

Info Holstein



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

Duhamel— Only the Beginning!

Vote **Cow of Year**—insert

Website Evolves 4

Become Video Vigilant 5

Education Awards 6

Auction Markets Engaged 8



(front to back) Duhamel Dundee Rosemia (VG-86-2yr) 1st Jr. 2 Bassin de la Chaudière 2009; Duhamel Bradley Katrina (VG-87-2yr) 1st Sr. 2 and H.M. Grand Champion Bassin de la Chaudière 2009; Duhamel Dundee Rose (VG-88-3yr) 2nd Jr. 3 Bassin de la Chaudière 2009

Unorthodox thinking by determined city boy results in unconventional journey

“We’re not conventional,” states Mathieu Duhamel and wife Guylaine LaFlamme. “If I had listened to some people in the industry and not followed my instinct, I wouldn’t be immersed in the Holstein business today.”

Born in Montréal, Mathieu developed his love of Holsteins from family member

Richard Lagacé (*Legace*), Saint-Hyacinthe, Qc. He worked for Richard for two years and the Turmel family (*Beauçoise*), Sainte-Marie de Beauce, for five years.

Referred to as the *city boy* by classmates, he also completed a three-year agriculture degree from MacDonald College.

Mathieu gained his initial experience housing animals in 2004. Living with Guylaine on his mother-in-law’s 20-acre property, he actually kept his first calf in the yard. Cold weather forced him to purchase car tarps to cover Lagace Champion Rosemai

(VG-86-2yr) and another companion from *Beauçoise*.

And while carrying numerous buckets of water from the house to the shelter daily would deter most people, Mathieu continued to expand his homemade structures by cutting parcels of land from the woods. He even milked one cow by compressor in an outside area.

In 2005, this ambitious man finally moved his animals into one of the Turmel's old sheds. Prior to relocation, he cleaned out three feet of manure and discarded materials, which had accumulated over 40 years of non-use.

Cold and drafty, with no hay mow, snow drifted inside. Daily, Mathieu hauled frozen manure by fork and wheel barrow from the 45-foot-square facility—with no gutters. He also directed water from *Beauçoise* for his 18 calves and heifers. Once calving, they went to his good neighbour

[*Beauçoise*] for milking. All this

Displaying grit and determination, Mathieu Duhamel toiled at least 80 hours/week.

work occurred after putting in full days; displaying grit, he toiled at least 80 hours weekly.

Year 2008 became one of decision. At age 26, Mathieu knew it was time to make some major changes in his life. With no revenue from cows, they had many bills to pay, including feed, hay, ET flushing costs, and recipient heifer rentals. However, Mathieu and police officer Guylaine consider the \$18,000 they lost in 2007 an investment in their farming future.

It was difficult for this go-getter to leave his good Turmel

friends, but it was time to strike out on his own. Mathieu relays he will always be indebted for their generosity, guidance, and friendship to help him run solo.

To subsidize income, Mathieu started trimming feet and working at auctions.

While it remains a wonder that Mathieu had any spare time at all, he read an article that changed his way of thinking about owning and managing a successful farm operation. The message from *How to Be a Millionaire in Agriculture* is to own only what generates revenue. He stresses, "I will buy a farm, but never machinery except for a tractor and snow blower."

Moreover, Mathieu did not have a good experience when he attempted to borrow start-up money from the provincial government. However, Canadian Farm Credit took him seriously and recognized his capacity to develop and keep good cows. His father also provided financial assistance to obtain quota and rent a previously-successful beef farm in Sainte-Margaret.

After renovations to comfortably house Holsteins, *Duhamel* animals were relocated. Pierre Boulet, for one, had enough confidence in Mathieu's caretaking to send him 12 top-quality cows to fill quota. These included Comestar Allegria Jackman (VG-89) and Goldenflo L'Herros Bubblegum (EX-95).

Currently living seven minutes from the farm, this charismatic individual often sleeps in his truck if a cow is going to calve. Guylaine quips, "We used to do this together before our two boys were born."

The first classification in the new facilities resulted in two 2-year-olds classifying VG-86—*Duhamel Dundee Rose* and *Berline Roy Dante*. Since then, many more have attained Very Good status. Mathieu's long-term goal is to breed 25 Excellent cows by his 25th year in business.

From childhood, totally-bilingual Mathieu had always been attracted to good conformation. His priorities comprise feet/legs and udders. Not a huge fan of extremely-high-producing



While Guylaine LaFlamme cradles baby Milan, Mathieu Duhamel holds Zachary. The two homebred animals are *Duhamel Dundee Rose* and her June 2009 calf, *Duhamel Roy Rosa*.

first calvers, he desires longevity. He believes he can make more money with better cows than increased milk yield.

Mathieu adds, "Many years ago, I attended the International Show in Québec. It was here that I decided to become a player in the show business—not just a bystander."

