Info Holstein

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

Looking up from inside the rotary parlour, cows are viewed on the rubber-matted platform as they're milked.

(l-r) Jan and Kees Bass are extremely satisfied with their new, 50-cow, rotary parlour.

Celebrating LaBass Marathon

Ambitious, hard-working brothers continue to grow an award-winning, Holstein operation.

It only took brothers Jan and Kees Bassa a few weeks as trainees at the farm of Hans Borst, Elm Creek, MB to convince them that Manitoba, Canada was the place they wanted to live—forever. Here, with lots of room, freedom, and affordable land, their dreams of etching out a good living in dairy farming could be realized.

Having grown up on a farm in Holland, they persuaded their father, Pieter and mother, Klazina—after a few trips to Canada—to disperse their 40-cow herd in their homeland and buy a farm in La Broquerie, MB. It comprised 60 grade cows milked in a double-four parlour.

The family moved in 1991; young Jan (20) and Kees (22) purchased the farm from their parents two years later. ***LaBass*** Holsteins Ltd. was conceived in 1993.

Accumulating 1,800 acres over 17 years, the brothers have expanded three times.

The latest free-stall, naturally-ventilated barn, added in 2009, is 240 ft. by 94 ft. and used for fresh cows; they stay here, on wood shavings, for 30 days. Close-up cows are also housed in this barn, but remain on a straw pack—cleaned out by tractor.

Their new rotary parlour accommodates 50 cows at once. It is located in a separate barn 180 ft. by 150 ft. From New Zealand, the rotary parlour is the first of its design in Canada and is driven by electricity rather than hydraulics. The DeLaval PR2100 system was installed by Tri-Star Dairy and runs on steel rollers.

For proper, comfortable, milking-unit attachment, the floor is height adjustable in the operator's area. Rubber matting covers the platform where the cows stand to be milked. Equipment is stored under the deck to keep it clean.

Easy to upgrade, a robotic arm will be added in the future for teat dipping. Also, a robotic arm for attaching milking machines is being considered.

Farm manager Jan uses NLID radio frequency ID tags throughout the operation. Before entering individual stalls in the rotary, a cow's RFID tag is read by computer. After a complete turn, animals are further sorted by RFID for health treatment, hoof trimming, etc. If a cow has not finished milking, the platform automatically slows down.

Management of the entire LaBass dairy herd operation is solely based on NLID ISO RFID tags.

Jan adds, "I want to work with and rely on these tags throughout our operation; I don't want to buy or use neck transponders when the tag technology is available and compatible. I put the RFID component in the left ear for easy reading by computers or people.

"Because I'm a cow man, I can still select the cows by markings. However, it's nice to be able to identify the entire herd by consistent numbers, not names."

Three hired men milk the current 460 Holsteins three times a day in about 3½ hours. To keep these three, plus six other full and part-time employees satisfied in their jobs, Jan has introduced and pays for a full benefit plan. Flexibility is provided in schedules and workers receive three days off in a row.

This general philosophy also applies to Jan, wife and Registered Nurse Tracy, and their four children—Derrick, Nick, Joshua, and Melisa. Kees, who specializes more in crops and equipment, also gets his fair share of time off and holidays to unwind and clear his mind.

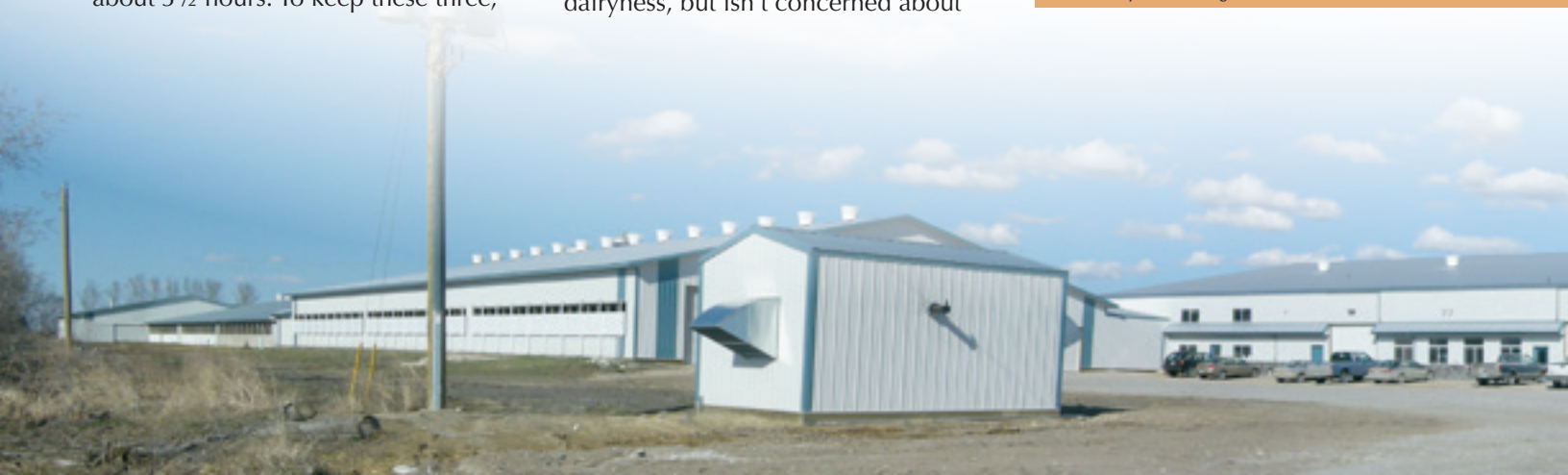
Cows are divided into two groups in a third, impressive facility—370 ft. by 100 ft. The individual Artex comfort stalls have DeLaval M35R matting covered with wood shavings. First-lactation and mature cows reside here. Rations are customized for each group, with their TMR consisting of corn silage, alfalfa silage, grain corn, hay, canola meal, roasted soybeans, and minerals.

