

# *info* Holstein

October/November/December 2014 issue no. 130

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



**Canada's Young Leaders on the World Stage  
at the European Young Breeders School**

# Join us

for the 2014  
NATIONAL  
HOLSTEIN SHOWS

at

## The Royal

AGRICULTURAL WINTER FAIR

### 2014 ROYAL PREVIEW

DATE	TIME	EVENT/VENUE	JUDGE(S)
SUNDAY, NOV. 9	6 p.m.	TD CANADIAN 4-H DAIRY CLASSIC	Jeff West, ON (Showmanship)
MONDAY, NOV. 10	8:30 a.m.	Ricoh Coliseum	Thierry Jaton, QC (Showmanship) Chris Lahmers, USA (Conformation)
THURSDAY, NOV. 13	9 a.m.	NATIONAL RED & WHITE HOLSTEIN SHOW Scotiabank Ring of Excellence	Carl Phoenix, ON
	2 p.m.	NATIONAL BLACK & WHITE HOLSTEIN SHOW Junior and Intermediate Calves Scotiabank Ring of Excellence	Donald Dubois, QC Joël Lepage, QC
	5 p.m.	HOLSTEIN SALE OF STARS Scotiabank Ring of Excellence	
FRIDAY, NOV. 14	7:30 a.m.	NATIONAL BLACK & WHITE HOLSTEIN SHOW (Starting with Senior Calves) Ricoh Coliseum	Donald Dubois, QC Joël Lepage, QC
SATURDAY, NOV. 15	2 p.m.	QUALITY SEEDS SUPREME CHAMPION Scotiabank Ring of Excellence	

### YOUR JUDGES



**DONALD DUBOIS**, Princeville, QC is the official judge for the National Black & White Holstein Show.



**JOËL LEPAGE**, Amqui, QC will serve as associate judge for the National Black & White Holstein Show.



**CARL PHOENIX**, Sunderland, ON has been named official judge of the National Red & White Holstein Show.

**Editor** Jennifer Kyle

**Chief Executive Officer** Ann Louise Carson

**Board of Directors**

**President** Mario Perreault, Qc  
450-839-7190  
vieuxsaule@satelcom.qc.ca

**Vice-President & Board Chair** John Buckley, ON  
705-324-4017  
jkbuckley@live.com

**2nd Vice-President** Robert Chabot, QC  
418-596-2230  
rhabot@genibeq.com

Richard Bosma, BC  
604-557-1769  
rjbosma@hotmail.ca

Orville O. Schmidt, AB  
780-986-5746  
southrisegen@yahoo.ca

Ron Boerchers, SK & MB  
204-447-2047  
rainyridge@mymts.net

Gerald Schipper, ON  
519-765-4614  
skipwell@amtelcom.net

Doug Peart, ON  
905-768-5163  
peartome@live.com

Ron Sleeth, ON  
613-353-2475  
eilevale@kingston.net

Elyse Gendron, QC  
450-265-3147  
e.gendron@xittel.ca

Gilles Côté, QC  
418-343-2597  
lacnor@hotmail.ca

Harry Van Der Linden, ATL. CAN  
902-863-3063  
linden@ant.eastlink.ca



**Design by** Blueprint Agencies Inc.  
10 Scott Ave., Paris, ON 519.442.1242

**Printed in Canada by** BECK'S PRINTING  
75 Empey St., Brantford, ON



Éric Laliberté, flanked by Belle Chasse Breaker Tomate VG-86-2YR-CAN on the left and Belle Chasse Shiraz Thank You VG-88-3YR-CAN on the right, co-owns Ferme Gérard Laliberté et fils in Honfleur, QC. Find out more about this great herd on page 10.

**ON THE COVER:** Jaclyn Hunter of Alberta practices with her calf at the European Young Breeders School in Belgium. Find out more about the event and Team Canada on page 16.

## contents

- 4 **President's Message: Elite Players**
- 6 **Genomic Testing Workflow**
- 8 **Use Conformation Assessment to Improve Your Bottom Line**
- 15 **Parentage Conformation Using Microsatellite & SNP Genomic Tests**

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



# Elite Players

**AS THE YEAR GOES ON**, I would like to continue with the “team” theme. In this edition, I would like to highlight two of the sub-teams that step into the spotlight each fall, and which, together with many other sub-teams, help make up our Holstein Canada Team. The start of the new hockey season has certainly helped inspire this editorial!

## OUR BREEDER EXHIBITORS

This time of year, several exhibitors from across Canada have arrived home from another successful trip to World Dairy Expo in Madison. Closer to home, many Canadian breeders are getting ready to put together first-class shows at the Supreme Dairy Show in Québec and, of course, at the Royal – THE greatest annual celebration of Canadian Holstein genetics.

After a busy show season in all Canadian regions, exhibitors participating in these great North-American “finals” may be few in numbers, but we can always expect the highest quality. To this end, they are very important members of our team; they are our elite players – our P.K. Subban... minus the big salary!

These men and women, and often their entire families, represent our country so well. They are the ones who have helped build the reputation of our world-respected cow and her exceptional conformation. These

“pretty” cows are high producers, and both the heifers and cows tend to have very high genetic and genomic indexes. Our breeders are showing the “complete package”: Our Canadian Holstein. Thank you for your hard work, for the boundless promotion of our wonderful Holstein breed to spectators from both across the country and around the world, and for your great respect for the Code of Ethics.

## OUR JUDGES

Judges are the colleagues of choice for the exhibitors. They too play an important role in promoting our great Canadian Holstein. I commend all Official and Aspiring Judges. It was inspiring to witness first-hand the passion and the professionalism of our team members at the National Judging Conference this summer!

Whether you are an exhibitor, a spectator in the stands, or you follow the shows from home, you are all important members of the Holstein Canada team.

In my future editorials, I look forward to talking to you about the numerous other “elite players” – those who are passionate about genomics and other herd management tools, making them great managers and Holstein Canada team members! 🐄



MARIO (Right) is shown here with fellow Official Judge and member of the Show Committee Thierry Jaton (QC) during the National Judging Conference in P.E.I.

#### THE 1995 COMMITTEE

was known as: "The Montvic Recognition Group" made up of a number of National, Branch and industry leaders.

(L to R): Warren McIntosh, Committee members André Campeau, Robert Chicoine, Murray Howes, Grant Cameron, Maurice Léger. Front: Elyse Gendron, Horace L. Nixon and Mario Perreault. Mr. Nixon was present at the 1942 Montvic herd dispersal. It was very special for him to be at the celebration and to have him there as someone who can "Remember When."



## Remembering those who came before us

by Holstein Canada Chief Executive Officer, Ann Louise Carson, agr.

**WE CANNOT SAY IT ENOUGH** – our industry is moving at the speed of light! Technology, bloodlines, genomic results, communication methods – everything is full speed ahead and this is very exciting.