Loving competition, Mathieu knew he had to become more adept at preparing cattle for show. So, he took a couple of heifers to an exhibition solely to observe how others prepared animals for the judge's inspection. He watched, studied, and asked a lot of questions. "It was my free ticket for the week to learn from the best fitters," he notes.

Catching on quickly, Mathieu has already achieved accolades in the show ring. Last year, he was runner-up for Premier Breeder, winner of red ribbons, and exhibitor of the Honourable Mention Grand Champion, Duhamel Bradley Katrina (VG-87-2yr), at Bassin de la Chaudière. The whole family helped—even his father, who knows

nothing about showing!

Mathieu relays he's still in the building stages with many females to be born [through sexing]. He also houses heifers for others. Sexed *Duhamel* embryos are transplanted into these heifers. When they freshen, they're returned to their owners and Mathieu keeps the calves.

A genetic enthusiast, his goal is to sell good heifers and fresh young cows. Older females will be kept to produce embryos.

Mathieu admits there were times when life was tough. However, this senior-level hockey player and coach has never regretted following his intuition.

Even after recounting his unconventional, uphill climb, he concludes with a captivating smile and calmly declares, "It's only the beginning for *Duhamel!*"

On Christmas eve, Mathieu was hospitalized and spent weeks recovering from an emergency, appendix operation. City girl Guylaine carried out all milkings and barn chores!



Car tarps were used to shelter Mathieu's first calf, Lagace Champion Rosemai, in his yard over the winter. Minimal homemade structures were added as required.



Calves and heifers were housed in an empty, cold shed at Beauvoise where all duties were completed by hand.



Zachary Duhamel enjoys farm life like his dad, Mathieu.



Choices and Solutions

by Holstein Canada President, Germain Lehoux, Saint-Elzéar, Qc

2010

This new decade is filled with all kinds of new production technologies and information—available at our fingertips.

I would like to give you some thoughts to reflect upon.

Milk production, in general and, breeding, in particular, will evolve very rapidly in the next five to ten years.

One choice is to stand still while the industry evolves. We can let other people make decisions on what is best for us, allowing us *to be organized*.

Or, we can take an active role in making decisions that impact us and our business. In other words, **we organize ourselves**.

I'd much rather **act than react!**

Fortunately, we have wonderful examples of leadership in dairy production and breeding in Canada.

Simply look at our system of supply management in the dairy industry—envied by many countries around the world.

As well, Holstein Canada takes an

active part in the development of our farm profitability. It supports us to breed animals with high performance and durability.

Positive exchanges and alliances with various industry partners, or with government, aid us to set the tone and align ourselves with what we need for tomorrow. For example, traceability works hand-in-hand with the screening of Johne's disease. Add this to good herd management skills and we will absolutely and effectively bring this disease under control ... **act instead of react!**

Soon, we will be able to breed our cows to be even more functional and durable. DNA tests (genomics), which perform better and are more accurate and affordable, will be available soon.

Through full traceability, it will be possible to verify the lineage and retrieve a multitude of information on genes and their transmission. A by-product of full traceability would allow us to get expected results regarding production, health, and fertility ... **act instead of react!**

Leadership is also having a vision of what we would like and creating opportunities.

Please know that it is always a pleasure to meet with you, listen to you and, hear from you.

See you soon.

Website Evolves

Since the launch of its new website in October, Holstein Canada has made regular improvements. Your comments and suggestions have helped us move forward.

One of the main concerns was the slow speed of the new site, especially for dialup users. In response, we developed a *lite* version. This is not a separate site, but an adaptation to make it run faster. It has been designed with reduced graphics and simpler formatting. The lite version can be bookmarked and used for all online services.

We also worked out an **Animal Inquiry Search (AIS)**, formatted to display on mobile devices, e.g. BlackBerry. We think you'll be pleased with the site at <http://mobile.holstein.ca/>.

Because our goal is to meet your individual needs, forward your comments and ideas to customerserviceweb@holstein.ca. You can also complete the [feedback link](#) on our website.

Now on Facebook



FYI ... Young adults facebooking

You can now locate up-to-date information on Holstein Canada's official fan page. You'll find out about upcoming events and award programs/results.

Search *Holstein Canada Young Adults* and join us as we develop this social network.

For more information, contact Young Adult Program Co-ordinator Stephanie Gregson at sgregson@holstein.ca.



Become Video Vigilant

Video camera surveillance may be a wise investment in unsupervised group calving pens

As dairy herd sizes expand, group calving pens are fast becoming the norm as they are practical and functional. However, they must be managed—calves born during the night and busy cropping times. There is increased potential for error regarding a calf's alignment with its rightful dam.

Group tagging and delayed tagging—even a day or two—also complicate the issue.

Most uncertainties are resolved through parentage tests. And, several would be unnecessary and less costly (for both breeders and Association) if dairy producers were to adopt video camera surveillance offering playback capabilities (24+ hours).

Even with budgets tight, surveillance may be a wise investment. While some cameras are incredibly cheap [\$100], you can spend between \$500 and \$3,000, depending on your needs.