Originally, the Bassas intended on moving into the high-end breeding, pedigree side of the dairy business. However, they are more into milk at the current time as they build their herd. Four hundred and sixty cows average about 9,500 kg milk, 3.8% fat, and 3.3% protein.

Jan, however, cannot abandon his preference for good-looking cows; he breeds for feet/legs, mammary systems, and reproduction. The majority of the upgraded-to-pure herd are Good Plus. As a large-herd owner, he likes mid-round classification so animals can be divided for scoring by welcomed classifiers. Jan likes his cows to display dairyness, but isn't concerned about

The milking machine is attached by one of many content employees.

Before entering individual stalls from the ramp, each cow is identified by its RFID tag.



LaBass Holsteins enjoy the comforts of their large, naturally-ventilated, free-stall barn.

height and length.

A herd favourite is Meadow Bridge Aero Missy (GP-83-2yr-CAN EX-90-5yr-USA 10* 1 Sup. Lact.). She is a full sister to Meadow Bridge Megabuck (VG-87-5yr EXTRA'96) and has 12 daughters, to date. Sons have been acquired by Canadian AI facilities. The brothers will continue to develop this deep-pedigreed family and use top-notch AI sires—predominantly from Alta Genetics.

Aggressively pursuing goals, Jan and Kees plan to milk 600 purebred Holsteins with an average of 10,000 kg milk. They also aim for good reproduction and less services per cow, which they feel are derived from good, functional females.

Registration and classification remain priorities as cow numbers climb.

Housed in a beautiful calf barn are 50 calves maintained in individual, well-bedded pens. As cow numbers increase, additional young stock will be sent to a professional heifer raiser.

The Bassas plan on incorporating a manure separator. The liquid will be divided from the solid manure for composting and eventual use as bedding.

Hard-working Jan loves milking cows and relays, "I really like to be right in the middle of the action." However, he knows he has to become more of a manager and complete more paperwork in order for *LaBass* to run smoothly. DairyComp is used for herd management with DHI customer service reps handling calf registration details.

The family's foresight, team and hard work, and achievements have not been overlooked. Jan and Tracy were chosen as Manitoba's 2010 **O**utstanding **Y**oung **F**armers (OYF) and represented Manitoba at the national level last year.

Standing still is *not* an option for Jan and Kees. Their career isn't a sprint, but a marathon. Seeking out Canada as a land of opportunity, the possibilities for this *large* family farm appear endless!

(l-r) Jan and Tracy Bassa pose with their four children, Joshua, Melisa, Derrick, and Nick. Uncle Kees is a big part of their lives. Derrick and Nick are in 4-H with homebred calves.

LaBass Holsteins Ltd., La Broquerie, MB

Holstein Canada and its Network

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

A network … Why?

(l-r) Holstein Canada's CEO Brian Van Doormaal and President Germain Lehoux are pleased with talks aimed at streamlining industry structure and gaining efficiencies in terms of services to members and industry partners.

Holstein Canada, with its 127 years of history, has established over time an assortment of important ties to its members, clients, and industry partners in Canada.

During the 2010 summer, after hiring your new CEO, Brian Van Doormaal, the National Board of Directors asked itself the following question.

Why should there be an amalgamation between our Association (HC) and the organization (CDN) that publishes our genetic evaluations, leads many research projects, and unites all dairy breeds in conjunction with the Canadian dairy industry?

