

# *info* Holstein

March/April 2016 issue no. 138

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







# 2016 NATIONAL HOLSTEIN CONVENTION CONGRÈS NATIONAL HOLSTEIN 2016 Alberta • Calgary & Banff, April 20 - 23, 2016

It is with great pleasure that we welcome you to Alberta and all that is **Just Majestic!**

 @Holstein2016  @Holstein2016

**April 20th:** Farm Tours, National Holstein Sale & Western Welcome BBQ

**April 21st:** National Holstein Show & Awards Dinner, Alternate Tour

**April 22nd:** Banff Experience & MountView Barn Dance

**April 23rd:** Annual General Meeting & Master Breeder Gala

**For complete schedule of events and information on accommodation, please go to <http://events.holstein.ca>.**

**A SINCERE THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS SPONSORS!**

**Hurry and Register at <http://events.holstein.ca>**

**Early Bird Rate Ends: March 10th, 2016**

**Hotel Room Block Cut-off Date: March 18th, 2016**

**Registration Deadline: March 31st, 2016**

**Editor** Jennifer Kyle

**Chief Executive Officer** Ann Louise Carson

**President** John Buckley, ON  
705-324-4017  
jkbuckley@live.com

**Vice-President  
& Board Chairman** Robert Chabot, QC  
418-596-2230  
rchabot@genibeq.com

**2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President** Orville O. Schmidt, AB  
780-986-5746  
southrisegen@yahoo.ca

**Board of Directors** Ben Cuthbert, BC  
250-246-6517  
b.cuthbert@telus.net

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

Nancy Beerwort, ON  
613-330-0348  
cherrycrest@sympatico.ca

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

Angus MacKinnon, QC  
819-570-3891  
ang.jen3891@gmail.com

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



**ABOVE:** Be sure to check out this edition of the Farm Profiles feature! In this issue we feature four Canadian herds with a focus on multi-generational operations. Have a theme you would like us to cover? Let us know!

**ON THE COVER:** Milking time at Scothorn Farms in Nova Scotia. Check out that great Holstein Canada logo! The photo was Paul Scothorn's submission to the #Frametheherd Photo Contest for the Chore time theme.

## contents

- 4 *The Benefits of Optimism*
- 5 *New Herdbook System is Live!*
- 16 *2015 Education Award Winners*
- 18 *Young Leaders Representing Canadian Holsteins on a World Stage*
- 21 *The Latest on Crampiness*





# The benefits of optimism

By John Buckley, Holstein Canada President

**AS YOU READ THIS MESSAGE**, we may still have a major snowstorm or two ahead of us. However, you are hopeful. The days are longer, the sun shines stronger and you are no doubt already planning spring planting and other field work – on paper or in your head if not on a tractor just yet. There is so much to look forward to!

I am a strong believer in the power of positive thinking. I was born an optimist and as I wrap up my year as your President (what an honour and privilege this has been), I am even more positive!

In the last 10 months, I have chatted with members from all provinces who are so passionate about our breed and the role Holstein Canada plays in our great industry. Sure, there were a few “snowstorms” along the way in the past year – such as the worry about the TPP discussions last fall – however the resilience of dairy farmers never ceases to amaze me. No matter what happens, you are right back in your barn early the next morning with even more determination. Whatever comes up, you can meet the challenge; cows need to be milked and cows need to be fed!

Whether in barns, at meetings or at some amazing youth events across the country, the energy I felt firsthand in discussions with our next generation is another reason for my optimism about the future of our industry. Perhaps this generation will be a little less patient

than we were – and that is a good thing! They keep all of us on our toes and thinking forward.

Thank you for sharing your questions and concerns, suggestions for items such as more efficient data capture with technology, and most of all, thank you for sharing your success stories with me and my fellow Board members. **WE ARE LISTENING!** As much as youth inspires us, the anecdotes from our veteran members also help us realize we owe it to them to be good stewards of our Association and our industry. They certainly were for us.