It all depends on how elaborate you want your system, the location of your

and are easy to install.

Dairy producers may wish to enhance their video system with audio. The sound of a distressed cow or calf may wake you in the night. It's important that you can hear, as well as see, what's happening in the barn.

registration and transfer systems on which they can depend.

An animal's pedigree must be accurately recorded. The value of semen, embryos, and live animals in sales and for exports is largely determined by knowledge or



Holstein Canada's Data Integrity team consists of (l-r) Lyne McGibbon, Kim Cripps, Toni Welsh, and Pauline Martel. Here, they gather to compare data, supplied by the owner, to Holstein Canada's database in an attempt to resolve a parentage dispute.

Adapting a surveillance system for your needs can make life easier and offer peace of mind.

Foster Breed Credibility

The integrity of individual breeders remains key to a successful, pedigreed, livestock industry.

Herdbook accuracy relies on producers to maintain complete and accurate records of daily events. They must also provide positive calf identifications and submit correct information for Registration.

Under the Animal Pedigree Act and, in turn, Holstein Canada By-laws, any breeder could be audited to provide pertinent breeding and calving data from herd records in support of the Herdbook.

Sound data and Herdbook integrity remain vital to the image and high standards of Holstein Canada and the business of members. They expect their Association to provide reliable

expectation of the breeding ability and by the genetic merit of ancestors.

Without accurate pedigrees, the determination of breeding values and reliability of proofs is not possible and breeders would not benefit to the fullest from the use of proven animals.

However, it all starts with correct breeding details and the correct alignment of calves with their respective dams!

Contact Data Integrity at Holstein Canada for pedigree and lineage matters.



Tru-Scene (light in calving area)

buildings, and the number of cameras needed. Modern camera systems can monitor your cows, calving areas, yard, choke points, and milk room.

Installing a surveillance system for the farm—or just the calving area—requires some planning, e.g. pen size and lighting. While all camera systems can be hard wired, wireless systems offer flexibility and a number of advantages. They can be moved around

- Dairy producers are encouraged to**
- 1) verify the ID of the sire on the straw and update herd records, in one step, at the time of breeding,**
 - 2) individually tag every newborn calf and record all details in herd events in one step, and**
 - 3) be prudent in the event of multiple services and/or calvings on the same day**

Dairy's Future Promising Due to Keen Youth

Phenomenal truly describes the quality of 23 applicants vying for six Holstein Canada Education Awards worth \$750 each!

As a whole, the students are very active on their family farms, both in manual labour and decisions regarding management and breeding.

Their enthusiasm and dedication toward agriculture and community youth activities must be commended, as well as their drive to pursue careers in the dairy industry or on home farms.

These keeners also recognize the value of formal education and various non-agriculture experiences in becoming valuable members of their rural communities.

William Vosman
Saint-Andrews, NS
Trivee Farms Ltd.

Complementing three outstanding academic years at Nova Scotia Agricultural College are William's impressive athletic achievements. This has resulted in his easy rise to the *President's List*.

He enhanced his dairy experience working as a summer research student on a pasture-irrigation project for dairy cattle; this concluded in two research awards.

Participating in a variety of clubs and leadership roles earned him a delegate nomination to the National 4-H Dairy Conference in Madison, WI.

William's plans, after 2010 graduation,



works with disabled students. are to further his understanding of the agriculture industry before returning home to take over the reigns of his family's dairy farm.

Martina Pfister
Mitchell, ON
Ulmar Holsteins

Due to graduate with honours from the University of Guelph, in 2010, with a B.Sc. degree, Martina has goals of becoming a dairy producer and advocate for the agricultural industry. Already, she is keenly devoted to numerous organizations. Martina is also highly involved within the college and



works with disabled students.

At home, active 35 4-H Club member and leader Martina has responsibilities as the feed and breeding manager. These add to her off-farm knowledge as a crop technician.

Martina enjoyed her 2007 adventure as an apprentice on a dairy, hog/farrow, potato, and ag tourism operation in Switzerland. Her language skills include speaking Italian.

Mitchell Kieffer
Teeswater, ON
Belmoral Holsteins

Being an active participant in the farming operation from an early age, it was a natural decision for Mitchell to earn his B.Sc. degree at the University



of Guelph.

Working for *JEM Cattle Management* and honing his animal preparation and show skills has further fueled his desire to return to the home farm upon graduation in 2011. He aims to breed high-quality Holsteins, focusing on type, milk traits, and longevity—while giving back as a 4-H leader.

A devoted hockey and baseball player, Mitchell has worked for two summers gaining experience in crop input for Huron Bay Co-operative; this has supplemented his animal expertise.

**Roxanne Montplaisir
Trois-Rivières, Qc
Yves Montplaisir and Caroline
Dubois, *Monyka* Holsteins**

Roxanne is a second-year student at Laval University, working toward her Masters in Agronomy. Her intention is to become an advisor in dairy production. Meanwhile, her input in breeding practices at home is highly valued, as are her efforts in preparing



and showing cattle.