Following are a few responses to help us answer this question.

- There is a limit to the number of producers and members who support the industry's entire structure.
- Increased efficiencies could be realized through the reduction of costs, the increase of services and their respective values.
- The members, who are 90% the same, would profit from services and activities offered by both Holstein Canada and CDN.
- There would be a unified voice from the new entity offering services to its members and the dairy industry such as animal identification, herdbook registration, genotyping, classification, genetic evaluation, research co-ordination, and government lobbying.

If the benefit analysis of this partnership shows us that we must move forward, we must determine *how*.

Presently, meetings of each Board of Directors have shown us possible ways to accomplish this goal. Respecting identities, industry rationalization, and the protection of assets are at the centre of these discussions.

In fact, the governance structure represents an important change in the way that we lead the destiny of the new entity.

The composition of the *official* Board must reflect a spirit of rationalization right from the start. Amendments to our By-laws will be proposed to you to reduce the size of the Board, but not its efficiency.

The integration of different committees in the new structure must answer to the roles and mandates that we give them. Services offered and the activities must meet the overall needs of producers/clients in Canada and, elsewhere, by incorporating their individual needs. As well, we must thoroughly examine the use of our physical and material resources, watching and listening carefully, keeping in mind our current and future needs.

Open minds and common sense are essential elements needed for this vision comprised of increased and shared ability. Holstein Canada and its history have always reflected a great leadership. Linked to the whole Canadian dairy industry, today, one name becomes very clear—**Holstein Canada Network**.

Finally, even though some branches of our Association have held their annual meetings, I encourage as many people as possible to participate in the ones yet to be held. Your input is fundamental to the health of our organization. Moreover, I invite you to the big Holstein event this coming May in Halifax!

In closing, I leave you to reflect on Holstein Canada's mission, which is my pleasure to discuss with you …

to provide leadership through genetic improvement programs to enhance profitability for all dairy producers.

Until next time!

2010— Record Year

While Holstein Canada was delighted with record numbers in registration and classification in 2009, the year 2010 marks new horizons for Canada's largest dairy breed organization.

In 2009, a record was achieved with 275,557 animals registered. However, a new all-time record of 280,158 animal registrations at the conclusion of the decade displayed a significant increase of 4,601 or a 1.7% growth.

As for classification in 2010, 255,901 animals classified shattered the 2009 mark of 240,422. This new all-time record is a whopping 15,479 animals higher for a 6.4% growth.

These business levels can be attributed to good customer retention and an increase in new customers. Since November 2009, classifiers have been visiting non-registering and/or non-classifying herds across Canada. As a result, 219 new classification herds and 88 new registration herds were enlisted.

The recruitment drive continues in 2011.

	Registrations	Classifications
2009	275,557	240,422
2010	280,158	255,901
Number increase	4,601	15,479
Percent increase	1.7%	6.4%

Carolin Turner is one of the Field Co-ordinators, among the 22 Canadian classifiers, who scored 255,901 animals for an all-time record in 2010.

The Nose Knows

Tips for DNA collection using nasal swabs

With the recent launch of GenoTest, many new producers are taking advantage of genomic testing. DNA collection using nasal swabs has proven to be reliable and convenient. Performagene• LIVESTOCK nasal swabs are supplied by DNA Genotek Inc., Ottawa, ON.

Contamination Avoided

Nasal samples provide an excellent source of DNA.

However, like any DNA sample, it remains important to prevent contamination from other sources.

After opening the package, ensure the collection sponge does not touch anything other than the animal's nostril. The sponge must stay clean before collection and until it is inserted back into the tube.

Dirty Noses

A clean nostril provides the best DNA sample for the lab to work with. However, traces of dirt and feed in the nostril are acceptable.

There is no need to clean the animal's nose prior to collection. However, to ensure the best possible sample, collecting samples during feeding should be avoided.

Nasal swab kits contain antibacterial agents, which prevent the growth of bacteria between the time of collection and shipment to the lab.

Collection Amount

You should collect as much nasal mucous on the sponge as possible to avoid having to recollect.

Rub the collection sponge inside the animal's nostril for approximately five seconds or until it appears wet.

Sample preparation

When collection is complete, unscrew the cap being careful not to spill the liquid.

Turn the cap upside down and place the sponge into the tube solution. Close the cap tightly. Flip the tube over and shake for five seconds to mix the sample.

Once the nasal sample is collected into the tube solution, a large amount of DNA is released and stabilized at room temperature.

Nasal swab kits are a great option for producers wanting a non-invasive and easy-to-use DNA collection method.