I am a strong believer in the concept that it is easier to know where we are going when we remember where we came from. I feel it is important to show the much deserved respect to those who came before us. This is true of the many people, far too numerous to mention, who have done so much for Holstein Canada and our breed at the club, branch and national levels over many decades. We are who we are today because of their dedication. In today's fast-paced world, perhaps we do not take enough time to remember them – and to say thank you!

People always come first, however in the Holstein world, "cow and bull talk" is never far behind when people get together. I will venture to say 99% of people reading these lines know *Braedale Goldwyn* – and are in awe at how this great sire has impacted our breed. A smaller, but still important portion of our readership will have the same reaction to hearing the name of the breed-changing sire from the 1980's, *Hanoverhill Starbuck*.

And then there is a much smaller yet very special section of our readership who will have immediate respect when hearing about *Johanna Rag Apple Pabst*. Despite being active almost a

hundred years ago, this sire's impact on the breed is still felt today. At a recent ceremony at the site of the historic Mount Victoria farm in Hudson, QC, a statue was unveiled of *Rag Apple Pabst* – a bull who is labelled by well-respected breed historian Robert Chicoine as the sire who put Canada on the world map. Even more interestingly, Mr Chicoine's research revealed *Johanna Rag Apple Pabst* appears approximately 9,000 times in the pedigree of today's top indexed sire, *Marbri Facebook* (born in Russell, ON just a few kilometres down the road from Mount Vic farms).

During a presentation I recently made to our great industry, I stated it is important to appreciate our past, but not to stay in it. I stand by that statement. However, to appreciate our history, we must know it. To all of you who do not recognize the names Starbuck, Mount Victoria, Robert Chicoine or his fellow Holstein historians from the West, Doug Blair and Gordie Sutor, Johanna Rag Apple Pabst or Hanoverill Hill, I invite you to sit down with one of the many amazing people in your own backyard who came before you. Put down your phone, set aside your technology and have a listen. You will be glad you did – because just like *Johanna Rag Apple Pabst* and *Marbri Facebook*, we are all connected. 🇨🇦

# GENOMIC TESTING WORKFLOW

AS MORE PRODUCERS take advantage of genotyping services, it is essential for new and existing service users to gain a better understanding of the genomic testing timelines. The Holstein Canada team is dedicated to continuous improvement both in keeping producers up-to-date and knowledgeable about genotyping processes and deadlines, as well as ensuring timely results once samples arrive at Holstein Canada.

On farm sample collection and submission is the beginning in the multi-step process of receiving genomic results. There are many sequential checks and deadlines each sample must meet before a genomic evaluation is published. One of the key dates in the process is Canadian Dairy Network's (CDN) genomic evaluation release date which currently takes place once per month, changing to weekly in 2015. Therefore it is important to

be aware of CDN's release days, as this is when the completed genomic evaluation will be made available. The other key date to keep in mind is Holstein Canada's sample cut-off date as described below.

A list of dates can be found on Holstein Canada's website under Service > Genotyping > Submission Due Dates or by calling the Customer Service department at 1-855-756-8300 ext. 600

## SAMPLE ON HOLD

AFTER VISUAL INSPECTION AND A SYSTEM VALIDATION CHECK, SAMPLES MAY BE PLACED ON HOLD IF:

- an animal is not yet registered;
- application for registry is in progress;
- ownership is in question;
- a transfer needs to be completed;
- there is no test type selected;
- sample is of insufficient quantity



# HELPFUL HINTS

1. ENSURE THE ANIMAL IS REGISTERED

2. TAKE AN ADEQUATE SAMPLE TO ENSURE THERE IS ENOUGH SAMPLE TISSUE PRESENT FOR ANALYSIS
3. SUBMIT SAMPLE(S) WELL BEFORE THE CUT-OFF DATE
4. SHOULD ANY ISSUES ARISE, CONTACT HOLSTEIN CANADA TO FACILITATE A QUICK RESOLUTION.

To publish a genomic evaluation, the sample needs to produce a readable and accurate percentage — usually about 90%. If the first test at the lab does not produce a reliable result above 90%, the test result will be deemed low call, will not produce a genomic evaluation and will require the producer to submit a new sample.

## SAMPLE ON HOLD

LOW CALL >>

In the cases of failed extraction or low call, producers will be notified by Holstein Canada. It is important to note, once those samples are re-submitted, the whole process begins again.

When parentage has been validated, the genomic results are incorporated into the genetic evaluation process at CDN and results are sent to Holstein Canada in time for the target release date. **RELEASE DATES ARE CURRENTLY ONCE PER MONTH, HOWEVER WILL BE CHANGING TO WEEKLY IN 2015.** Genomic results are first published online at [CDN.ca](http://CDN.ca) before being uploaded to Client Accounts.



1 TO 2 DAYS

7 TO 10 DAYS

## SAMPLE ON HOLD

INSUFFICIENT SAMPLE QUANTITY >>

If, at this point, the lab staff determines a sample does not contain enough sample tissue, it is called a failed extraction and the producer will be notified to submit a new sample.




Once a sample obtains a quality result at the lab, the raw data from the lab is forwarded to the Council of Dairy Cattle Breeding (CDCB) and CDN for parent validation. If a parentage conflict arises, Holstein Canada will contact the producer to resolve the conflict. Common reasons for parentage conflicts include animal interchanges at time of birth and missing breeding information. In these cases, the Parentage Research Support team will work with the producer to resolve the conflict.



## TIMELINE OF ENTIRE PROCESS: 1 MONTH

There are many variables at play in the process described above. As a result, the minimum amount of time needed to receive a genomic evaluation in ideal circumstances is at least one month.

For more information or questions about timelines or genotyping, call Holstein Canada's Customer Service department at 1-855-756-8300 ext. 600. 

# Use Conformation Assessment to Improve Your Bottom Line!

**CONFORMATION ASSESSMENT** can be a powerful resource in a dairyman's arsenal of management tools. Like all other tools, leaving results on the shelf to collect dust will never deliver value, but when the information from a classifier's visit is leveraged by the dairy producer over generations of breeding, it is a profitable tool.

New profit data, made available through record keeping practices of herds across Canada, is included in a new resource document from Holstein Canada. 'The Value of Conformation Assessment' showcases the results of collaborative research with industry partners Canadian DHI and Canadian Dairy Network.

