

Info Holstein



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

Incorporating
Non-Purebred Genetics 3
Dairy Culls
Mean Beef 4
Traceability 6
National Health Program 8
Royal Updates 10

We Need Your Input

In an effort to optimize the effectiveness of Holstein Canada in future, the Board of Directors has decided to embark on a comprehensive, strategic planning exercise.

The Board has contracted Sandi L. Humphrey & Associates to guide it through this important and timely undertaking.

Your opinion is the foundation to formulating a relevant strategic direction for the Association.

This month, all members will receive a survey, which asks several pertinent questions on programs and services offered by Holstein Canada. Additionally, we want to know your level of satisfaction in how these services are delivered.

We also want to obtain a greater sense of the challenges you currently face, or those you anticipate in coming years. Of course, there will be a few additional questions related to member demographics.

Your answers will help Holstein Canada to:

- develop products, services, and programs, of which you find value;
- provide you [members and customers of Holstein Canada] with what you need and want;
- make informed decisions based on your views; and
- create high customer satisfaction.

When the survey arrives in the mail, please take 10-15 minutes to complete and return it in the enclosed, addressed envelope.

The survey can also be submitted electronically through Holstein Canada's website at www.holstein.ca by clicking on **Survey**. This link will take you directly to the survey, with your input advancing directly to the Consultant for analysis.

Your candid and considered views will help us ensure that you continue to benefit from the programs and services provided by Holstein Canada.

By completing Holstein Canada's survey, directors and staff will have a better handle on the programs and services that meet your needs, resulting in increased animal and herd profitability.



Yes. Test for Leukosis and Johnes.

by Holstein Canada President Brian Leach, Cobden, ON

There appears to be a common thread to questions posed at provincial and club meetings this year.

“Should I test my herd for Leukosis and Johnes?”

“Should I aim to have my herd designated Leukosis and Johnes-negative? Is it worth the effort and expense?”

My answer is **yes!**

Firstly, consumers are quoted daily in newspapers as wanting to know where their food comes from. Healthy cows produce a healthy product.

Secondly, it will be beneficial for exporting live animals in future. For example, while the European Union is now open to Canadian cattle, they must be Leukosis-free and presently

from CHAH herds (CFIA criteria supported by Canada and EU). We must position ourselves for the future, and never think these Production Limiting Diseases will disappear on their own!

We have Blood Eliza available as one way of testing. Coming soon from milk recording agencies is Milk Eliza, which will screen for production-limiting diseases, including Johnes and Leukosis.

Attention to hygiene is also critical while eartagging, tattooing, dehorning, needling, and during AI breeding/pregnancy checks.

Moreover, **Best Management Practices** must be adapted to prevent infection and halt transmission



between animals. These include 1) isolating positive cows; 2) removing calves from positive cows while wet, before nursing; 3) giving separated calves high-quality colostrum from negative-tested cows, or feeding pasteurized milk; and 4) removing positive animals from the herd.

As producers, we must supply quality milk from healthy cows on well-managed farms.



(rear l-r) Glen Brown, Brian Leach (President HC), John Meyer (Executive Secretary USA), John Iversen, Thomas Thorbahn, and Larry Tande (VP USA)
(front l-r) Gordon Cook, Glen McNeil, Germain Lehoux (VP HC), Doug Maddox (President USA), and Keith Flaman (Secretary-Manager HC)

Canada/US Associations Meet

The Executives of the American and Canadian Holstein Associations recently convened for their biennial meeting. It was held February 5, 6 in Brattleboro VT, where the American head office is located.

The purpose of the gatherings is to bring each other up to date on matters of mutual concern and to *crystal ball* issues of the future, and their potential impact. Discussions are open, frank,

and very informative. The parallels between the organizations are quite remarkable, as one might expect.

The meeting started by sharing updates regarding efforts within each country on Johnes control programs, eradication of Tuberculosis, and progress with national animal identification and traceability. With a consensus on food safety, animal health and bio-security issues continue

to move up the priority list.

Show topics always make their way to the table when the two Associations meet. The non-milking Senior Yearling Class, show preparation and, of course, ethics were the main points of exchange.

The Executive Committees were updated by US staff on a proposed process for exchanging data in a more timely and efficient way. Other topics of discussion included genomics, classification of higher-scoring excellent cows, as well as the all-breeds classification system employed in Canada.

The meeting concluded with questions on the Canadian Milk Marketing system. American dairy producers are losing money because of low milk prices and high input costs. Regulating milk supply to provide some price stability is an option, which some in the American dairy industry feel is worth pursuing.