Holstein Canada supplies nasal kits to producers in groups of 10 for $50, plus applicable taxes.

Individual kits can be ordered for $6 each.

Nasal kits can be obtained three convenient ways from the Association:

- e-mail customerservice@holstein.ca
- order directly from www.holstein.ca
  >Genetics
  >> Genomics
  >>> Genomic Testing tab
- call customer service at 519-756-8300

Nasal kits can also be purchased through a Semex partner.

The Instinct for Excellence

All 24 applicants applying for six Education Awards from Holstein Canada must be highly commended on their achievements. In the run for $750 each, competition was extremely zealous this year.

Applicants had to be actively involved in both dairy farm and off-farm agricultural endeavours. Goal oriented, these students received credit for giving back to their communities and various youth programs—a standout in 2010.

It was evident that these youth view formal education as an essential step toward forays into lifelong careers, including agriculture.

Nicholas Brown
Lower Cove, NB
Brownhill/Brownsville Farms Ltd.

Nicholas will complete his Bachelor of Science in Agriculture degree at the **N**ova **S**cotia **A**gricultural **C**ollege (NSAC) this spring. His accumulated knowledge in Agricultural Business complements his diverse responsibilities on the family farm. Future plans include succession into the business as the owner/operator of 275 registered, classified Holsteins.

Evidence of further commitment to perfecting credentials involves off-shore studies at the Norwegian University of Life Science as an exchange student.

Combining academic honours with avid participation on NSAC's Varsity Soccer team has yielded Nicholas the *All-Academic Athlete Award* in all three school years. He was also Vice-President of the Agrologist Club.

Nicholas is a *Provincial 4-H Public Speaking Champion* and participant in the 2009 Atlantic Young Breeders' School.

Jonathan Gord Alblas
Branchton, ON
Carpediem Holsteins

Desiring to be part of the family farm, Gord's father first wanted his son to earn a diploma from a recognized educational institution. As a result, Gord completed his Associate Diploma at Ridgetown College with outstanding marks even receiving an award for *Best All-Around Student*.

Gord has completed 52 4-H clubs in 10 years and has been involved in provincial exchanges. A provincial leadership opportunist, he has achieved many accolades. Most significant

is the *Outstanding Agriculture 4-H Participation Award* from the Ontario Plowmen's Association. Gord aspires to be a 4-H leader as he desires to give back to this nurturing organization.

He is a competitive plowman in the North Wentworth Plowmen's Association. Gord aspires to take the family farm to new heights in classification and production.

Eric Martin
Ripley, ON
Starspark Holsteins

Eric's entrance into Holsteins is quite unique; his veterinarian father did not own a farm. Credit for Eric's agricultural enthusiasm and accomplishments derive from his connection to the Farrell family of *Farhope* Holsteins. Asking Eric to show a 4-H calf nine years ago turned into a positive relationship for both.

Honing his skills in the Farhope barn and at shows, Eric eventually began co-managing a heifer show herd, with

his brother, on his own property. This has further fuelled his drive to own a top-quality herd under his new prefix, *Starspark,* some day.

This third-year Bachelor of Commerce/Agricultural Business student at the **U**niversity of **G**uelph has engaged in a multitude of leadership roles in 4-H and at school. Eric recently won the *Outstanding Bruce County 4-H Agricultural Member Award*. A French language exchange to Switzerland remains a highlight.

Mélanie Boucher

Audet, Qc

Aurizon et fils inc.

Completing a technical course in Management and Running a Farming Enterprise at Cégep de Victoriaville is Mélanie's first step toward her goal of owning the family farm. Her focus on efficiency carries over to her home duties. Besides fieldwork, she is extensively immersed in both accounting and data management.

Seeking employment off-farm at two operations has further boosted her abilities. General farm management to show-animal selection and preparation has proven fulfilling. Involvement in 4-H has aided her in perfecting skills with better quality animals.

Mélanie forecasts that tomorrow's producers must also be expert managers—thus, her goal is to be among the very best farmers in Canada.

Mélissa Perreault

Saint-Bernard-de-Michaudville, Qc

Perrale

After completing a diploma in Food Processing, Mélissa now seeks a second in Managing and Running a Farming Enterprise at Institut de technologie agroalimentaire de Saint-Hyacinthe. High marks earned her an award for the *Best Average for First-Year Students*.

Mélissa's desire for knowledge from farm to plate has yielded her summer internships on a dairy farm in Belgium and sheep and cheese-making enterprises in France.

After graduation and employment off the family farm, Mélissa and her brother aim to focus on milk quality and performance in her father's herd.

Mélissa is very proud to represent women in agriculture.