If there is one thing I could leave you with, it is to ask you to continue to celebrate the positive things in life – from that healthy heifer calf out of your best cow, to the joys of milking with your family. Little things are too often taken for granted but all add up to a very full life and help us weather the storms which inevitably come up. You may be inspiring a fellow producer right now and you simply do not know it.

I look forward to the rest of my mandate as your President and to welcoming many members to the Convention in Alberta where we will celebrate many success stories and no doubt inspire others. The benefits of optimism are countless. 🐄

*John Buckley*



## CAN'T MAKE IT TO THE AGM?

For those who can't join us at the meeting in person this year, the AGM will be recorded and made available on the Holstein Canada YouTube channel. The video will be posted following the meeting and will be available in both English and French. The Holstein Canada channel can be accessed via the direct link at the top of the Holstein Canada website, or by visiting: [www.youtube.com/HolsteinCanadaVideo](http://www.youtube.com/HolsteinCanadaVideo)

# New Herdbook System is Live!

IT HAS BEEN A LONG ROAD, but we are now live in the new Herdbook system! With the main system now in place, over the coming months there will be some tweaks and features added as we continue the process of bringing our systems up to date. None of these updates will require the blackout period needed to implement the main system, and as they become available, we will notify you through social media, the website and future editions of *InfoHolstein*.

We thank you for your patience throughout the initial roll-over and look forward to better-serving you with the new system in place, and as new features become available!

## So, What's New?

With the implementation of the new Herdbook system, our website required some updates to its functionality – specifically in the client account portion of the website. As a result, we are able to offer a new look and increased functionality to enhance the user experience. Information is much more streamlined, therefore has improved our ability to serve you.

There will be many updates to come over the coming months, some visible and others not.

## Updated Documents

In addition to the online changes, all of Holstein Canada's official documents (i.e. certificates of registration, extended pedigrees, statements, invoices, etc.) have a new look. In the near future, our new Herdbook software will give producers the ability to receive their documents electronically via their web accounts. Because the certificates were being printed onto pre-printed paper stock, these documents required a redesign so they could be viewed online and printed on any printer.

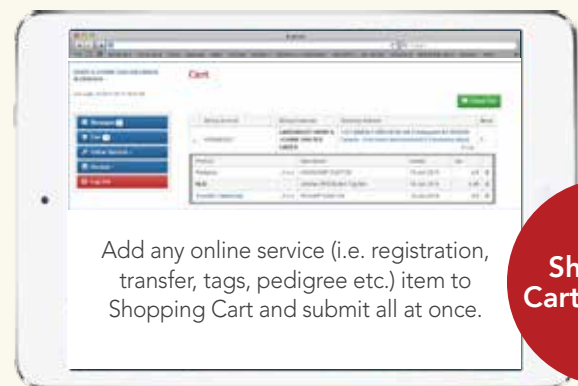
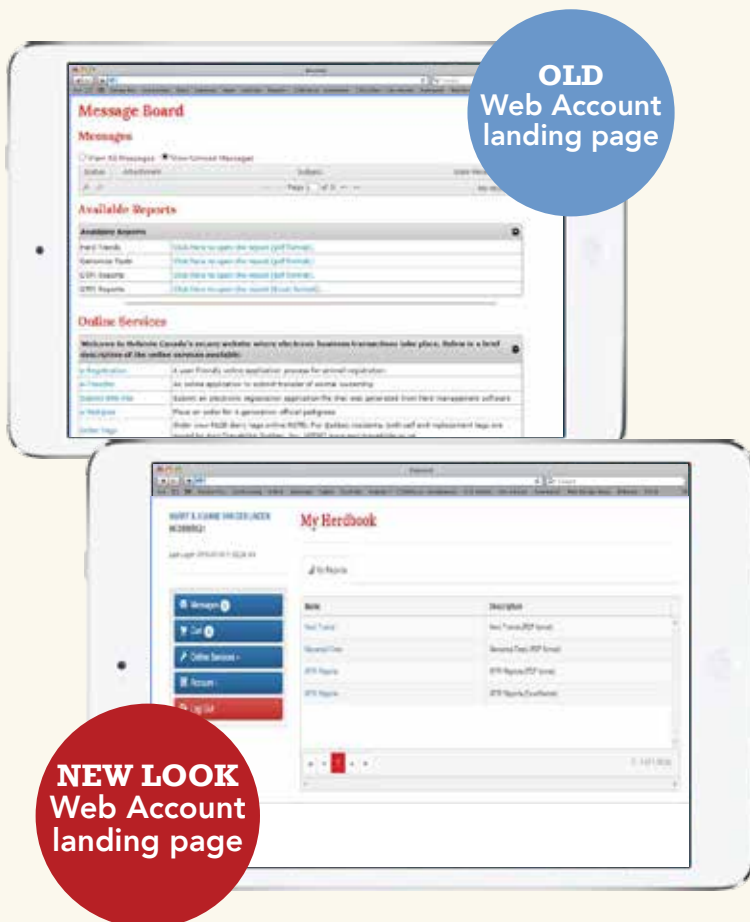
These changes ensure official documents will remain high-quality documents regardless of whether they are printed on a home office printer or here at the office.