There was mutual agreement on the benefit of engaging in fruitful dialogue every two years. As usual, the American Association was an excellent host.

Incorporating Non-Purebred Genetics

Producers must be vigilant—know all lineage particulars of marketed sires and how progeny will be registered.

Holstein Canada's Herdbook Scale for registering animals is based on four distinct categories—**Purebred, Percentage, Recorded** and, more recently, **Crossbred**.

There are **steps** or **levels** within in each category.

other breed) require **three** additional generations (F1, F2, and F3) before progeny qualify for BB in Canada's Recorded category; BB is considered the base or foundation Holstein.

The Swiss bull, *Savard ET Red*, is a perfect example. He is red, has an interesting mix of genetics, and is viewed as 92% Holstein in Europe. However, he has an 8% Simmental component. The third dam is 50% Simmental, and slots into Holstein

Herdbook.

All RHA-I progeny will be registered at their qualifying level, respective of dam, but never higher than 99% RHA-I. These are animals of entirely or partly-foreign lineage; ancestry cannot be traced to Holstein origin.

All genetics, regardless of origin, are processed in like manner as if originating from, and first registered in Canada's Full Spectrum Registry—full disclosure and one standard for all!

Full Spectrum Registration (FSR) Scale

Category	Steps/Levels	Lineage
Crossbred	XX / F1 XX / F2 (2 nd generation) XX / F3 (3 rd generation)	HO x ? (sire or dam typical of another breed; two breeds' scenario) (XX continues for two generations when mated to Holstein (progeny eligible for BB))
Recorded (Entry level)	BB	Base/foundation Holstein typical of breed (dam or sire or birth date may not be registered, and/or birth date not verified) progeny of F3
Percentage (Grading-up)	50 62.5 75 87.5 93.75	Average of assigned purity of sire and dam typical of breed Males only—one additional generation typical of breed
Purebred		
Females	100	Minimum 93.75 step/level typical of breed
Males	100	Minimum 96.87 step/level typical of breed
Herdbook of Origin (no gaps)	100	All purebreds equate to 100 for categorization purposes.

Canada's Crossbred category F1.

Therefore, in Canada, *Savard* is entry level BB in the Recorded category. If mated to a Purebred Holstein, *Savard's* male and female progeny would be registered in the Percentage category at Step 50.

Herdbooks can be more restrictive in maintaining the wishes and decisions of their memberships.

Savard ET Red is not a 100% purebred Holstein. Male and female progeny will be registered at the 50% level when mated to a purebred Holstein in Holstein Canada's Herdbook.



Savard ET Red BB
(91.8% HO + 8.2 SIM)

Savard's Sire Pedigree	Maral Juror Brad PB Holstein	Ked Juror PB	Blackstar PB
		Marla PB	Justine PB
Savard's Dam Pedigree	Penza ET F3 (83.6% HO + 16.4% SIM)	Storm PB	Leadman PB
		Polesie Red F2 (67.2% HO + 32.8% SIM)	Marina PB
			Aerostar PB
			Dewdrop PB
			Jonn ET Red F3 (84.5% HO + 15.5% SIM)
			Pigalle Red F1 (50% HO + 50% SIM)

The percentage of breed inheritance, in the European Union sense, is *not* applicable in Holstein Canada's Percentage category. All animals in this Percentage category are considered to be from Holstein lineage, including those graded-up from the Recorded level.

Animals originating from crossbreeding (involving at least one

Savard is enrolled within Holstein USA as 92% RHA-I (Registered Holstein Ancestry-International), in accordance with its Herdbook scale. *Savard's* Simmental lineage is addressed through its crossbreeding section, which is quite separate from the RHA-NA (Registered Holstein Ancestry-North American) purebred

The Canadian Animal Pedigree Act governs the requirements respecting percentage and purebred eligibility. The recorded and crossbred categories ensure eligibility of graded-up, percentage-category animals. These are minimum standards respecting purebred eligibility.

Dairy Culls Mean Beef—nothing more!

When you don't know the reason an animal is being sold, you run the risk of introducing disease into your herd. This could seriously affect herd health and profitability.

Never buy from the beef ring! Animals consigned to this ring are there for a good reason.

You should always demand a guarantee that an animal did not come from the beef ring. If the deal is too good to be true ... it usually is!

The original seller has designated that his dairy cull be sold for slaughter for good reason. He knows its health status and wants this animal removed from his ownership and further dairy production.