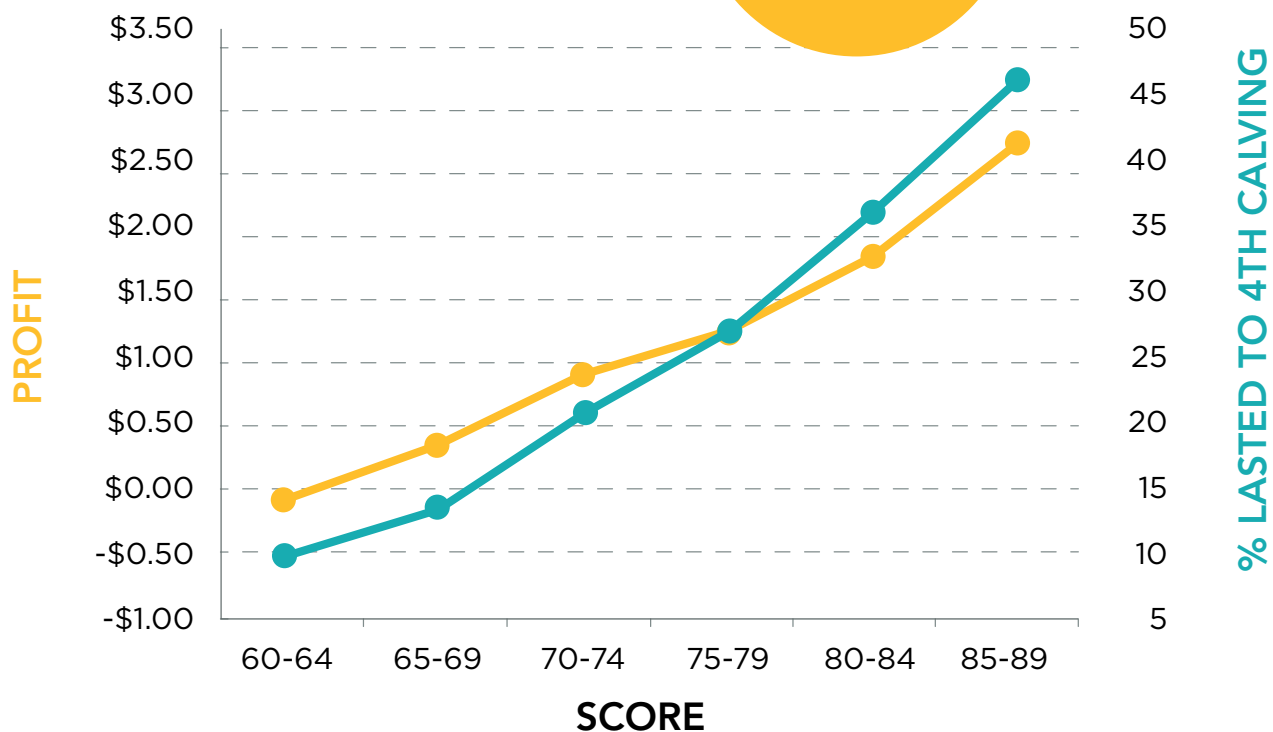
## For Profitability

Higher yield associated with better Final Score in first lactation is old news, but now we are able to show expected increases in daily profit per day! **Profit** was defined as milk production income minus expenses for heifer rearing, maintenance and production-related feed costs, dry period and quota opportunity cost. On average, every 5-point increase in Final Score as a first lactation cow was associated with an additional \$0.53 profit per cow per day from birth until fourth calving. On a herd basis, profit potential increases depending on the percentage of your herd that scores breed average and higher. Conversely, herds that have already achieved exceptional breeding results can continue to profit from assessing conformation with a program that frequently evolves and drives breed improvement through unbiased and up-to-date expertise.

For every 5 point increase in first lactation score:

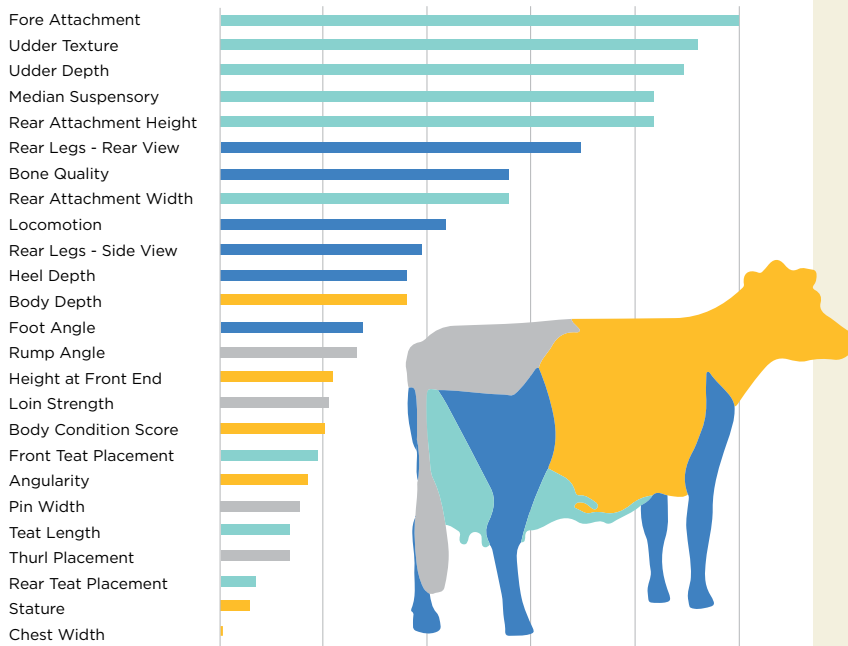
average annual profitability per cow increases by

**\$193**



# STRENGTH OF RELATIONSHIP TO LONGEVITY BY TRAIT



## For Longevity

Maximized profit results from combined improvements to production and longevity; not one without the other. Analysis comparing a cohort of animals born from 2003 to 2007 with lactation data revealed the strengths of relationship to longevity by trait. Mammary traits showed the strongest relationship with longevity followed by Feet & Leg traits.

In terms of voluntary culling, cattle disposal may be — for a variety of reasons including feet and leg problems or mammary breakdown — directly determined by conformation. Yet there are disposal decisions that are affected by conformation; cows with higher final scores are significantly less likely to be culled for production reasons and significantly more likely to remain in the herd longer.

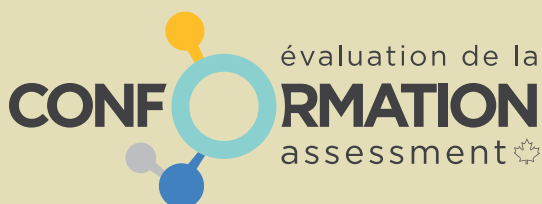
In a separate research project by CDN that investigated relative risk of involuntary culling (culling due to death or severe illness), there was a significant decrease in risk for animals with higher final scores.

## For Added Value

The program proudly provides exceptional service to all seven dairy breeds across Canada — increasing efficiency of member resources. The team of classifiers is set apart by the ability to share expertise and passion during their herd visits, barn meetings and presentations. Also at no extra cost is integration with mating reports and herd trend reports that provide herd benchmarking against the 67% of milk producers that participate; a streamlined process with optional electronic data formats and free publication and access to results. Producers looking for robust animal data benefit from the seven and ten percent (Genomic Parent Average and Parent Average, respectively) increase in female genetic evaluation accuracy gained from first lactation conformation assessment.