Kenton Lindenbach

Balgonie, SK

Robella Holsteins

Passion truly describes Kenton, a dual-diploma recipient in Agricultural Business and Animal Science at Lakeland College.

Kenton serves as *Leader of the Student Managed Dairy* team for Lakeland College Dairy. In this capacity, he oversees final management decisions that comprise barn renovations, genetic improvement, and an independent nutritionist. He was a founding member of the Lakeland College Dairy Club—now as President.

Graduating in 2011, Kenton has been an active volunteer on numerous committees, including the judging team. Whether it is college, 4-H, or the **W**estern **C**anadian **C**lassic, Kenton has excelled.

When Kenton isn't at school, this reliable individual is avidly involved in genetics, marketing, and the website for his family farm.

Meeting the Members

by Brian Van Doormaal, Holstein Canada Chief Executive Officer and CDN General Manager

From early December until the end of February, Holstein Canada members have the opportunity to gather together for business and pleasure, at the time of their annual general meeting of their respective branch.

For the 2010-2011 rounds of these branch meetings, both Germain Lehoux, as Holstein Canada President, and I, as CEO, are committed to attend all nine branch meetings. One important reason for this cross-country *tour* is for both of us to meet and interact with as many members as possible.

The Association is currently going through some important changes to position Holstein Canada and you as its members to deal with the internal and external forces expected to influence the dairy cattle improvement industry.

The era of genomics has already affected Holstein breeders nationally and internationally, but we are currently only at the tip of the iceberg. Your management team and Board of Directors are actively planning for ways that Holstein Canada can maximize the value of genomics to you as members.

This will include more genotyping services in the future as well as various new programs and services aimed at capitalizing on the benefits of genomics to the Association, in conjunction with existing services such as registration and classification.

Another important initiative to better position Holstein Canada for the future includes the ongoing discussions with CDN aimed at streamlining industry structure and gaining efficiencies in terms of services to members and industry partners.

When your President and I attend each branch annual meeting, we will present some of the ideas being discussed and the main benefits of this strategic direction. Your feedback and opinions are always welcome!

Whether or not we have the chance to meet with you at your branch meeting, the National Convention and Holstein Canada Annual General Meeting are expected to be important opportunities for open discussion about the future of Holstein Canada as your Association.

I look forward to meeting with many of you during the branch and/or national meetings!

A Super Productive Smurf

Gillette E Smurf (VG-88-11yr) is the first Canadian Holstein to produce over 200,000 kg of milk.

She completed this feat (206,934 kg) at the age of 14 years and 1 month. Louis Patenaude of La Ferme Gillette Inc., Embrun, ON says, "Accomplished in nine *Superior award* lactations, *Smurf* has responded well to our care. We figure that, at 70 cents/litre, she has made $160,000 for our operation—with more to come."

This healthy cow with no reproductive or mastitis issues has great feet and legs. Her average calving interval over the first six lactations was just 12.3 months. She was classified VG-88 in her eighth lactation—one month short of her 12th birthday.

Louis continues, "As an older cow with only one ovary, we have put an embryo into her for the last three gestations. We have her calving again in February, which should reduce some stress [winter calving]."

A jovial Louis summarizes, "Maybe *Smurf* will make the Guinness World Book of Records!"

Gillette E Smurf

Top Canadian Cows for Total Kg. Milk

Cow name	Class.	Birth	Total kg	Breeder	Owner
Gillette E Smurf	VG-88-11yr	Sept. 13, 1996	206,934	Ferme Gillette, ON	
Johnie Claude Grenadier	VG-85-4yr	Aug. 20, 1980	195,960	J. L. Lemaire, Qc	Johnie, Qc
Marobing Choice Natalie	GP-84-4yr	Apr. 15, 1993	193,207	Marobing Farms, ON	
Gueriniere Broker Wilda	VG-88-11yr	Nov. 15, 1992	191,122	La Gueriniere Holsteins, Qc	Nauly Holsteins, Qc
Westgem Astre Reba QE	GP-80-2yr	Sept. 29, 1993	187,528	Westgem Holsteins, AB	Rinsma Holsteins, AB
Noblebutte Revelation Nina	GP-83-17yr	Feb. 26, 1987	182,633	J & R Ketal, AB	Beyer Dairy, AB

Received Genomic Results ... Now What?

by Jay Shannon, Breed Improvement Manager

Using genomics in herd management for greater improvement and profit

There are two primary reasons to genomic test—marketing and herd improvement.

Since the market for elite genomics is highly competitive and involves few players, the large majority of herds will use genomics for herd improvement.

But how?