While potential risks may not be obvious from the ring sidelines, in all likelihood, you put your herd in danger when you introduce this discarded animal.

When purchasing any animal, investigate its background

The best advice is to never purchase a dairy cow originating from a beef ring and re-introduce her into a dairy operation!

thoroughly, especially now that the Canadian Quality Milk Program has been introduced. Following its regulations, you are obliged to test new animals for inhibitors before shipping milk. You are not to ship milk unless tests are negative with results documented. As well, you are encouraged to get a letter of guarantee from the previous owner.

Best Management Practices include 1) preventing the introduction of infectious disease or diseased animals, 2) avoiding the



While this cull dairy cow selling in the beef ring may look like she has potential, she has been consigned to this particular ring for good reason. What you can't see is her sub-clinical mastitis or reproductive problems. How could you justify the risk of introducing this cow into your herd or misrepresenting her to someone else?

spread of common diseases, and 3) determining if any purchased animals contain chemical residues (e.g. antibiotics, inhibitors) or broken needles.

Registration Certificates often accompany cull cows to the beef ring as age verification and to access the US cull market. However, the Certificate should never be passed on or applied for any other reason.

To protect reputations and meet health requirements, many auction marts pre-screen cull cows and simply send problem individuals directly to the abattoir. Furthermore, the auction marts must not jeopardize their BMPs by channelling a beef-standard animal through the dairy ring.

It remains an offence to tamper or remove lifetime, national tags from any animals at any time, including those destined for beef auction. As well as animals, it is unacceptable for people and organizations to attempt to be anonymous when dealing cattle.

Everyone has a responsibility and an ethical role to play in cull-cow transactions. However, the best advice is to never purchase a dairy cow originating from a beef ring and re-introduce her into a dairy operation!

Animals must maintain their national tags with lifetime number at all times.

Another option ... if a cull animal is meant for beef and you want to be completely disassociated with it, ship it directly to the abattoir!

Upon sale, the seller relinquishes all rights and controls over the animal being culled for beef.

Impossible Solution Found

by Secretary-Manager Keith Flaman

Henry Ford listened to his design engineers, as they informed him that a certain problem could not be resolved to his specifications. When they were finished, he stated, "If you think you can or you think you can't, you will be successful." The story goes on to report that within weeks, the impossible solution was found.

Why is it so easy to see the reasons why something can't be done, and so difficult to find the reasons to do it?

Why do we crawl in the ditch with the crowd, rather than courageously taking the high road?

Why do we gravitate to the point of least resistance, trying to avoid conflict and make everyone feel good, knowing that a lack of resolution demoralizes everyone?

It's all about choice!

We choose to be positive or negative, to be progressive or stagnant, to grow and evolve, or to resent and be bitter. We choose whether to build instead of undermine.

We can spend a lifetime blowing out other peoples' candles to make ours seem the brightest. Or, we can help to light more candles and make everyone's world a little brighter.

These difficult times require dynamic leadership. Strong leadership must rise above all petty issues and lead through these times with focus and resolve.

Leaders must exemplify hope of a better tomorrow. Yesterday's solutions will not fix tomorrow's problems, although the experience can form the basis for the answer.

Challenge your organizations to soldier on. Let them know when they have done good things, but also when they could have done things better. It's that report card that will improve the service that you deserve.

Come on Down ... Under

Young, keen, and want to visit Australia and New Zealand for three months?

One lucky dairy enthusiast aged 18-25 will enjoy the experience of a lifetime from January to March 2010.

This *rip snorter* exchange program is offered by Holstein Canada and Semex Alliance.

Last year's winner, Carl Barclay, Maple Ridge, BC, reports from Australia, "This trip has been full of fantastic opportunities to see the country and learn about Australia and New Zealand's dairy industries."

Carl's exchange program began late December. Celebrating New Year's Eve in Sydney, Carl says, "This was a great way to kick off 2009!"

His journey took him to Melbourne, where he attended the National All-Breeds Dairy Youth camp as a youth leader. Then, he was off to Total Livestock Genetics to take bull photos and view the legendary Ladino Park

Talent-Imp ET (shipped as embryo from *Shoremar* with 100% Canadian blood). Carl observes, "He looks good at 11 years of age!"

Carl attended the International Dairy Week where he was part of the Semex Spectacular Sale crew. Participating in the National Youth Show, he won the Junior-Two-Year-Old Class with a daughter of Braedale Goldwyn. Carl offers, "It was a terrific event and a fantastic showcase of Australian cattle—many with Canadian genetics."