## Don't have a web account?

Create your web account to take advantage of the great features available – register or transfer your animals; order your NLID Tags; update your account details; view your herd inventory; and more!

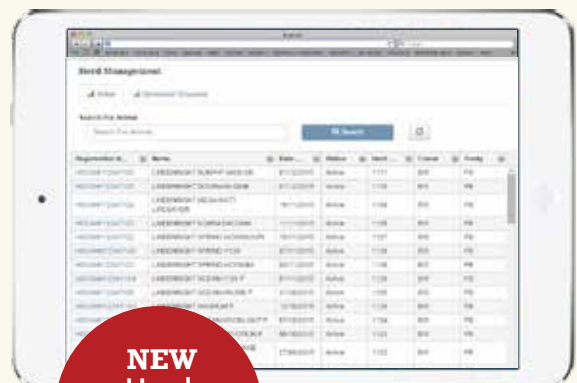
Visit [www.holstein.ca](http://www.holstein.ca) for details and to sign up today! 🐄

### SOME OF THE IMMEDIATE CHANGES IN YOUR WEB ACCOUNT YOU WILL NOTICE ARE:



Add any online service (i.e. registration, transfer, tags, pedigree etc.) item to Shopping Cart and submit all at once.

**NEW Shopping Cart Concept**



**NEW Herd Management Feature**

Ability to see all Animals currently in your ownership.





# Master Breeder

## Awarding Breeding Excellence!

**TRADITION DICTATES** that Holstein Canada kicks off the year with the announcement of the new Master Breeder recipients. This year is certainly no exception. Holstein Canada is pleased to announce the 21 Master Breeders who will be honoured at the 2016 National Holstein Convention in Banff, Alta. in April.

Adding to the excitement surrounding the 2015 Master Breeders, the prestigious award also celebrates two other incredible milestones. This year, High Point Farms of Port Perry, Ont. will be awarded a remarkable fourth shield – this is the first time in the award’s history that a farm has achieved a fourth shield. Additionally, Holstein Canada will present the 1,000th shield at this year’s banquet.

Since its beginning in 1929, the Master Breeder program has become the most coveted Holstein Canada award. These “Master” breeders are recognized for having mastered the art of breeding balanced cattle – high production and outstanding conformation with great reproduction, health and longevity.

### PHOTOS:

1. The Wagner family of Evergraze in B.C.
2. The Galarneau family of Galar in Quebec.
3. The Smiths of High Point in Ontario.
4. The Bysterveldt family of Winterbay in P.E.I.

