well as correlations of 85% and 90% respectively, for clinical mastitis in first versus later lactations. Interestingly, SCS as a measure of sub-clinical

mastitis, has only a moderate desirable association with clinical mastitis in first and later lactations (44% and 58% respectively). To assist producers in understanding the expected response achievable in their herd when considering sire proofs for Mastitis Resistance, the table provides a "translation" in terms of average daughter performance.

When used in a typical herd with average management, an average bull with a rating of 100 for Mastitis Resistance is expected to produce daughters that will have SCS averaging 178,000, 226,000 and 292,000 in each of the first three lactations, respectively. In addition, 92% of the daughters in first lactation are not expected to have clinical mastitis and this decreases slightly to 88% for later lactations. Bulls that are better than breed average receive a Mastitis Resistance evaluation higher than 100 and are expected to produce daughters that are less susceptible to

both sub-clinical and clinical mastitis.

The arrival of Mastitis Resistance provides producers with an advanced tool for genetic selection against clinical and subclinical mastitis. The larger number of progeny proven Holstein sires with an official Mastitis Resistance allows the breed to benefit from genomic evaluations for this important trait. The publication of Mastitis Resistance will not replace the availability of genetic evaluations for SCS, though producers should move towards using this new index when making selection decisions to reduce the overall incidence of mastitis in their herds. 🇨🇦

Expected Average Daughter Performance Associated with a Sire's Mastitis Resistance Index

MASTITIS RESISTANCE INDEX	CLINICAL MASTITIS		SOMATIC CELL COUNT ('000)		
	% Healthy in First Lactation	% Healthy in Later Lactations	First Lact. Average	Second Lact. Average	Third Lact. Average
115	96%	95%	144	144	195
110	95%	93%	149	167	216
105	93%	90%	160	194	248
100	92%	88%	178	226	292
95	91%	86%	202	262	348
90	89%	84%	233	303	415
85	88%	81%	271	348	494



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