## Volume Pricing

Holstein Canada — with an appreciation of the changing needs of expanding herds — introduced volume discounts, in order to maintain the price for the first 25 animals per visit for all producers at the low price of \$11, unchanged over many years. It is a testament to the dedication of the needs of clients in the Conformation Assessment program; old, new, large and small. Conformation Assessment provides insight into possible management changes, can be used as an early culling tool, and should be used for balanced breeding over generations to enhance profitability through improvements to functionality and productivity. For those looking to get the most from this tool, Holstein Canada field staff, classifiers, the extension and education team and provincial branches are available to field questions. 🇨🇦



The 'Value of Conformation Assessment' document is available on the Holstein Canada website and from your classifier or through email at [classification@holstein.ca](mailto:classification@holstein.ca).

\* Sewalem, A., G.J. Kistemaker, F. Miglior and B.J. Van Doormal, 2004. Analysis of the relationship between type traits and functional survival in Canadian Holsteins using a Weibull proportional hazards model. *J. Dairy Sci.*, 87: 3938-3946.

**TOMATE II**  
Sire: 1111111111  
Date of Birth: 11/11/11  
Owner: 1111111111  
Breeder: 1111111111  
Majesty: 1111111111 EX 91.10  
1111111111

**THANK YOU!**  
1111111111  
1111111111  
SILIRAZ RED  
Majesty: 1111111111 EX 91.10  
1111111111



---

---

# ADDING A TOUCH OF COLOUR TO THE HERD

---

---

By Myriam Côté, agr., Holstein Advisor with Holstein Québec



Located east of Québec City in Honfleur, in Bellechasse County, sits Ferme Gérard Laliberté et fils surrounded by fields and a sugar bush. It is this farm where several generations of the Laliberté family have been operating the *Belle Chasse* herd. It is in this colorful fall setting that Myriam Côté met with Éric Laliberté, co-owner and herd manager at *Belle Chasse*.

**IN THE EARLY 1960'S**, Éric Laliberté's grandfather, Maurice Laliberté, operated a dairy farm with a herd of purebred Holsteins. Dairy producers wanting to build their herd would often visit to purchase the purebred animals. Thus, the *Belle Chasse* herd became one of the first herds to use official milk recording and classification programs. This is also when they began to be active in the show ring. Their prefix dates back 57 years and they have been showing their own animals for more than 55 years. Over the years, Maurice's son Gérard joined the operation and in 1988, Éric and his brother Marc partnered with their father.

The Lalibertés have been awarded the *Ordre national du Mérite agricole* in their division, four times. Gérard Laliberté was one of the founders of the BBQ Bellechasse Show in St-Anselme. The sale organized as part of this show was started by Éric in 1994, and he managed it for 14 years. In 2001, the family hosted the Holstein Québec picnic and opened their doors to the great Québec Holstein family.

---

## L'Ordre national du mérite agricole (National Order of Agricultural Merit)

---

The Québec Government introduced this competition in 1889.

- To recognize the work and know-how of agricultural professionals
  - To stimulate the development of a dynamic and innovative agri-food industry
- A team of judges assesses the management of:
- Production equipment
  - Farm Sustainability
  - Financial resources
  - Human resources
  - Social impact

Today, the herd has 160 head; including 85 cows classified 6 EX - 45 VG - 30 GP with a milk production average of 10,400 kgs with 4.0% F and 3.3% P. They farm 500 acres of seed grains and grassland, and have a 3,000-tap sugar bush. **MORE ON NEXT PAGE >>**

# Q&A

## Which cow families are you working with on the farm? What are your breeding strategies?

**ÉRIC LALIBERTÉ (ÉL):** We currently work with three great families: *Idee Dundee Alibi* EX-90 1\* from the *Roxy* family; *Belle Chasse Rudolph Estelle* VG-87 and homebred; and *Gen-I-Beq Majesty Sachou* EX-91-3E 1\* from the *Splendor* family. *Alibi* and *Sachou* were both purchased at the BBQ Bellechasse Sale. 11 of *Sachou's* 15 daughters are classified GP or better, and two sisters stand out: *Belle Chasse Shiraz Thank You* VG-88-3YR and *Belle Chasse Breaker Tomate* VG-86-2YR. Both were in the show rings this summer.

In terms of breeding strategy for the R&W Holsteins, I think there are two ways of achieving your goals; first, by working with short term goals and therefore using red sires to quickly acquire R&W animals. With this strategy, one should pay attention to and

be cautious of inbreeding. I would, however, recommend a long-term strategy. I use sires that are Red factor carriers which enables me to choose from a wider pool of sires. I also use sires that are not Red carriers allowing me to achieve more depth in my pedigrees and to be able to have a red carrier *Goldwyn* or *Windbrook* for instance. It is true that sometimes the Red factor skips a generation and patience is key, but this produces more interesting animals for buyers.

## Where do you see the future of your operation?

**ÉL:** Like any business, the first challenge will be to reach the next generation. If they are interested in carrying on the family farm, the second challenge will be to transfer a financially healthy farm business to them. For now, we are not thinking about expanding. We already have three areas of production:

dairy production, seed grains and the sugar bush. We do not hire full-time employees, and we are ok with that. It is also important to show the next generation that we can spend time with family and take time for ourselves. Finally, we want to keep improving our facilities and the quality of our animals, both at the production and conformation levels.

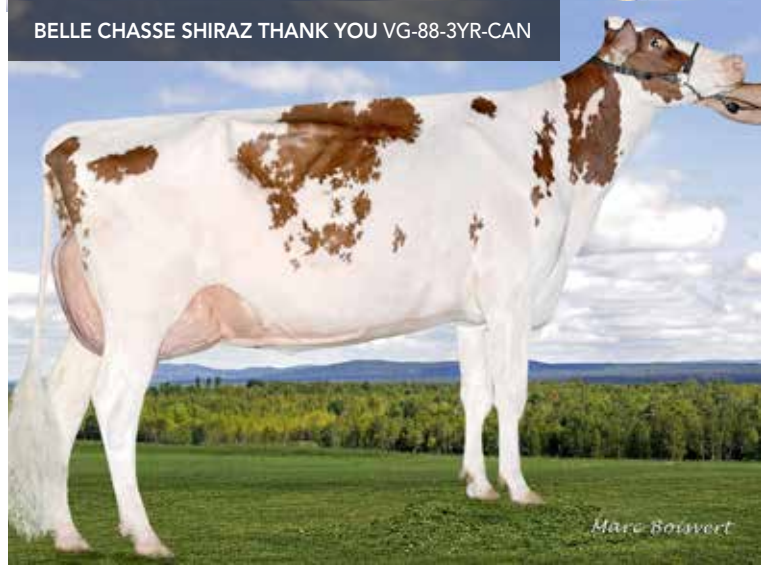
## Where do you see the future of Canadian dairy operations?

In Canada, there are two types of models for dairy operations: the American model and the European model. The American model focuses on robotization and automation in large-scale dairy facilities; they are the so-called mega-operations. The European model is more focused on meeting the consumer demands in terms of animal welfare and environmental friendliness with medium-sized farms. Québec wavers



**BELLE CHASSE SHIRAZ THANK YOU** and *Belle Chasse Breaker Tomate* took 1st place in the progeny of Dam class at Expo Provinciale 2014.