Next, he travelled to New Zealand to help with strings of cattle from several exhibitors at the first-ever, New Zealand Dairy Event.

Carl stayed at several renowned farms. Firstly, he was with the Ormsby family of *Karatane* Holsteins, Gore; they have a commercial herd of 450 cows.

His next residence was owned by the O'Connors in Timaru. They are one of the top production herds in the country with 350 pedigreed cows milked. Finally, he was housed with the Robinsons, who run 580 cows.

While Carl helped with everyday management tasks, he took time to visit Lake Tekapo to see Mt. Cook—New Zealand's highest mountain. He also survived a bungee jump in Queenstown!

So, if you want to meet new *Aussie* and *Kiwi* mates, as well as participate in a wide variety of events and activities, apply by the deadline date of July 1st, 2009.

Print off an application form at Holstein Canada's www.holstein.ca/english/Youth/austexch.asp, or contact Ely Daniels in Marketing at 519-756-8300, ext 269.

Cheerio!

Carl Barclay shows Ryanna Allen Topsy, which stood third in the Six-Year-Old Class at International Dairy Week.



Working Toward a National

A single, national view of reality is necessary for the vitality and viability of agriculture and agri-food in Canada. Provinces are at different stages of implementing traceability solutions.

Building on national standards for traceability, each province is responsible for its own specifics to track cattle within its jurisdiction. There

A traceability system is built on three basic elements:

- identifying animals or products
- identifying premises
- tracking the movement of animals, commodities, or food products

will be marketing opportunities for those provinces moving to this new reality.

Program initiation, development, and delivery require commitment from producers, industry, and provincial/territorial governments. All must be interested and committed to enhancing marketability and preserving food safety with consumers.

Full Traceability for Québec

Currently, Québec is the only province where full traceability—including the reporting of all animal movement—actually occurs. It is a requirement of membership in the province's stabilization scheme.

Québec producers must identify each calf with two ID tags supplied by the provincial Agri-Traçabilité Québec (ATQ) within seven days of birth if born at the farm, or within five months if born on pasture. Farmers have 45 days to notify ATQ of a calf's 1) individual ATQ tag number, 2) within-herd management number, 3) date of birth, 4) sex, and 5) category of animal.

However, if the animal has been registered by Holstein Canada, information is electronically downloaded to ATQ and the Canadian

Information on animals registered by Holstein Canada is electronically downloaded to CCIA in Calgary and ATQ (Québec only) in a one-step process.

Cattle Identification Agency (CCIA) in a one-step process.

Cattle moving and arriving at a new farm from within Québec must be reported within 45 days by listing the tag numbers, producer's ID number, and site address of operation.

Out-of-province cattle must comply with ATQ tag identification standards upon arrival at a new herd. The farmer has 45 days to activate the event on a form and file it with ATQ. The same process applies for imported animals, although the reporting time is 30 days.

ATQ must be notified within 45 days if an animal is moved to a secondary site, such as a pasture that is more than 10 km from the home farm. The producer ID and animal tag number, as well as the date leaving and the site number of the new location, must be noted.

Dairymen also have 45 days to report when an animal is shipped out of province. The reporting time is reduced to 30 days when cattle are shipped to a community pasture, or for export.

Lost tags must be

reported immediately, or when new tags arrive if the producer has ordered tags with the same ID number.

ATQ manages the database, the tags, and the tracking of cattle.

Act Governs Alberta Traceability

The Alberta Government and Alberta Livestock and Meat Agency (ALMA) are advancing their crusade now that a new provincial Animal Health Act is in effect; the mandatory June 2010 deadline should be met.

Regulations require producers to age verify all calves with CCIA, and register a premise ID on their home property with ALMA.

Calves recorded by their actual birth date must be verified within 90 days of birth. Those who batch-verify calves from the first to the last date of calving have eight months to complete paperwork from the time the first calf hits the ground.

Moreover, auction markets, vet clinics, fairs, and feedlots must take out their own premise ID—basically, anyone operating a co-mingling site.

The tracking system for following

Producers are required to age verify calves and register a premise ID on their home property.



National animal identification and traceability start on farm—regardless of event or location!

Traceability Framework

cattle around Alberta, and in-and-out of province, is still being built.

Nationally, premise IDs will be matched to CCIA tag numbers to track cattle within the CCIA database. The Alberta Livestock Information System (ALIS) will supply most of this data from reports filed by feedlots and provincial brand inspectors.