Recognized as *Personality of the Year* in Association des Jeune Rureaux du Québec, Roxanne has actively participated for 14 years—President for

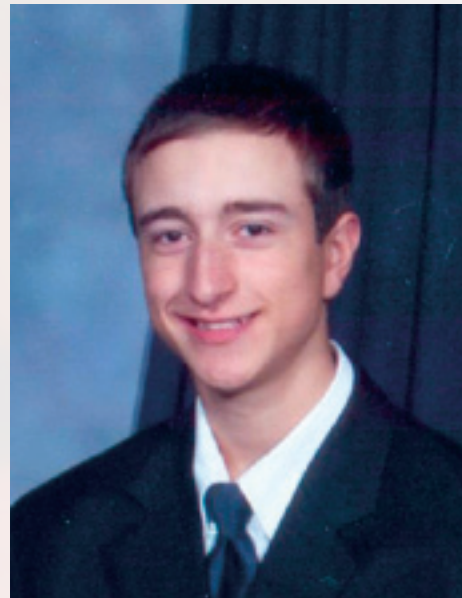
three. Currently, she serves as President of Québec's 4-H Association.

Working in Ontario this past summer for *Willdina Farms*, she furthered her English skills—an asset in the agricultural field.

Roxanne and Marc-Andre are first cousins. They didn't know each other had applied for an Education award from Holstein Canada.

**Marc-André Dubois
Saint-Flavien, Qc
Ferme Rolandale enr., *Jolibois***

French-speaking Marc-André challenged himself to take the Farm



Management and Technology diploma program at McGill University's MacDonald campus in *English*.

Following graduation in 2010, Marc-André plans to travel the world as a professional cattle fitter. Optimistic, he aims to develop contacts and create further business opportunities for his family's *Jolibois* show herd.

Eventually returning to the home farm, Marc-André will continue to specialize in animal health and feed.

An active, 12-year AJRQ member, he has picked up numerous awards in 4-H. Marc-André is anxious to continue to assist young adults in developing their passion for Holsteins.



**Kelvin Friesen
Morden, MB
Lasaac and Pentium Holsteins**

Further to an Agriculture Diploma from the University of Manitoba, Kelvin is pursuing his B.Sc. in Agribusiness. At all academic levels he has been recognized as an outstanding student and leader.

He is a junior member of Holstein Canada with the prefix *Pentium*; he also performs AI and owns quota. Kelvin has achieved accolades for 4-H judging, showmanship, clipping, and quizzes at the Western Canadian Classic.

A variety of activities in the family's dairy, grain, and equipment rental businesses have resulted in this well-rounded go-getter. Kelvin's aspirations are in agricultural finance and/or succession to the home farm, where Master Breeder is a goal.



Challenging Dairy's Structure

by Secretary-Manager Keith Flaman

Putting balance into our lives is a continual work in progress. Success and satisfaction depend on bringing the elements of everyday living into harmony.

Work and play, as well as business and family, are areas where a constant struggle to maintain a proper balance thrive. Changing economic and political environments, demands of a maturing family, pressures of the job, etc., all play a part toward influencing that balance.

Nobody disputes that the number of people in the farming community is shrinking and will continue to decline. A consequence is that the pool for talented people with time to lead our organizations is also getting smaller.

Will the current structure in agriculture be able to provide strong leadership into the future? Or is there another way?

Balancing strong governance with strong administration may be the rallying point for mergers and alliances. Organizations must have the capacity to be relevant and to add value—otherwise they need not exist.

The strength of agriculture organizations in the future will require inter-dependence. Finding common positions and objectives with sister organizations and leveraging resources—both people and finances—will be normal practice.

Perhaps the most difficult to balance is the past with the future. When is the baggage from the past discarded allowing new ideas and techniques to grow and develop, setting the foundation for an exciting future?

Nothing is insurmountable. Are organizations prepared to take the necessary steps to ensure their relevance, regardless of historical and political pasts?

Traceability efforts shift to livestock movement through auction facilities

The Canadian Cattle Identification Agency (CCIA) initiated a project last fall to evaluate procedures used by 11 auction markets in four provinces. It has been studying the capture of tag numbers and RFID reader capabilities in varying locations and weather conditions.

The goal is to generate the costs and benefits to industry and the government in implementing RFID systems at every one of 250+ markets and buying stations across Canada. The findings will provide guidance on how traceability could take place at the speed of commerce and not cause additional stress to livestock.

The federal government is providing *Growing Forward* partial funding for installations of on-site readers, alley designs, etc., which vary significantly among sites.

As indicated in the comprehensive article on the **Ontario Livestock Exchange** (Aug./Sept. *Info Holstein*), all auction systems are different in design and animal capacity. Each requires **unique** protocols to support and validate the accurate and reliable capture and exchange of data regarding animal movement (animal tag ID, date, and auction mart ID). Ideally, this is accomplished by commercial, electronic readers at each movement site.