Marc Boisvert



between the two models. In my mind, medium-size family farms will be more apt to meet consumers' expectations in terms of animal welfare and the environment. Moreover, it is often hard to transfer a mega-farm to just one person. The next generation willing to take over is becoming increasingly rarer; therefore medium-sized farms not too heavily indebted are better so as not to scare the next generation away.

**Which Holstein Canada program do you find the most useful?**

**ÉL:** We believe in registration – it is a must and is the basis of all things. But, like the majority of breeders, classification is what has enabled our herd to be where it is today. For us, it is always a highlight when the classifier comes to our farm!

**From 2000 to 2005, you were a Holstein Canada Board member. What have you learned from your two terms as a director, and how is it useful today?**

**ÉL:** First, I was able to see what is going on behind the scenes: everything from data entry and registration in the Herdbook, to Master Breeder point calculation, to the logistics of the classification system just to name a few. Secondly, my two terms gave me the chance to meet exceptional breeders from all over Canada, some with whom I have kept in touch. Traveling across the country also gave me the opportunity to discover different types of operations often very characteristic of their environment. Finally, Keith Flaman, who was the General Manager at that time, had a big effect and a great influence on me.

**What is one piece of advice you wish someone had given you when you started out as a Holstein breeder?**

**ÉL:** I wish I had been told to invest in one or two solid cows rather than in seven or eight good cows. Today, I can really see the positive impact of Sachou and Alibi in our herd. Cow families with many stars remain the most reliable tool. It is important to work with cows that have proven they can successfully transmit their best traits to the next generation. To me, "living" values such as classification scores of the cow and her daughters, production, longevity, etc. are more reliable than numerical values.

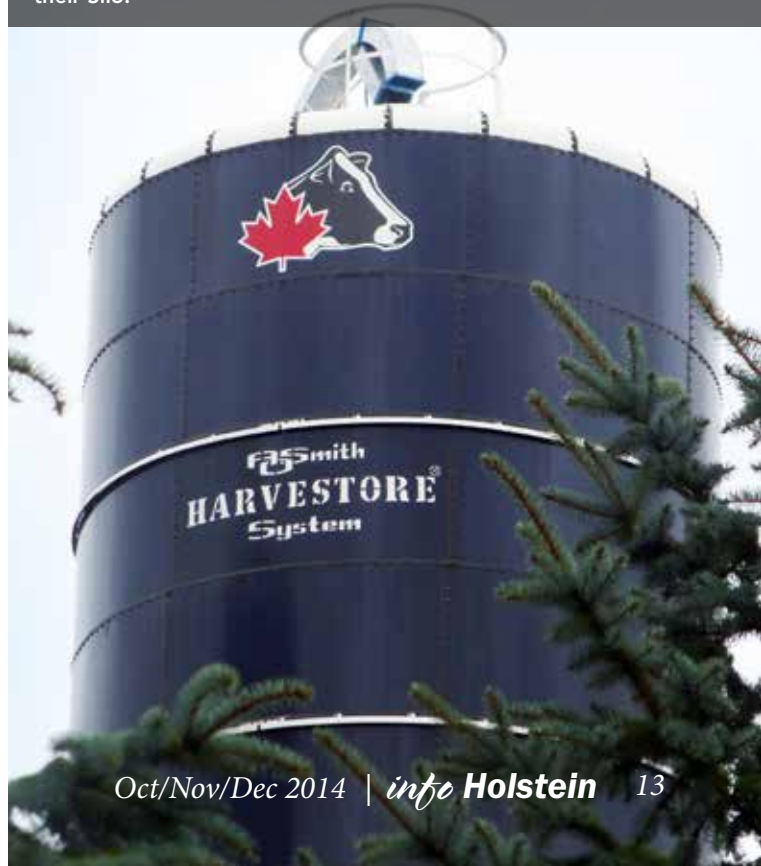
**In closing, what about your operation are you the most proud of?**

**ÉL:** The balance between all aspects of our operation: herd performance (production versus conformation), spacious buildings even if they are not brand new, productive fields and the fact that the equipment is in very good shape. The farm is also financially healthy. To me, a balanced operation – free of significant weaknesses – is a transferable farm business that is much more interesting in the eyes of the younger generation looking to take over the farm. 🇨🇦

ÉRIC IN FRONT of the barn with Belle Chasse Breaker Tomato VG-86-2YR-CAN.



THE LALIBERTÉS proudly display the Holstein Canada Logo on their Silo.



# Genetic Recessive Testing Fees Reduced

**THE GENETIC RECESSIVE TESTING FEES** have been reduced as a result of a service review and changes at the lab Holstein Canada works with.

Polled test requests for your Holstein dairy animals are now offered at \$40 – reduced from \$80.

Polled in Holstein cattle refers to animals born naturally hornless with the absence of horns and scurs. The polled characteristic in cattle is inherited as a simple, dominant gene. Therefore, horns result from two copies of the recessive gene at that location on the chromosome. The cause of polled is believed to be a single, dominant mutation which causes the polled phenotype.

For more information on Polled testing, contact Customer Service at 1-855-756-8300 ext. 600. 🇨🇦

## Adjustments to InfoHolstein's Print Schedule

**INFOHOLSTEIN** is and will continue to be one of the main vehicles used to share information with our Holstein Canada members. In order to ensure we are able to get **InfoHolstein** into the hands of our members in a timely fashion, we will be adjusting the print schedule to better accommodate the year's events. There will still be six issues per year however; all six issues will now fall within the same calendar year. To accommodate the change to the schedule, this issue of **InfoHolstein** will serve as the October/November/December issue. We always welcome ideas and suggestions for articles you would like to see in **InfoHolstein!** The new schedule and corresponding deadlines are as follows:

### January/ February

Submission Deadline: November 15, 2014

### March/April

Submission Deadline: January 15, 2015

### May/June

Submission Deadline: March 15, 2015

### July/August

Submission Deadline: May 15, 2015

### September/October

Submission Deadline: July 15, 2015

### November/December

Submission Deadline: September 15, 2015



# Parentage confirmation using Microsatellite & SNP Genomic Tests

WITH INCREASED TECHNOLOGY, parent confirmation and discovery has become an easier and simpler process. Microsatellite and single nucleotide polymorphisms (SNP) genomic tests are two technologies that can be used to confirm parentage. Microsatellite testing and SNP genomic testing use two different kinds of parentage technologies and therefore cannot be cross-compared to confirm parentage. In order to receive a full parent confirmation for an animal, both parents must be tested with the same technology as the animal is question.

Microsatellite test can only be used to verify and confirm the suggested parents in question are a match or not. The microsatellite test will not produce a final genomic evaluation of the animal.

A SNP genomic test uses SNP markers to confirm or discover parentage. If the suggested parents are incorrect, the test will recommend an alternative match if available. If a SNP genomic test is requested, a genomic evaluation will be produced as this is the primary

	Coding on Animal Information Sheet	Micro-Satellite GTM	SNP GTS
APPLICATION	Parentage	✓	✓
	Confirms or revokes suggested parent	✓	✓
	Suggests possible parentage when unknown		✓
	International parentage verification standard	✓	
	Genomics results		✓

function of a SNP genomic test which is often simply referred to as a genomic test.