Premise ID in Ontario

The recent Listeriosis outbreak in Ontario underlines the urgency for a traceability program in this province—and for Canada.

OnTrace Agri-Food Traceability has been named to lead agriculture and agri-food traceability programs and initiatives in Ontario. It has two key drivers. The first is to strengthen the province's capacity to plan for, and respond to emergency situations. The second is to capitalize on innovative business opportunities where verifiable information can help support label claims, accelerate market access, and raise supply-chain efficiencies.

Building on animal ID, Dairy Farmers of Ontario (DFO) signed an agreement with OnTrace last fall. This enables DFO members to have their parcels of land assigned premise identification numbers.

Furthermore, participants receive the added benefit of a GS1

Global Location Number (GLN). This provides access to the GS1 Canada Party

GS1 is a global organization dedicated to the design and implementation of standards and solutions to improve efficiency and visibility in supply-and-demand chains globally and across sectors.

and Location Registry, permitting access to a global supply-chain management tool.

OnTrace validates premise location against other sources of data, providing an accurate, complete database. With strong links to the CCIA in Alberta and ATQ in Québec, Ontario members will find it easier to transition to animal-movement tracing.

Other Provinces

The provinces are in various stages of launching full-food traceability systems, following the National Framework. If you have further questions, the chart below includes a list of national and provincial contacts.

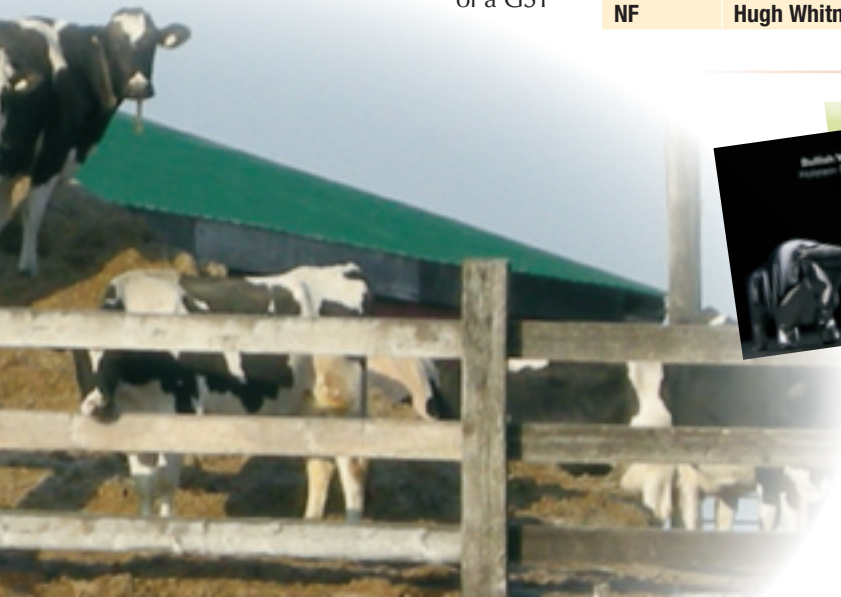
As more information is made available, updates will be provided in future issues of *Info Holstein*.

Everyone Responsible

A national traceability network will be a great step forward in solidifying traceability initiatives, raising awareness among all affected groups, and achieving a whole-chain solution.

In the food chain, traceability is everybody's business. Everyone has a role to play!

National and Provincial Contacts for Traceability Information			
	Name	Phone Number	E-mail
National	Richard Robinson	613-773-6172	rrobinson@inspection.gc.ca
National	Eric Aubin	613-773-6172	eaubin@inspection.gc.ca
BC	Venkatech Sosle	604-556-3064	Venkatech.Sosle@gov.bc.ca
AB	Brent McEwan	780-427-2799	brent.mcewan@gov.ab.ca
SK	Paul Marciniak	306-933-6888	paul.marciniak@agr.gov.sk.ca
MB	Wayne Lees	204-945-7685	wayne.lees@gov.mb.ca
ON	Gwen McBride	519-826-3112	gwen.mcbride@ontario.ca
Qc	Chi-Mai Vu	418-380-2100	Chimai.vu@mapay.gouv.qc.ca
NS	George Smith	902-893-6363	smithgc.@gov.ns.ca
NB	Clint McLean	506-453-6735	clint.mclean@gnb.ca
PE	Paul Jenkins	902-368-5654	pjenkins.@gov.pe.ca
NF	Hugh Whitney	709-729-6879	hughwhitney@gov.nl.ca



2008 Annual Report

Go to www.holstein.ca for your direct link to the Holstein Association of Canada's 2008 Annual Report. Read it online or print it easily from your home computer.