We must first understand the different options for using genomics in a herd and the potential gains that can be achieved. Then each herd can decide which selection strategy fits its goals best.

Better Mating of Heifers

Genomic testing is predominantly for heifers. It is the segment of our population for which we know the least. Thus, heifers are the group for which genomics can provide the biggest boost.

Heifers are relative unknowns. We know the sire and dam, but we don't know what combination of characteristics they specifically inherited from their parents.

Most herds tend to mate them one of two ways: either randomly or by understanding the breeding pattern of the family and the many possible sires and, at the same time, avoiding closely-related sires. The result is not as good as most would like.

When heifers become cows, we obtain some insight into the characteristics inherited, specifically the strengths to develop and the weaknesses to correct. By having genomics on heifers, we gain early perspective about many characteristics inherited. With that knowledge, we can better chose the most appropriate mates for our heifers and optimize the results of the next generation.

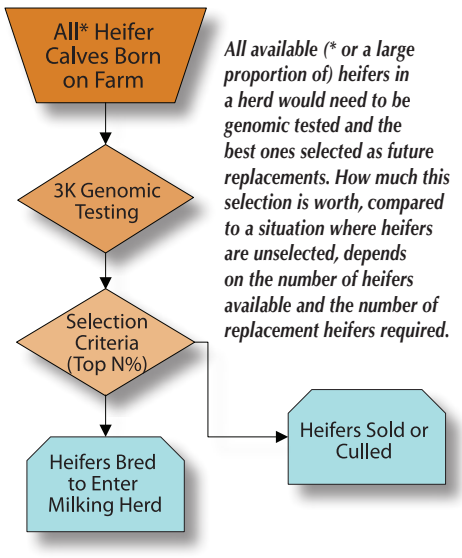
It is difficult to quantify the financial benefit due to better mating heifers. Holstein Canada plans on studying herds that are genomic testing to assess the potential gain in practical terms. Though better mating of heifers offers some real value, heifer selection using genomics is the practice that provides the greatest return on investment.

Maximizing the Heifer Crop

Heifer selection is not commonly practised due to uncertainty as to which ones are the right ones to keep.

Raising heifers is expensive. A recent Québec study, including 557 herds, calculated the average variable cost at $1,860 per heifer, plus $1,215 fixed cost per heifer. If the expected sale price of bred heifers is below this total cost of $3,075—as it has been in the past few years—it does not pay to keep them all.

It is more economical to retain only the number needed for replacements and add a few more in case of unexpected fluctuations. However, to do this effectively requires selecting the best heifers at an early age. This is where genomic testing can help.



All available (or a large proportion of) heifers in a herd would need to be genomic tested and the best ones selected as future replacements. How much this selection is worth, compared to a situation where heifers are unselected, depends on the number of heifers available and the number of replacement heifers required.*

Net Annual Benefit
(expressed in Net Present Values)

Heifers Available	Replacement Rate (%)			
	25	30	35	40
40	$9,100	$5,900	$2,510	($1,880)
50	$12,150	$9,560	$6,900	$4,220
60	$14,040	$11,900	$9,560	$7,390

The above table is based on calculations made by Dr. J. P. Chesnais of the Semex Alliance. He shows expected net profits from various heifer selection scenarios in a 100-cow milking herd.

The dollar figures represent the additional profit of selected heifers over an average of three years, compared to no selection, minus the cost of genomic

testing all available heifers. The values are expressed in **N**et **P**resent **V**alues (NPV) to account for the fact that genotyping costs are incurred before the heifers start producing.

The first row shows the case where 40 heifers are available. If the herd replacement rate requires less than 40, then the herd has an opportunity to select the better heifers and increase performance. The added profit exceeds the cost of genomic testing.

However, if the replacement requirement is 40 heifers from an available 40, then there is no opportunity for selection. In that case, the net outcome shows a loss equivalent to the cost of genomic testing all heifers.

The second row represents a typical 100-cow herd scenario using regular semen that should have approximately 50 available heifers. It shows a return over costs of $9,560 in NPV if only 30 replacement heifers were required.

The third row with 60 available heifers is intended to represent a 100-cow herd using sexed semen on heifers and regular semen on cows. Increasing the number of available heifers allows more intense selection of the best replacement heifers providing a higher net profit of $11,900 (NPV), if only 30 replacement heifers were required.

The economic benefits listed in the table would be further enhanced if we also factored in the higher merit of these heifers as they become dams of the next generation. Additionally, the sale of excess heifers plus the lower rearing costs, by not raising all heifers, could add some relevance depending on the cattle market and the herd.