For many producers, a genomic test is the best option for parentage confirmation as it is standard when requesting genomic results. At present, the microsatellite test is only recognized internationally and is required for the approval of many international exports including semen, embryos and live animals even if the animal has already been genomically tested.

In the near future SNP genomic testing will become the official test to confirm and discover parents for all Holstein countries globally. 🇨🇦



Welcome to our

## HOLSTEIN CANADA STORE

Located at The Royal Winter Fair - Nov. 7<sup>th</sup> - 16<sup>th</sup>

Visit booth 6006 for great  
Holiday Gift giving ideas!



NEW  
LONG & SHORT SLEEVE  
ONESIE





Check us out on-line to see the entire Holstein Canada Collection...To place an order, visit: [www.holsteincanadastore.com](http://www.holsteincanadastore.com)  
Should you have any questions with your Order or if you would like to place a Custom Farm Order, please call May, your Holstein Canada store representative at **1-877-928-8775**. For French speaking inquiries, please call Larry at **1-877-833-8241**

# Wearing the Maple Leaf with Pride: Canadian Youth Represent Internationally



Team Canada left their mark internationally following a very successful trip overseas to compete at the European Young Breeders School (EYBS) in Belgium. The team of six Canadian youths, comprised of Jaclyn Hunter (Alberta); Ryan Crowley (Ontario); Ken McRae (Ontario); Sébastien Dalpée (Québec); Emmanuel Brisson (Québec); and Erica Jackson (Nova Scotia), returned home in September from a fantastic experience competing abroad at the five-day competition.

The competition, known in short as EYBS, is an internationally renowned competition held every September in Herve, Belgium. It brings together the brightest youth between 13 and 25 years of age from 15 different countries to learn the practical side of the Holstein breed relating to preparing, showing, fitting, judging and the marketing of Holsteins.

Providing practical learning opportunities for young Holstein enthusiasts in Canada is one of the 5 pillars on which Holstein Canada's Young Leader program is founded. In 2009, Canada sent its first-ever team to the EYBS competition to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the competition. This past September 2014, marks the first time since 2009 that Canada has sent six fantastic ambassadors to compete at the competition to represent Canada.

Gathering from across Canada, Team Canada flew together from Montreal, Que. in early September before landing in Belgium where they had the chance to tour the countryside before the competition officially began. Team members were paired together to stay with very hospitable local farmers/host families during their time in Belgium.

As the competition began, the first three days were geared towards training and preparation and testing the knowledge of the competitors on washing animals, making a bedding pack, feeding animals, clipping, judging, and a theoretical course related to marketing. The pinnacle of the competition was the



**TEAM CANADA** with their display. L to R: Ken McRae, Sébastien Dalpée, Jaclyn Hunter, Erica Jackson, Ryan Crowley and Emmanuel Brisson.



# Finally at EYBS 2014



final two days during which participants demonstrate what they learned about showmanship and compete against each other with their animals in conformation. A calf assigned to each participant upon arrival which meant that each Team Canada member had to work diligently and patiently with their animals to train them to prepare for the final portion of the competition—the show ring.

After five very busy days of learning and competing, Team Canada's own Emmanuel Brisson of Ormstown, Que. was named Champion Showman of 120 competitors, and teammate Ken McRae of Vankleek Hill, Ont. was awarded Best Clipper of the competition. At the conclusion of the competition, Canada had three competitors place in the top 5 of 120 competitors with Emmanuel Brisson named Top Overall Individual, following with Ken McRae placing third and Ryan Crowley of Hastings, Ont. finishing fifth overall.

Many valuable friendships and contacts were made by Team Canada members while at the competition. The opportunity to also see how showing is conducted internationally and learn



**EMMANUEL BRISSON** was named the Top Overall Individual in the Competition.

**more >>**

# Young Leader...continued

from fellow dairy enthusiasts from different countries, while having a good time and representing their country, was a very rewarding experience for all members on Team Canada. Congratulations to Team Canada on representing Canada with pride and giving their best effort at the competition!

For youth interested in the EYBS opportunity for 2015, be sure to participate in your provincial competitions including the Western Canadian Classic (WCC); Ontario's EastGen Challenges held in Eastern Ontario, East-Central Ontario and Western Ontario; Ontario's Inter-County Judging competition; Quebec's Dairy Cattle Fitting School and Preparation School; and Atlantic Canada's EastGen Challenge. These are the competitions taken into account to select Team Canada. While most of these opportunities have already been held this past summer, look forward to hearing more about this exciting opportunity in early spring 2015 as Team Canada looks to send another team to compete at EYBS 2015! 🇨🇦



**Thank you to our provincial partners for their support in helping send Team Canada to the 2014 EYBS:**

- Western Canadian Classic Organizing Committee
- Atlantic Holstein provincial partners
- Holstein Québec
- Ontario Dairy Youth Trust Fund

## NATIONAL DIRECTOR ELECTIONS

**NOMINATIONS FOR NATIONAL DIRECTORS** in the following electoral districts are still open. Nomination forms can be obtained from your local Holstein Club or Provincial Branch; on the website at [Holstein.ca](http://Holstein.ca) > About Us > Governance > Board of Directors; or by contacting Catherine McGill at [cmcgill@holstein.ca](mailto:cmcgill@holstein.ca) or 1-855-756-8300 ext. 241. Nominations close **December 8, 2014**. 🇨🇦

### ELECTORAL DISTRICTS IN 2015

ATLANTIC CANADA

EASTERN QUEBEC

WESTERN QUEBEC

QUEBEC AT LARGE (DIRECTOR RETIRING)

EASTERN ONTARIO (DIRECTOR RETIRING)

CENTRAL AND NORTHERN ONTARIO

WESTERN ONTARIO

BRITISH COLUMBIA (DIRECTOR RETIRING)



Sam and Anne Appleby and their family.



Four Starbrood cows from the same family (L to R): Sisters Sardius Caveman Rubell and Sardius Dyna Ruby, their dam Sardius Dynamic Ruby Red and her dam Sardius Regal Rose-Red.

**FARM NAME  
(PREFIX):** Sardius

**LOCATION:**  
Steinbach, MB

**HOW MANY RED &  
WHITE (RW):** 100%

**HERD SIZE:**  
100 milking cows

**1 TYPE OF OPERATION:** Freestall with pasture access

**2 HOW DID YOU BECOME INVOLVED WITH RED & WHITE HOLSTEINS AND WHAT IS IT ABOUT THE REDS THAT INTERESTS YOU?:** I grew up with registered Ayrshires in the UK. There wasn't much demand for Ayrshires when we moved and started farming in Canada in 1977, so we went with Holsteins – gradually selling out our grade animals and working towards a totally registered herd. It was an exciting day when our first red & white calf was born in October 1984!