Alternatively, if you wish to receive the 20-page booklet (English or French) by mail, contact Jane Whaley by e-mail jwhaley@holstein.ca, phone 519-756-8300, fax 519-756-9982, or mail Box 610, Brantford, ON N3T 5R4.

Data Rolling in as Part of National

by Blair Murray, Dairy Genetic Improvement Specialist, OMAFRA, Kemptville, ON

The Canadian National Dairy Health project began two years ago. World unique, it is an industry-driven, voluntary, disease-recording program.

Health trait information has been received in increasing numbers since the launch of the National Dairy Health project in June, 2007.

The Canadian DHI database shows

The reporting of health events has increased by 50% since the National Dairy Health project began.

that the program started with about 1,500 herds. Although there is some monthly variation up-and-down, reporting of health events has increased by 50% since the program commenced. As producers start receiving reports summarizing their herd data, numbers are expected to rise again.

Summary of Monthly Health Events Reporting to Canadian DHI

Year/Month	Herds	Health Events
2007/07	1,507	6,490
2008/01	2,027	8,735
2008/07	2,135	10,264
2008/10	1,948	8,812

The major challenge is being able to analyze these data and return meaningful information to producers.

Unfortunately, many producers do not record all traits. Some producers or veterinarians may be very interested in recording mastitis, but not post-calving disorders or reproduction. A different herd owner might use the service only to record reproductive events, and not input other health traits.

When it comes to analyzing data across different herds—to summarize groups or provide benchmarks and ultimately genetic evaluations—recording all health and disease conditions is very important.

Completeness of recording is important to get a true picture of what is happening in a herd!

Some dairy producers may only record health conditions sporadically. As the incidence level of these traits is quite low, it is impossible to tell from data whether a cow has been especially healthy or the owner forgot to record a health problem.

Incomplete or sporadic recording of some traits make it very difficult to summarize herd data to help the owner improve his management. Furthermore, it makes it even harder to calculate benchmarks and compute genetic evaluations.

In the **Dossier Santé Animal** program in Québec, for example, data entry must reach a minimum level over a six-month period before the herd's data are used in benchmarks and other summaries.

Eight Recorded Conditions:

- Mastitis
- Lameness
- Cystic Ovarian Disease
- Displaced Abomasum
- Ketosis
- Metritis/Uterine Disease
- Milk Fever
- Retained Placenta

Very important to the success of this program is clearly-defined health definitions. This ensures that dairy producers and their veterinarians record the same health conditions, using the same definitions.

The DSA accounts for on average

40% of the total data submitted to the national health trait records. A further 400 producers in Québec and Atlantic Canada provide health event data directly to Valacta staff. The other 50% of health data originates from the CanWest DHI area, with data entered through DairyComp.

The DSA program was developed in Québec in 1990 with a small group of veterinarians. These visionaries foresaw the benefit in collecting and analyzing disease and treatment data to aid their clients improve herd management.

According to Dr. Émile Bouchard, Université de Montréal, Saint-Hyacinthe, one of the founders of DSA, the program began initially to manage reproduction information. It was later expanded to comprise many more disease conditions, including the eight from the National Dairy Health Program.

The disease conditions are categorized according to standardized



Royal Updates

Making Royal plans?

As an exhibitor or spectator, read what's new at the 2009 National Holstein Shows.

Improved Red and White Show

More classes are being added to this year's Red and White National Show at the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair. The goal is to offer as many of the same competitive classes as the Black and White agenda.

For 2009, expect Judge Brian Carscadden, Guelph, ON to also place animals in the Milking Yearling, Five-Year-Old, and Mature Cow Classes. Moreover, a Junior Breeder's Herd will add excitement to the popular show.

No Senior Champions

To maximize the Grand Champion spectacle, in both the Black and White

and Red and White National Shows, no Senior or Reserve-Senior Champions will be named.

In the Ricoh Coliseum, this change furthers Royal and Holstein attempts to create a light and music extravaganza to conclude the greatest Black and White Holstein show in Canada!

Official Judge Barclay Phoenix, Uxbridge, ON and his Associate, Roger Turner, Guelph, ON, are excited to be working in this ambience.