In herds that have available heifers exceeding replacement needs, genomics can be used as an effective herd management tool for heifer selection and herd improvement. This may not suit everyone's situation, so each herd owner must decide on the strategy that corresponds best to his herd operation and goals.

3K or 50K?

The 50K is required in many cases, but the less expensive 3K should work for the majority.

There are currently two options available for genomic testing females. The 3K genomic test is the lower cost option ($47) and the 50K genomic test is the higher cost option ($160).

Which one should you choose?

One might guess the 3K test would be a small fraction (about 6%) of the 50K in terms of accuracy. However, a novel technology called *imputation* takes the 3,000 SNPs and, by using family and population knowledge of inheritance patterns, it fills in the missing SNPs on the 50K panel.

Where the sire and dam are both previously genotyped using the 50K, the system imputes missing SNPs with incredible accuracy.

Even if the dam is not previously genotyped, most sires spread throughout her pedigree are likely genotyped; this aids imputation.

The 50K can be predicted from the 3K with 90%+ accuracy in the high majority of cases. Essentially, it provides very similar accuracies compared to the 50K test.

Why would someone spend more money for the same result? For most producers, the 3K test is just right.

When the maternal line is not genotyped and, especially, when there's unknown ancestry in the pedigree, imputation from the 3K becomes less accurate and, in some cases, not possible. In such situations, since the lab service was provided and the costs incurred, the producer must be charged for that service.

However, if imputation could not be performed with sufficient accuracy for an animal, then a genomic result is not possible. Under such a circumstance, the producer must determine if he still wants a genomic result for the animal and, if so, then either 50K test the animal or genotype her dam. Being that this represents a small minority of cases in most herds, it is still optimal financially to use the 3K test first and then deal with the exceptions later.

For bull dam candidates and high-end genetics, it is generally recommended to stay with the 50K genomic test. An alternative testing strategy for these herds might be to first test all animals with 3K and retest the highest genomic animals with the 50K test. Such a strategy could very well be the most effective and efficient.

Genomic testing is predominantly for calves and heifers. These are the groups for which genomics can provide the biggest boost. This engaging lineup, in a new, spotless calf barn, was photographed at Pondview Farms, Goulds, NF.

Eastside Clan Ignites Interest

Holstein Canada confirms that Eastside Igniter Osmond (EX-90-2E 4*) sets a record as the 11th generation to complete over 60,000 kg milk. This prolific cow family is owned by J. Guy Thompson & Son, Charlottetown, PE.

Through unwavering and constant improvement, the clan started gelling with Eastside Mingay Girl (VG-85-3yr 4*). Born in 1969, her GP dam was purchased by Guy.

Bloyce Thompson says, "This trouble-free family has sound udders, which are mastitis-free. They have good feet and legs and lots of frame."

The 11 cows include 5 EX, 4 VG, 2 GP, with 5 achieving ME. They have accumulated 33 stars, which will increase with time. Most impressive is that these exceptional cows have consistently and reliably calved each year; they average 7.3 lactations.

Female progeny summaries have improved with each generation. With Good Plus and better as low as 50 percent in one early individual, the last four generations have yielded daughters that are 100% and better. *Osmond*, herself, has 100% Good Plus and better on 1 EX, 5 VG, and 4 GP daughters.

Bloyce summarizes, "We expect *Osmond* to become our highest brood cow. She is being flushed with daughters selling well in sales. Three granddaughters are among the highest genomic-tested calves in the Atlantic provinces."

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

Based on 1st Lactation Classifications from November/December 2010

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
Jasper	330	81.7	81.8	Damion	56	82.3	81.7
Dundee	132	81.6	81.6	Blitz	62	81.3	80.3
Goldwyn	794	81.3	81.3	Lheros	50	81.1	80.9
Bolton	158	80.8	81.0	Shottle	72	81.1	81.4
Spirte	179	80.5	80.3	Laurin	47	81.1	81.9
September Storm	279	80.3	80.1	Champion	30	80.8	81.1
Fortune	110	80.3	81.2	Re Design	68	80.8	80.4
Talent	270	80.2	80.1	Atlas	54	80.6	79.9
Mr Burns	343	80.2	80.6	Altaminister	80	80.3	80.6
Final Cut	171	80.2	79.6	Altaaugusta	36	80.2	79.1

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

February

Early
ON – Perth
ON – MH Dundas, Stormont
Qc – MH Frontenac, Beauce, Lévis, Québec, Montmorency
Qc – Drummond, Bagot, Saint-Hyacinthe
BC – Lower & Central Fraser Valley, Richmond Delta