**3 HOW MANY YEARS HAVE YOU BEEN BREEDING FOR RED, AND IN YOUR OPINION, HOW HAVE THE RED AND WHITES CHANGED OVER THE YEARS?:** We have been breeding red & whites for 30 years. As reds have become more popular and many more B&W bloodlines have been introduced, over the years, in our herd, the R&W cattle seem to have lost some of their ruggedness and resilience but have acquired more dairyness and higher conformation scores.

**INSPI** red

Q & A

**4 HOW DO THE RED COWS IN YOUR HERD COMPARE TO THE BLACK COWS IN YOUR HERD? IS THERE A DIFFERENCE?:** We don't currently have any B&W animals! It has been the reds that have been easy to breed back, produced many heifer calves and stood the test of time.

**5 WHAT ARE YOUR GOALS WITH THE R&W ANIMALS IN YOUR HERD?:** We use the words "striving for longevity" in our ads and this we will continue to do. We aim to have 60,000 to 100,000 kg lifetime across the pedigrees in our herd. It becomes increasingly difficult to find bulls from cow families with these traits and pedigrees with the current emphasis on indexes. We are also working hard to have the majority of the herd polled.

**6 IS THERE A PARTICULAR COW THAT HAS MOST IMPACTED YOUR HERD? BULL?:** Yes. Our first R&W was *Sardius Regal Rose-Red*, a *Romandale Regal Red* daughter out of *Stonyway Jetstar Josetta* by *High Silo Haven Jetstar*. Close to 80% of our herd goes back to this cow family.

**7 WHERE DO YOU SEE THE FUTURE OF RED HOLSTEINS IN CANADA? AROUND THE WORLD?:** I believe that the demand for R&W will increase, in some instances, because of colour. The different goals of the R&W breeders in the past has provided diverse genetics which will maintain the breed for the demands of the future.

**8 WHAT IS ONE PIECE OF ADVICE YOU WOULD GIVE TO SOMEONE WANTING TO GET STARTED WITH RED AND WHITE HOLSTEINS?:** Follow your own goals, buy a good one and have fun!

**9 ANYTHING ELSE INTERESTING ABOUT YOUR FARM THAT YOU WOULD LIKE US TO INCLUDE?:** We have been farming somewhat organically over the years. For this reason, when the Dairy Farmers of Manitoba (DFM) were looking for organic producers a number of years ago, we went the whole way and are now certified organic. I believe the adaptability of the R&W's has helped us in this transformation. 🐄

# We Were There

As always, the summer across Canada was full of wonderful Holstein picnics and events. We had the privilege to attend many of these great functions focused on bringing Holstein enthusiasts together for fun, fellowship and, of course, to see cows! The following are a few snapshots of some of the events we attended.

**1** Holstein members in Atlantic Canada are also picnickers! Director Harry Van der Linden visited with the Cox family of Lake Mabou Holsteins, Mabou, NS during the East Nova Holstein Picnic.

**2** The summer picnic is also a tradition in Québec with the entire province coming together for the picnic each year. It is a much-anticipated and well-attended event. This year a number of Québec based Holstein Board members, as well as a few Holstein Canada staff members participated in the picnic hosted at Ferme Bofran. Here President Mario brings greetings to the crowd on behalf of Holstein Canada and the Board.

**3** Every September Canada's Outdoor Farm Show (OFS) held in Woodstock, ON highlights the most innovative and advanced agricultural products and services available. Holstein Canada participates at OFS in collaboration with the Ontario Holstein Branch. This year a number of the Holstein Canada Field Service and Classification team members were on-hand to meet with members and provide information on the programs and services. Pictured here are Field Service Coordinator Janet Walker, Classifier Devin O'Hara and Carolin Turner – National Coordinator, Classification.

**4** The "Twilight Meeting or Social" has become a long-standing tradition throughout Ontario with many of the local Holstein Clubs holding one each summer. This year the Huron County Holstein Club celebrated their 75th anniversary at their twilight meeting. Over 550 people attended the event including several of the Holstein Team. Pictured here are (l to r) Kelly French, Jason French – General Manager of Ontario Holstein Branch, Vanda McNeil – Host and co-owner of Heather Holme Holsteins, Linda Perreault, Mario Perreault – Holstein Canada President.

**5** In August the 30th annual Western Canadian Classic was held in BC. Holstein Canada is a proud sponsor of this elite youth event and several Holstein Team and Board members were on-hand. Here National Director Richard Bosma presents to Grand Champion Showperson Jaclyn Hunter of Team Alberta.

**6** Marj Atkins of Leduc, AB was the inaugural recipient of the Marj Atkins Achievement Award. The award named for Marj is given to a person who dedicates their life to going above and beyond for the betterment of the industry – just as Marj has! Alberta Branch President Dale Bienert made the official award presentation at the Alberta Holstein Association Family Picnic.



# Discover

our province & our breeders



**Catch the Tide** to New Brunswick for the National Holstein Convention, April 8 to 11, 2015. Convention starts at the **Delta Beausejour in Moncton, NB**, and continues at the **Delta Fredericton in Fredericton, NB**. Make plans to attend!

## WEDNESDAY APRIL 8, 2015

- Start the day with a pre-tour to either Nova Scotia or Prince Edward Island.
- Taste the best of "Land and Sea", mingle, and dance a jig at our one-of-a-kind Welcome evening in Moncton, NB.

## THURSDAY, APRIL 9, 2015

- Jump on the buses in Moncton for Farm or Sightseeing Tours around the region. The buses will end in Fredericton, NB.
- Enjoy the Genetic Wave Sale, Fredericton, NB.

## FRIDAY APRIL 10, 2015

- 2015 Atlantic Spring Showcase, Fredericton, NB
- An alternate "Chocolate Wave Tour" to St. Stephen and St. Andrews will also be available.
- EastGen "Grand" Kitchen Party, Fredericton, NB

## SATURDAY APRIL 11, 2015

- Annual General Meeting of Members, Fredericton, NB
- Master Breeder Gala, Fredericton, NB

**\*If you're driving to Convention, we're making a list of farms opening their doors to host you enroute. Registration opens in January 2015**



For more information, visit [WWW.EVENTS.HOLSTEIN.CA](http://WWW.EVENTS.HOLSTEIN.CA)

Find **Holstein2015** on [f](#) [t](#) [#CATCHTHETIDE](#)



# A Great Christmas Gift Idea!

IN RECENT YEARS, unframed prints of the painting “Once Upon A Time”, featuring the famous Montvic farm and livestock, have been available at Holstein Canada for fundraising efforts to benefit youth programs such as 4-H. These prints have raised thousands of dollars for local youth activities.

These prints are now available to everyone for purchase at \$250, with revenue going towards Holstein Canada’s Young Leader program.

If you are interested in purchasing an unframed Montvic print while limited quantities last, please contact Catherine McGill at extension 241, or email: [cmcgill@holstein.ca](mailto:cmcgill@holstein.ca).