All information related to cattle is then transferred to the **Canadian Livestock Tracking System (CLTS)** database in Calgary.

Tracking livestock movement is a significant challenge in Canada and referred to as the third pillar in traceability efforts. Governments (federal, provincial, territories) are targeting December 2011 for necessary legislation. Capturing and reporting of data, toward full traceability, will be

Auction Markets

Info Holstein

The CCIA currently services the beef, dairy, and bison sectors, outside Québec.

It is an industry-initiated and established organization that manages the CLTS. This trace-back system is designed to contain and eradicate animal disease in this country.

Established in 1998, CCIA works with the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) to promote food safety.

It also manages the CLTS database in Calgary.



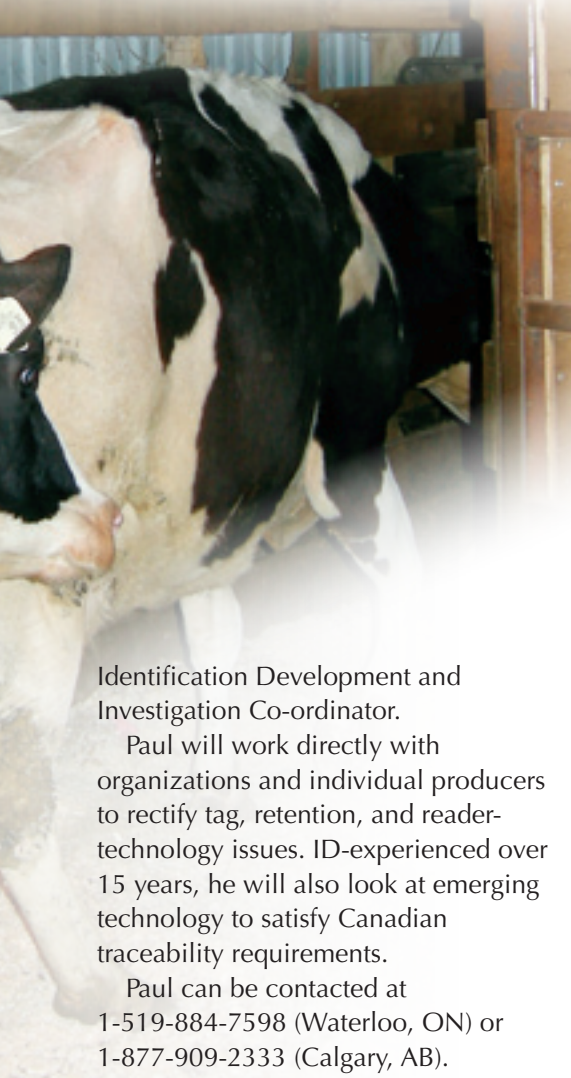
Engaged

phased in during 2012 and 2013.

The first pillar of traceability is **animal ID**. It is estimated that 80% of dairy animals are nationally tagged/identified shortly after birth at the farm. About 20% are not identified until they move off-farm, but this meets the current, minimum standards of Canadian, multi-species, traceability efforts.

The second pillar is premises ID. While at different stages, provinces are obliged to have all premises identified by 2011.

The CCIA has appointed Paul Laronde to the newly-created role of Commodity



Identification Development and Investigation Co-ordinator.

Paul will work directly with organizations and individual producers to rectify tag, retention, and reader-technology issues. ID-experienced over 15 years, he will also look at emerging technology to satisfy Canadian traceability requirements.

Paul can be contacted at 1-519-884-7598 (Waterloo, ON) or 1-877-909-2333 (Calgary, AB).

At the Ontario Livestock Exchange, the wide-alley reader with antenna captures RFID numbers. This allows animals to move at the speed of commerce.

What Government Will Do

| | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 |
|-------------------------------------|---|--|-------------------|---|------|
| Regulatory Framework* | Use existing framework or regulations—mandatory animal ID | Develop mandatory regulations to support the three pillars of traceability—animal ID, premises ID, and animal movement | | Communicate new regulations involving the three pillars of traceability | |
| Premises ID—led by provinces | Start with dairy, beef, bison and hogs | | Sheep and poultry | Other species, e.g. equine | |

What Cattle Industry Will Do

| | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 |
|-------------------------------|---|---|------|--|------|
| Cattle—led by industry | Conduct cattle movement, data capture, and speed-of-commerce pilot studies at 11 auction marts (CCIA) | Capture and report animal tag ID, date, and site ID of designated facilities e.g. exhibitions, community pastures | | Capture and report animal tag ID, date, and site ID of all sites e.g. commingling of cattle from different herds to database centres | |
| | Continue national tagging of dairy, beef, and bison prior to moving off-farm (first pillar) | | | | |