Mid
ON – MH Prescott, Glengarry, Niagara, Wentworth, Brant, Haldimand & Norfolk
Qc – Richelieu, Verchères, Rouville, Abitibi, Témiscamingue, Pontiac, Labelle, Papineau, Gatineau
BC – Upper Fraser Valley, Okanagan, Vancouver Island

Late
ON – Grenville, Lanark, Renfrew
ON – MH Russell, Carleton
Qc – Argenteuil, Deux-Montagnes, Terrebonne, L'Assomption, Montcalm
Qc – MH Dorchester, Bellechasse

March

Early
ON – Leeds, Grey
Qc – Joliette, Berthier, Maskinongé, Saint-Maurice, Champlain
Qc – MH Montmagny, L'Islet
Alberta: MH

Mid
ON – Bruce, Huron, Peel
Qc – Laviolette, Portneuf
Manitoba: MH

Late
ON – Halton, York, Ontario
Qc – Lac Saint-Jean, Roberval, Lapointe, Dubuc, Charlevoix, Chicoutimi
Qc – MH Kamouraska

April

Early
ON – MH Middlesex, Lambton, Elgin, Essex & Kent
ON – Simcoe, Dufferin
Qc – Vaudreuil, Soulanges, Huntingdon, Châteauguay, Beauharnois, Laprairie, Napierville, Saint-Jean, Iberville, Shefford
PE, NB, NS, NL

Mid
ON – Northumberland, Victoria, Peterborough
Qc – Richmond, Missisquoi

Late
ON – Durham, Lennox & Addington, Frontenac, Hastings, Prince Edward
Qc – MH Rivière du Loup, Témiscouata, Rimouski, Matapédia, Matane, Bonaventure, Arthabaska, Mégantic, Wolfe

MH mid-round

Canadian Champion 2010

A Canadian Champion is awarded to a Holstein cow that surpasses the previous all-time highest performance for milk, fat, protein, and total BCA in its age-at-calving category. If more than one animal in a given year exceeds the previous highest level, only the top individual is recognized.

To view the current list of all-time highest production Canadian Champion cows, visit

<www.holstein.ca
<< Awards & Shows
<<<Cow Award Lists
<<<<Award Search

Rustowil Stormy Stavros

(EX-90)

* 5-Year-Old for Total Performance
* 2 Super 3's 4 Superior Lactations
  Calved at 2-01, 3-05, 4-06, 5-05
* Breeder: William Moreland, Joyceville, ON
* Owner: Mark Moreland, Joyceville, ON
* Sire: Comestar Stormatic (EX-CAN)

	Production (kg) 05-05 305	BCA (Deviation)
Milk	23,750	475 (+215)
Fat	1,066 4.5%	576 (+289)
Protein	686 2.9%	434 (+164)
Total		1,485 (+668)

Congrats 2010 Master Breeders

Bridon Farms Inc.
Brian, Donna, Bruce, and Jeff Sayles
Paris, ON

Phoenix Bros.
Dappledale
Keith, Earl, Barclay, Matt, Carl, and Mike Phoenix
Greenbank, ON

Ferme Prés Verts inc.
Depresverts
Luc, Gaétan, Dominique Deschênes and family
Saint Gabriel, Qc

Elmbridge Farms
Peter and Nicole Tuytel
Chilliwack, BC

Erbcrest Farm
Delmer and Daniel Erb and families
Milverton, ON

Ferme Gilson inc.
Adolphe and Léon Gilson and family
Upton, Qc

Heather Holme Holsteins
Glen, Vanda, and Curtis McNeil
Goderich, ON

Les Hectares Verts inc.
Hectare
Gérard, Imelda, Dominique, Jérôme, and Nicolas Baechler
Roxton Pond, Qc

Maple-Ain Holsteins
Hugh and Arlene Hunter, Gerald and Joanne Hunter
Smiths Falls, ON

Quecy Holstein
Jacques Roy and Sons
Saint-Isidore de Dorchester, Qc

Raivue Farms Ltd.
William and Tina Raines, Robert and Tamara Raines, Patricia Raines
Sunderland, ON

Rotaly
Rock Hébert and Nathalie Dumais and family
Saint-Hélène de Kamouraska, Qc

Sandy Crest Holsteins
Don Carss and Jennifer Rivington, William Carss
Arnprior, ON

Shylane Holsteins
John and Sheryl McCallum, Jill McCallum and Kurtis Moesker
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Sunspark Farms Inc.
Neil and Debby Zevenbergen, John and Jenny Zevenbergen
Hepworth, ON

Ferme Vinbert inc.
Mario Vincent and Jacinthe Guilbert and family
Acton Vale, Qc

Wikkerink Farms Ltd.
Roger and Julie Wikkerink and family
Norwich, ON

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Info Holstein

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