These are true collector items as the Montvic barn and buildings were taken down in 2013, and would make a wonderful Christmas gift for the Holstein enthusiast on your list! 🐄

## Holstein Canada Holiday Hours

**FAMILY** is of the utmost importance to both Holstein Canada members and staff. With this in mind, the Holstein Canada office will be closing at noon on Wednesday, December 24 and 3 p.m. on Wednesday, December 31 in celebration of the holiday season.

The following are the hours of operations that will be in effect at Holstein Canada’s head office during the holidays.

From our family to yours, the Holstein Canada team wishes you a wonderful holiday season and a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year. We look forward to continuing to serve you, our valued members and clients, in 2015! Happy Holidays! 🐄

Tuesday, December 23	Open 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Wednesday, December 24	Open 8 a.m. – Noon
Thursday, December 25 Christmas Day	CLOSED
Friday, December 26 Boxing Day	CLOSED
Monday, December 29	OPEN 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Tuesday, December 30	OPEN 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Wednesday, December 31 New Year's Eve	Open 8 a.m. – 3 p.m.
Thursday, January 1 New Year's Day	CLOSED
Friday, January 2	CLOSED

# What's in a Name?

We know that naming calves on the farm can be both fun and challenging. Searching for that perfect name to suit that brand new baby calf is much like selecting a name for a new human baby! We were curious as to what YOU are naming your calves, and what the popular name choices are. Using our database, we decided to generate our own Holstein Canada Top 10 Baby Calf Name List based on the registrations received over the last five years, and here they are!

1. Rose
2. Bella
3. Sally
4. Daisy
5. Anna
6. Betty
7. Lisa
8. Alice
9. Mary
10. Molly

How many of the Top 10 do you have in your herd? We would love to know!



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

Based on 1st Lactation Classifications from July/August 2014

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

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

Sire	Daughters Classified	Avg. Daus Score	Avg. Dam Score	Sire	Daughters Classified	Avg. Daus Score	Avg. Dam Score
DEMPSEY	436	81.72	81.70	GOLD CHIP	48	82.04	82.65
WINDBROOK	834	81.32	81.69	DAMION	35	81.69	81.26
SEAVER	131	81.02	80.79	ALTAEXTREME	41	81.59	80.83
FEVER	649	80.82	81.08	SANCHEZ	88	81.31	81.75
REGINALD	198	80.68	80.10	SEAGUAL	52	80.69	80.40
LAUTHORITY	436	80.64	81.43	MR BURNS	45	80.56	80.31
JORDAN	329	80.11	80.49	BALTIMOR	34	80.03	79.50
STEADY	410	80.07	80.38	SHOUT	33	80.00	79.94
LADNER	115	79.83	79.77	BUTZE	69	79.80	79.23
MANIFOLD	128	79.22	79.79	SAILING	45	79.71	79.58

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

## CLASSIFICATION SCHEDULE

MID-ROUND **MR**

### NOVEMBER

ON Middlesex, Essex, Kent, Elgin  
 ON **MR** Peterborough, Northumberland  
 QC Bellechasse

EARLY

ON Oxford  
 ON **MR** Victoria, Durham, Waterloo  
 QC L'Islet, Kamouraska  
 QC **MR** L'Assomption, Montcalm, Joliette, Berthier, Maskinongé, Saint-Maurice, Champlain, Laviolette, Portneuf, Lac Saint-Jean, Roberval, Vaudreuil, Soulanges, Huntingdon, Laprairie, Napierville, Saint-Jean, Iberville

MID

PE, NB, NS, NL:

QC **MR** Lapointe, Dubuc, Charlevoix, Chicoutimi

LATE

### DECEMBER

ON Perth  
 ON **MR** Wellington  
 QC Rivière Du Loup, Témiscouata, Rimouski, Matapédia, Bonaventure, Matane  
 QC **MR** Châteauguay, Beauharnois, Shefford, Richmond, Missisquoi

EARLY

SK **MR**

ON **MR** Northern Ontario, Thunder Bay

QC **MR** Matapédia, Bonaventure, Matane

MID

### JANUARY

ON Leeds  
 ON **MR** Dundas, Glengarry, Stormont, Prescott, Niagara, Wentworth, Brant, Haldimand, Norfolk, Carleton, Russell  
 QC Arthabaska, Mégantic, Wolfe  
 QC **MR** Sherbrooke, Stanstead  
 QC Lower & Central Fraser Valley, Richmond, Delta

EARLY

ON Renfrew, Bruce  
 QC Lotbinière, Nicolet, Yamaska  
 QC **MR** Brome, Compton  
 ON Upper Fraser Valley, Okanagan, Vancouver Island

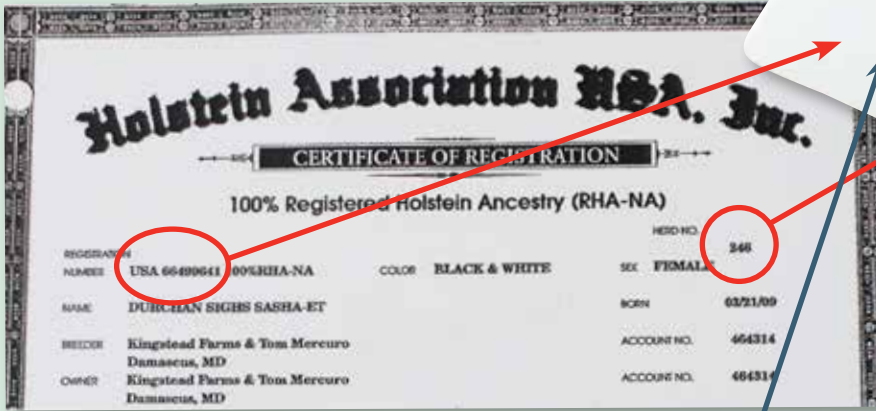
MID

ON Grenville, Lanark, Grey, Huron  
 QC Drummond

LATE

# Tagging U.S. Imported Animals – Going Forward

WITH CFIA'S acceptance of "840" tags as equivalent to approved Canadian tags, you do not need to tag your animal with an official Canada tag... unless the animal is not tagged or the "840" tag has been lost.



THE NATIONAL LIFETIME # WILL BE UNIQUE TO EACH ANIMAL AND USED FOR CANADIAN TRACEABILITY.

TO KEEP REFERENCE OF THE HERDBOOK REGISTRATION NUMBER, YOU CAN WRITE IT IN THE BLANK SPACE PROVIDED ON THE CANADIAN ISSUED OFFICIAL TAG.

If your US imported animal is not identified with an official "840" RFID tag (either lost or imported without), call NLID at 1-877-771-6543 to order one of the two tag set options available.

The Canadian lifetime number issued for traceability will be added to the animal's Herdbook information as secondary ID. That lifetime number will also be displayed on the Animal Information Sheet, available online. 🇨🇦



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  
 Toll Free: 1-855-756-8300  
 www.holstein.ca

Editor: Jennifer Kyle  
 jkyle@holstein.ca

Published six times annually  
 Subscription: \$18 outside Canada

Publications Mail  
 Agreement 40008691