# Congratulations to all of the Winners!

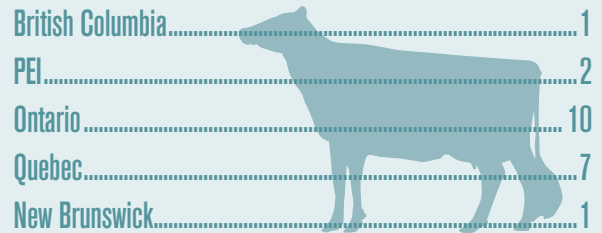
62%

WERE  
FIRST-TIME  
RECIPIENTS

13

ARE FIRST-TIME RECIPIENTS OF A  
MASTER BREEDER SHIELD

## WHERE THIS YEAR'S WINNERS COME FROM



6

ARE 2ND TIME  
RECIPIENTS

1

IS A 3RD TIME  
RECIPIENT

1

IS A 4TH TIME  
RECIPIENT

### BOSDALE

Bosdale Farms Inc.  
Ed, John, Josh, Justin,  
Pete & Ben Bos  
Cambridge, Ont.

### CHAMPS D'OR

Ferme Champs d'or Inc.  
Andre Bédard & Chantal  
Ladouceur  
Mirabel, Que.

### CROVALLEY

Crovalley Holsteins  
John, Cynthia, Vanessa, Ryan  
& Justin Crowley & Christina  
Crowley-Arklie  
Hastings, Ont.

### DELCREEK

Delcreek Holsteins  
Peter & Jonathan Rylaarsdam  
Winchester, Ont.

### DELISKA

Gilles Boivin  
Gilles, Delisca, & Francis Boivin  
Les Eboulements, Que.

### DONELEA

Howard W. Doner  
Howard & Dan Doner  
Cannington, Ont.

### DRÉBERT

Ferme Robert Séguin et Fils  
Robert, André, Gilbert & Jeanne-  
Mance Séguin  
Ste. Marthe, Que.

### EVERGRAZE

Evergraze Holsteins Ltd.  
Terry Wagner  
Armstrong, B.C.

### FEEDERLANE

Feederlane Farms Ltd.  
Donald & Linda Green & Brenda  
& Brent Roszell  
Wainfleet, Ont.

### GALAR

Ferme Galarneau Inc.  
Ghislain & François Galarneau  
& Joanie Bégin & Lise Larose  
Barraute, Que.

### GEN-I-BEQ

Groupe Genibeq  
Germain Lehoux, Robert &  
Jacques Chabot & Armand Leclerc  
St. Patrice, Que.

### HARVDALE

Harvdale Holsteins  
Kevin & Cheryel Harvey  
Stayner, Ont.

### HIGH POINT

High Point Farms  
Robert, Michael & Julie Smith  
Port Perry, Ont.

### LEXIS

Lexis Holsteins  
Gene, Jody & Cheryl Smallman  
Freetown, P.E.I.

### LIMBRA

Huybregts Farms Ltd.  
Cornelius, Willy, Gerry & Colby  
Huybregts  
Crysler, Ont.

### LOCKMAR

Lockmar Holsteins  
Jim, Andrew, Scott & Carol Lockie  
Sutton West, Ont.

### MARSO

Ferme Martin Bouchard S.E.N.C.  
Martin Bouchard & Sonia Lapointe  
St. Bruno, Que.

### PAQUET

Ferme Paquet et Frères Inc.  
Daniel, Yves & Francis Paquet &  
Andrée Rioux  
Amqui, Que.

### VELTHUIS

Velthuis Farms Ltd.  
Paul & Laurie, Steve & Colette &  
Bert & Ann Velthuis  
Osgoode, Ont.

### WALKERVILLE

Walkerville Farms Ltd.  
Margaret, Paul & Pat, Jim &  
Blanche & Joel Walker  
Wards Creek, N.B.

### WINTERBAY

Winterbay Farms  
John, Janet, Jeff & Amy  
Bysterveldt  
Bedford, P.E.I.

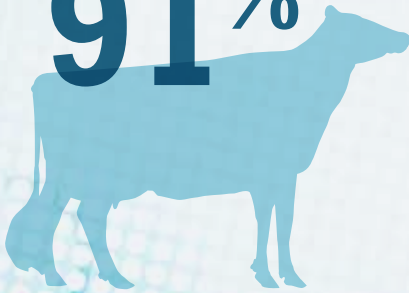
The 2015 Master Breeders will be honoured at the prestigious Master Breeder Gala on Saturday, April 23, 2016. Watch for the full profile of each Master Breeder in the May/June edition of InfoHolstein.