What Governments and Industry Will Do Together

| | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 |
|--|--|--|--|---|------|
| Information Sharing—led by IGAC** | Elaborate roles, responsibilities and letters of intent to participate | Communicate and test emerging protocol among IGAC members, to service providers, and throughout industry | | Electronic data captured, stored, and used according to all legal and jurisdictional requirements | |
| | Draft model agreements between parties for data exchange | Finalize national strategy for data exchange and operability of databases | Ensure readiness to participate in ***NAFTS | Access to electronic traceability information available to authorized users | |
| | | | | Electronic data protected from unauthorized access, modifications, and destruction | |
| Compliance and Audit—led by CFIA | Establish specifications and definitions of acceptable tolerance | Develop compliance and audit framework for enforcement | Introduce practicality and consistency in program delivery and enforcement | Communicate compliance and audit protocol | |
| | Identify roles, responsibilities respecting enforcement | | | Press forward sensibly with compliance of program and enforcement | |
| | | | | Enforce compliance through monetary penalties | |

*A framework has been designed for a secure, integrated National Agriculture and Food Traceability System (NAFTS) to better serve Canadian citizens, industry, and government. The NAFTS or proposed system would provide (through phased-in approach) timely, accurate, and relevant information to enhance emergency management, market access, industry competitiveness, and consumer confidence. The ultimate goal is for Canada to have a farm-to-fork system.

**Industry-Government Advisory Committee

*** National Agriculture and Food Traceability System

Top Conformation Herds—75-150 Cows

In the last *Info Holstein*, we included two charts with data on herds totalling 150+ cows. This time we feature information on herds with 75-150 milkers.

The first table shows cows based on the average final score of active first-lactation animals from rounds 72 to 77.

In table 2, the top 20 improvement herds are presented. These illustrate the greatest progress in average first-lactation, final score from the same rounds. The only other criterion applied was the average final score for the herd in rounds 76/77; it had to be at, or above, the national average score for first-lactation animals.

At every classification visit since August 2005, Holstein Canada has calculated herd averages for all traits based on all active cows and all active first-lactation cows.

Using the accumulated history on these herd averages, a report is generated at each visit. This shows the herd trend for all scorecard categories and final score for first-lactation animals and all active milking cows.

The analysis included conformation averages for herds classifying in rounds 72-77—spanning August 2005 to July 2009.

For comparison purposes, we studied first-lactation averages as they are more comparable figures across herds. This reduces the impact of re-classification and culling practices.

Top 20 Conformation Herds 75-150 Cows

by average final score for active 1st-lactation cows, which includes rounds 72 to 77 (August 2005 to July 2009)

| Herd | Avg. Score - All 1st lactation cows rounds 72 to 77 |
|---|---|
| DUPASQUIER - Oscar Dupasquier, Guelph, ON | 84.9 |
| BLONDIN - Ferme Blondin, Saint-Placide, Qc | 84.8 |
| TOLAMIKA - T & L Cattle Ltd., Rosedale, BC | 84.3 |
| BREEZE HILL - Breeze Hill Holsteins, Winchester, ON | 84.3 |
| QUALITY - Quality Holsteins, Vaughan, ON | 84.2 |
| FRADON - Fradon Holsteins Ltd., Branchton, ON | 84.1 |
| PATIENCE - Patience Holsteins Ltd., Mildmay, ON | 83.8 |
| MICHERET - Ferme Micheret Inc., Saint-Zéphirin, Qc | 83.8 |
| LOLISÉE - Ferme Lolisée, Chatham, Qc | 83.7 |
| KINGSWAY - Kingsway Farms, Hastings, ON | 83.7 |
| CROVALLEY - Crovalley Holsteins, Hastings, ON | 83.6 |
| COMBINATION - Combination Holsteins Ltd., Keswick Ridge, NB | 83.5 |
| WALNUTLAWN - Walnutlawn Farms Limited, Tavistock, ON | 83.5 |
| DROLIE - Drolet & Fils, Saint Raymond, Qc | 83.5 |
| LEWISDALE - Lewis Bros, York, PE | 83.5 |
| EXTONDALE - Extondale Farms Ltd., Winsloe, PE | 83.4 |
| LAQUÉBICOISE - Ferme Garneau & Fils Inc., Plessisville, Qc | 83.3 |
| KARNVILLA - D.W. Karn Farms Inc., Woodstock, ON | 83.3 |
| HOLZER - Bushy View, Lakeside, ON | 83.3 |
| COBEQUID - Cobequid Holsteins, Truro, NS | 83.3 |