Longtime Production Class

In a continuing effort to promote longevity and profitability in Canadian Holsteins, a 50,000 kg Class is being introduced this year in both Shows.

With competition very strong in the Mature Cow Class, older cows are often at a disadvantage. However, everyone appreciates and loves to observe these treasured animals.

To domestic and international spectators, a class of show veterans—such as *Inksou*, *Frantisco*, or *Kendra*—would display and validate the avidly-sought Canadian balanced breeding philosophy.

Heifer Calves

Ideally, the Junior and Intermediate Calves would participate in a one-day Black and White Holstein Show. However, due to rigorous time constraints on Friday, these two classes must continue to be judged immediately following the *Reds* on Thursday.

Hair Length on Toplines

Commencing this year, the height of hair on topline must not exceed **1½ inches**. Hair will be measured on every animal prior to it entering the ring in both the Black and White and Red and White Holstein shows. Animals with more than 1½ inches of hair will not be allowed into the ring.

Classic and President's Cup

The Board of Directors has agreed to support both the highly-successful *4-H Classic Junior Dairy Show* and the long-standing *President's Cup* showmanship competition at this year's Royal.

Judges at National Holstein Shows:
Black and White Show: Official Barclay Phoenix, Uxbridge, ON and Associate Roger Turner, Guelph, ON.
Red and White Show: Brian Carscadden, Guelph, ON



2009 Royal Holstein Schedule

Sun., Nov. 8	6:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.	Canadian 4-H Classic Junior Dairy Show
Mon., Nov. 9	8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.	
Thurs., Nov. 12	9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.	Red and White Holsteins
	2:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.	Black and White Junior and Intermediate Calves
	5:30 p.m.	Holstein Sale of Stars
Fri., Nov. 13	7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.	Black and White Show (starting with Senior Calves)
	6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.	Holstein Canada's President's Cup Showmanship
Sat., Nov. 14	2:00 p.m.	Supreme Champion (follows Jersey Show)

Elmbidge FM Loveable Red (VG-88-3yr-CAN) sparkles as she leaves the ring after being named Grand Champion at the Red and White National Show at last year's Royal. Loveable was subsequently named 2008 All-Canadian Red and White Junior Cow for owners Peter Tuytel Jr., Chilliwack, BC and Lookout Holsteins, Canton-de-Hatley, Qc.

Top Sires Making Improvement on Dam

Based on 1st Lactation Classifications from January/February 2009

Top 10 Sires with 200+ Daughters Classified in Two-Month Period				Top 10 Sires with 50-200 Daughters Classified in Two-Month Period			
Sire	Daughters Classified [▲]	% Higher than Dam	Daus/Dam Avg. Scores	Sire	Daughters Classified [▲]	% Higher than Dam	Daus/Dam Avg. Scores
Lheros	241	69.7	81.0/80.4	Jasper	74	68.9	81.8/81.2
Milkstar	245	61.6	79.3/79.0	Damion	57	68.4	82.1/81.7
Blitz	247	61.5	81.1/80.7	Derek	88	68.2	79.6/77.9
Samuelo	555	59.3	80.1/80.1	Drake	94	68.1	81.2/80.8
September Storm	605	59.0	80.4/80.3	Gibson	62	66.1	81.7/81.1
Stormatic	357	58.5	80.5/80.2	Salto	193	64.8	79.6/79.2
Modest	231	57.1	80.2/80.5	Axiom	70	62.9	79.2/78.0
FBI	310	55.5	80.1/80.0	Outside	118	61.9	80.4/80.0
Goldwyn	755	55.2	81.5/81.8	Wildman	140	61.4	80.0/79.6
More	256	54.7	79.1/79.3	Fortune	92	60.9	80.9/80.0

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.



Canadian Judge David Crack Jr. (r) poses with excited exhibitors of the long, dairy Champion Cow, which was also named Best Udder of the North Portuguese Regional Show.

Crack in Portugal

Requests for Canadian judges to officiate at shows and lead sessions in other countries continue to flow in.

Having recently returned from Portugal, David Crack Jr., Richmond, Qc placed 140 Holsteins during the two-day North Portuguese Regional Show, in Trofa.

David reports, "The people were very warm and had a great desire to learn about genetics, good cows, and what they could do better to get their cows closer to those shown in Canada. "Taking the time to precisely discuss

each placing was really appreciated. As well, international exhibitors remain amazed by the speed and decisiveness of Canadian judges, in general."