## GENETICS 101

# COAT COLOUR

91%



Approximate percentage of Holsteins that have the  $E^D$   $E^D$  gene combination (seen as black) at the Recessive Red location of the genome.

### $E^{BR}$ & $E^+$

Due to current testing limitations, both are often reported as  $E^+$ . Holstein Canada consults pedigree to determine whether  $E^{BR}$  or  $E^+$  is the likely gene and codes the registered animal accordingly.

We hope to unravel some of the confusion surrounding coat colour in the Holstein breed. Over the past decades, coat colour is becoming better understood thanks in part to lineage records and genomic research. Research in this field is ongoing. There are two gene locations responsible for coat colour (the Dominant Red location and Recessive Red location). We'll start with the more familiar Recessive Red location.

## 1. RECESSIVE RED GENE LOCATION

This is where the genes for Black ( $E^D$ ), Black/Red ( $E^{BR}$ ), Wild-type red ( $E^+$ ), and True Red or Recessive Red ( $e$ ), and are located. These 4 genes are listed in order of dominance in the table below. Each animal has two coat colour genes in this location: one from its sire and one contributed by its dam. Therefore, the most dominant gene will be the one expressed in the animal's phenotype (outward appearance). An animal with the  $E^D e$  combination will show black though their genotype carries the Recessive Red gene (indicated as B&W \*RDC on a pedigree). It is important to note that not all genomic tests are currently able to differentiate between  $E^{BR}$  and  $E^+$ , so the  $E^+$  code is often used for both. As a result, care must be taken because animals labelled as  $E^+ e$  and  $E^+ E^+$  may exhibit as black/red or as red.

### Order of Dominance for genes at the Recessive Red location

| GENE     | NAME               | PHENOTYPE |
|----------|--------------------|-----------|
| $E^D$    | Dominant/Black     | Black     |
| $E^{BR}$ | Black/Red          | Black/Red |
| $E^+$    | Wild-type          | Red       |
| $e$      | Recessive/True red | Red       |



## 2. DOMINANT RED GENE LOCATION

There is a second, lesser known, gene location that can affect coat colour. It is very uncommon for these genes to override the expression of the coat colour genes at the Recessive Red location because less than 1% of the Holstein population has a Dominant Red gene found at this second location. Over 99% of Holsteins have the genotype  $d d$ , in which case the genotype from the Recessive Red location gets expressed.

For animals with a homozygous ( $D D$ ) OR heterozygous ( $D d$ ) Variant Red genotype, they will have red coat colour. This remains true even if they have homozygous black ( $E^D E^D$ ) genes at the Recessive Red location of their DNA. The Variant Red gene ( $D$ ) dominates over any other coat colour genes that the animal has.

### Order of Dominance for genes at the Dominant Red location

| GENE | NAME                 | PHENOTYPE |
|------|----------------------|-----------|
| D    | Dominant/Variant Red | Red       |
| d    | Black                | Black     |

When registering an animal, there are validation processes that take place to ensure the code colour being recorded is plausible. However, animals already recorded in the herdbook don't automatically get reviewed. Calves born red that change to black/red ( $B/R$  from the  $E^{BR}$  gene) can easily be recorded improperly as  $R\&W$  due to that colour change and the fact that many coat colour tests don't distinguish between the black/red gene ( $E^{BR}$ ) and the wild-type gene ( $E^+$ ) that can produce a true red calf.

If you come across animals that seem to have the wrong coat colour indicated on their pedigrees, please contact Customer Service ([customerservice@holstein.ca](mailto:customerservice@holstein.ca) or 1-855-756-8300 x410).

## Homozygous

Meaning "of the same". Animals with a homozygous genotype have received the same gene for a specific trait from both sire and dam (example:  $e e$  is homozygous Recessive Red).

## Heterozygous

Animals with a heterozygous genotype for a trait have received a different gene from the sire and the dam. Whichever gene is most dominant is the gene that will be expressed in the phenotype. (example:  $D d$  is heterozygous Dominant Red).