Top 20 Improvement Herds 75-150 Cows

by greatest improvement in average final score for active 1st lactation cows from rounds 72/73 to rounds 76/77 (August 2005 to July 2009)

| Herd | Avg. Score - 1st lactations in rounds 76/77 | Avg. Score Improvement - 1st lactations from rounds 72/73 to 76/77 |
|--|---|--|
| MARYLANDER - Marylander Holsteins, Picture Butte, AB | 80.2 | +3.7 |
| GRAYLANE - Matthew & Debbie Graye & Family, St-Pierre-Jolys, MB | 80.6 | +3.5 |
| DEWYNEL - John Wassink, Leduc, AB | 80.5 | +3.4 |
| LAREST - Southview Dairy, Morden, MB | 80.5 | +3.2 |
| CIRGAI - Ferme Cyr & Frères Inc., Leeds Village, Qc | 80.7 | +3.1 |
| BLUE DIAMOND - Blue Diamond Farm, Kinkora, PE | 82.8 | +3.1 |
| EDRIPHANIEL - Ferme Edriphaniel Inc., Lotbinière, Qc | 81.0 | +3.0 |
| EDOUARD - Ferme Réal Beaugard & Fils Enr., Saint-Liboire, Qc | 80.8 | +3.0 |
| HARBOURSIDE - Rod J. Kennedy, Lanark, NS | 79.7 | +3.0 |
| BARD - Ferme Bard Inc., La Pocatière, Qc | 82.4 | +3.0 |
| PURSTEIN - Ferme Charles Charette & Fils Inc., Saint-Leon, Qc | 81.2 | +2.9 |
| MITAN - Jean Letourneau, Saint Jean Ile d'Orleans, Qc | 80.7 | +2.9 |
| BEAUXPRES - Ferme Pelletier & Fils Inc., Saint-Roch-des-Aulnaies, Qc | 79.6 | +2.7 |
| TCC - Twin Creek Colony, Standard, AB | 79.7 | +2.7 |
| FRABER - Fra-ber Ruel Inc., Saint-Charles, Qc | 81.1 | +2.7 |
| DESJONCS - La Ferme Hector Claveau & Fils Inc., Les Hauteurs, Qc | 80.5 | +2.7 |
| BRIENZ - Kaspar Michel, Kingsey Falls, Qc | 80.7 | +2.6 |
| DUNBEC - Ferme Dunbec Enrg., Dunham, Qc | 79.9 | +2.5 |
| MILICO - Ferme Michel Cossette Inc., Saint-Narcisse, Qc | 80.6 | +2.5 |
| BEAUROC - Beauroc Dairy Ltd., St. Malo, MB | 80.6 | +2.4 |
| DOLPHIN - Ron & Loraine Dinn, Agassiz, BC | 80.1 | +2.4 |

Torch Trivia in Brantford

Holstein Canada in Brantford, ON remains the hub of the dairy industry.

This city also served as the exact halfway point to the Winter Olympics in Vancouver, BC. The torch arrived in Brantford on the 53rd day and departed on the 54th day.

Among thousands of eager spectators were Holstein Canada employees.

In this photo, Supervisor of Mail Services Paula McMahon—with daughter Meghan and son Dallas—excitedly pose with relay torchbearer Kevin Sullivan. Born in Brantford, this distance runner's resumé includes a fifth-place finish in 1,500 metres at the 2000 Olympics in Sydney, Australia.

- 106 days
- 45,000 km
- 12,000 torchbearers



Classification Schedule

mid-round

| Province | Classification | Month |
|--|----------------------------------|----------|
| ON – Victoria, Lennox & Addington, Frontenac, Hastings, Waterloo | Qc – Brome, Richmond, Missisquoi | February |
| Qc – Rivière-du-Loup, Témiscouata, Rimouski, Matapédia, Matane, Bonaventure | PE, NB, NS, NL | |
| ON – Prince Edward | Qc – Compton, Stanstead | February |
| Qc – Arthabaska, Mégantic, Wolfe | | |
| ON – Wellington, Northern Ontario | ON – Oxford | February |
| Qc – Sherbrooke | Qc – Lotbinière, Yamaska | |
| SK | | |

| Province | Classification | Month |
|---|--|-------|
| ON – Thunder Bay, Dundas, Stormont, Glengarry, Wentworth, Brant | ON – Perth | March |
| Qc – Frontenac, Beauce | Qc – Nicolet | |
| ON – Niagara, Haldimand, Norfolk, | Qc – Dorchester, Levis | March |
| BC – | | |
| ON – Prescott, Russell, Carleton | ON – Renfrew, Lanark | March |
| Qc – Québec, Montmorency, Bellechasse | Qc – Abitibi, Témiscamingue, Drummond, Bagot, Saint-Hyacinthe, Richelieu, Verchères, Rouville, Deux-Montagnes, Terrebonne | |
| | | |

| Province | Classification | Month |
|--|--|-------|
| ON – Leeds, Grenville, Huron | Qc – Montmagny | April |
| Qc – Labelle, Papineau, Gatineau, Argenteuil, Pontiac | AB – South/Central | |
| ON – Grey, Bruce | Qc – L'Islet, Kamouraska | April |
| Qc – L'Assomption, Montcalm, Joliette, Berthier, Maskinongé, Saint-Maurice, Champlain, Laviolette, Portneuf | AB – Northern | |
| MB | | |
| ON – Halton, York, Peel, Simcoe, Dufferin, Ontario | Qc – Lac Saint-Jean, Roberval, Lapointe, Chicoutimi | April |