Also placing a Junior Show, David was quite comfortable offering pointers on showmanship and fitting to young enthusiasts.

Extending thanks to Holstein Canada for providing a Canadian judge, Mr. Samuel Rodrigo Pinto, O Secretário Técnico of the Associação Portuguesa dos Criadores da Raça Frisia relayed, "During the contest, David showed precision in his decisions, and thoroughness in the explanations. He was a great ambassador for Canadian Holsteins."

Classification Schedule

mid-round

ON – Leeds, Grenville, Lanark, Renfrew, Grey

ON – Niagara, Wentworth, Brant, Haldimand, Norfolk

Qc – Pontiac, Labelle, Papineau, Gatineau, Argenteuil, Deux-Montagnes, Terrebonne, L'Assomption, Montcalm

Qc – Bellechasse

BC – Upper Fraser Valley, Okanagan, Vancouver Island

ON – Bruce, Huron

Qc – Joliette, Berthier, Maskinongé, Saint-Maurice

Qc – Montmagny, L'Islet

AB –

ON – Halton, York

Qc – Champlain, Lavolette, Portneuf

Qc – Kamouraska

MB –

Qc – Lac Saint-Jean, Roberval

ON – Peel, Simcoe, Dufferin, Ontario, Northumberland, Durham

ON – Middlesex, Lambton, Elgin, Essex, Kent

Qc – Lapointe, Dubuc, Charlevoix, Chicoutimi, Vaudreuil, Soulanges, Huntingdon, Châteauguay, Beauharnois, Shefford, Richmond

ON – Victoria, Peterborough

Qc – Saint-Jean, Laprairie, Napierville

PE, NB, NS & NL

ON – Lennox, Addington, Frontenac, Hastings

Qc – Iberville, Missisquoi

Qc – Rivière du Loup, Témiscouata, Rimouski, Matapédia, Matane, Bonaventure, Arthabaska, Mégantic, Wolfe

ON – Prince, Edward, Waterloo

ON – Oxford

Qc – Brome, Sherbrooke

ON – Wellington

Qc – Compton, Stanstead

SK

Early

April

Mid

Late

Early

May

Late

Early

June

Late

3 is a Lucky Number

(l-r) Bruce Posch with Poschalm Madison, Poschalm Progress Trillium, and Poschalm Skychief Terrie

Bruce Posch, Thornloe, ON is a soft-spoken, perceptive man who takes pride in his accomplishments as a successful, Northern Ontario Holstein breeder. This includes three generations of living Excellent cows.

It all started with a purchased heifer in 1983, Wahroonga Prince Trudy (GP-80-9yr-CAN 2*). Four generations later, in March 1995, **Poschalm Skychief Terrie** (EX-90-3E-CAN 2*) was born. Another five years pass and **Poschalm Progress Trillium** (EX-90-CAN) enters the herd. She is the dam of Bruce's most recent Excellent, **Poschalm Madison** (EX-91-CAN).

To date, nearly 100 offspring and over eight generations trace back to the original purchase (*Trudy*), including two family lines with four of five generations Star Brood cows.

Bruce describes this cow family's breeding pattern as *having very open genetics*, meaning sires' strengths are readily transmitted to the next generation.

His favourite is *Skychief Terrie*. She is the dam of two Excellent daughters and pregnant for the 11th time from only 11 doses of semen. Flushed in 2007, she had 60 A-grade embryos. Furthermore, *Terrie* has not had a milk test with a somatic cell count

over 20,000; in fact, her SSC index is currently 2.32—one of the lowest in the industry.

Bruce is not the first breeder to have three generations of Excellents, but they are rare. Retired classifier Don Aylsworth indicates that in his quarter century of scoring cows, he had the opportunity to witness this achievement only twice—Acme Holsteins and Vigh Farms.

Both Don and Bruce emphasize the importance of Star Brood cows in an individual's pedigree. The ability to produce females above average for both conformation and production will always be in style.

InfoHolstein

Published six times annually
Subscription: \$18 outside Canada
Editor: Jane Whaley

Publications Mail
Agreement 40008691

Independent expression by contributors is welcomed, but is not necessarily that of the Association. Reproduction and use is encouraged for research, education, personal, and other non-commercial use, provided that the author and source are clearly identified.



Return undeliverable Canadian addresses to:
Holstein Canada
P.O. Box 610, Brantford, ON N3T 5R4

Tel: 519-756-8300
Fax: 519-756-3502
jwhaley@holstein.ca
www.holstein.ca