Top Sires According to Average Final Score of 1st Lactation Daughters

Based on 1st Lactation Classifications from November/December 2009

| Top 10 Sires with 120+ Daughters Classified in Two-Month Period | | | | Top 10 Sires with 30-120 Daughters Classified in Two-Month Period | | | |
|---|-----------------------------------|------------------|----------------|---|-----------------------------------|------------------|----------------|
| Sire | Daughters Classified [▲] | Avg. Daus. Score | Avg. Dam Score | Sire | Daughters Classified [▲] | Avg. Daus. Score | Avg. Dam Score |
| Goldwyn | 635 | 81.4 | 81.3 | Damion | 64 | 82.2 | 81.4 |
| Dundee | 238 | 81.3 | 82.1 | Lou | 80 | 81.8 | 82.7 |
| Talent | 203 | 80.9 | 80.5 | Allen | 49 | 81.5 | 81.4 |
| Toystory | 175 | 80.8 | 80.7 | Re Design | 65 | 81.5 | 81.3 |
| September Storm | 225 | 80.8 | 80.1 | Stormatic | 110 | 81.0 | 81.4 |
| Blitz | 147 | 80.7 | 80.5 | Lheros | 112 | 81.0 | 80.7 |
| Spirte | 190 | 80.4 | 80.0 | FBI | 85 | 81.0 | 79.9 |
| Final Cut | 469 | 80.4 | 80.4 | Mr Sam | 93 | 80.8 | 79.2 |
| Samuelo | 155 | 80.1 | 79.8 | Carisma | 110 | 80.8 | 81.0 |
| Dolman | 786 | 80.1 | 80.0 | Bambam | 69 | 80.7 | 80.6 |

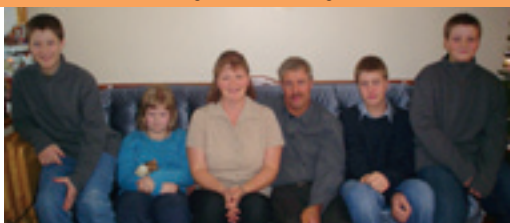
Note: [▲] Daughters are included in the statistics only if both the daughter and her dam calved for the first time before 30 months and were both first classified within the first six months of lactation. Sires listed must have ≥ 50% of daughters that improve in score over the dam.

Plan to Attend Convention

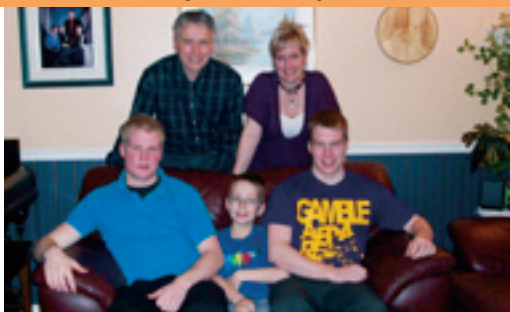
Meet the breeders who will make presentations by video during the *Meeting of the Minds*



Elizabeth and Dirk Appel, Spruce Lane Dairies Ltd. (Altappel), AB (l-r) Aukje, Elizabeth, Margriet, Arisjan, and Dirk Appel large herd; 640 acres; 500 head with 250 cows; free-stall; 4 EX, 48 VG, 123 GP; 10,546 kg milk herd average



Carol and Guy Levac, Ferme Mirella inc., (Mirella) St. Bernardin, ON (l-r) Marco, Marie-Josée, Carol, Guy, Patrick, and Robert Levac typical herd; 350 acres; 240 head with 125 cows; 1 EX-6E, 28 VG, 74 GP; 11,930 kg milk herd average



Robert and Catherine Chabot, Belfast Holstein enr. and Syndicat Gen-I-Beq Saint-Patrice, Qc (standing l-r) Robert and Catherine (seated l-r) Vincent, Nicolas, and Christof Chabot top genetics; development of Braedale Baler Twine (VG-86 25*) and Glen Drummond Splendor (VG-86 31*) families

Québec's wildly-enthusiastic Convention Committee urges you to attend the Convention, which is shaping up to be a Holstein social highlight in 2010. Its different and dynamic program will emphasize the future and youth, in April, in Saint-Hyacinthe.

You should register to ...

- visit **farms** with different breeding styles and infrastructures
- **socialize** and wear your favourite sports team jersey during the **welcoming party**
- participate in **Meeting of the Minds**—futuristic breeder seminars/testimonies; youth opinions and interactions; general discussion among producers and industry partners
- take part in a high-calibre **embryo sale**
- **win** six lots of three embryos each, to be randomly drawn by attendees 30 years and under
- celebrate with 21 **Master Breeders**
- attend Holstein Canada's **Annual Meeting** with colourful guest speaker **Jacques Demers**
- be entertained during **Saturday evening's Back to the Future**

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