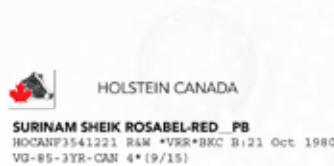


# COAT COLOUR: A History of Names

Throughout the years, many coat colour genes have been given multiple names, some of them tracing back to specific families.

- E<sup>BR</sup>** : Black/Red, "Telstar gene." Roybrook Telstar has been identified as the originator of the gene. A couple black/red carrier (\*BRC) bulls from more recent history are Storm and Baxter.
- e** : Recessive Red, True Red, Red Factor
- D** : Dominant Red, Variant Red, Mutant gene, the "Rosabel Effect"

The gene traces back to the red (phenotype) Canadian cow Surinam Sheik Rosabel-Red who was sired by a black E<sup>D</sup> E<sup>D</sup> bull. Her pedigree indicates R&W



\*VRR \*BKC. This is translated as red and white coat colour, due to the dominant Variant Red gene, though she is a carrier of the black gene (E<sup>D</sup>) also.

Islehaven Champions Mutant was red and white due to the Variant Red gene, though he had to be heterozygous (D d) because he had both R&W and B&W progeny. At the recessive red gene location, he carries the black and recessive red genes (E<sup>D</sup> e).

If he was bred to a black red, red carrier cow with the genotype d d, E<sup>BR</sup> e, the following demonstrates the possible genetic and phenotypic outcomes.



**Genotype outcomes at the Dominant Red location**

|                              |   | Sire (D d, E <sup>D</sup> e) |     |
|------------------------------|---|------------------------------|-----|
|                              |   | D                            | d   |
| Dam (d d, E <sup>BR</sup> e) | d | D d                          | d d |
|                              | d | D d                          | d d |

**Genotype outcomes at the Recessive Red location**

|                              |                 | Sire (D d, E <sup>D</sup> e)   |                   |
|------------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------------|-------------------|
|                              |                 | E <sup>D</sup>                 | e                 |
| Dam (d d, E <sup>BR</sup> e) | E <sup>BR</sup> | E <sup>D</sup> E <sup>BR</sup> | E <sup>BR</sup> e |
|                              | e               | E <sup>D</sup> e               | e e               |

| Outcomes  |  |                                |                  |                   |   |                                |                  |                   |
|---|--|--------------------------------|------------------|-------------------|---|--------------------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| Dominant Red gene location  | 50% D d Red Coat Colour is dominant over the Recessive Red location genotype |                                |                  |                   | 50% d d Coat colour determined by the Recessive Red location denotype |                                |                  |                   |
|   | Recessive Red gene location  | E <sup>D</sup> E <sup>BR</sup> | E <sup>D</sup> e | E <sup>BR</sup> e | e e   | E <sup>D</sup> E <sup>BR</sup> | E <sup>D</sup> e | E <sup>BR</sup> e |
| Each of these outcomes have a 12.5% chance of happening from the above mating | R&W  | R&W                            | R&W              | R&W               | B&W   | B&W                            | B/R              | R&W               |
|   | *VRR   | *VRR                           | *VRR             | *VRR              | *BRC  | *RDC                           | *RDC             | *RDC              |
|   | *BKC   | *BKC                           | *BRC             | *RDC              |   |                                |                  |                   |
|   | *BRC   | *RDC                           | *RDC             |                   |   |                                |                  |                   |



# Group Transfer Fee Calculations are changing

To take advantage of programming in the new Herdbook software, how a transfer price is calculated has changed as of February 1, 2016. Going forward, each transfer, regardless of different buyers, will be charged individually at \$15 at the time of transfer. When 16 or more fully priced transfers are received and invoiced from the same client (producer, agent, sales manager, club or auction) within the same calendar month, the client will be eligible for a rebate of \$10 for each transfer.

| VOLUME            | PRICE   |
|-------------------|---|
| 0 to 15 transfers | \$15 each   |
| Over 15 transfers | \$15 each, with a \$10 rebate applied to the monthly statement. |

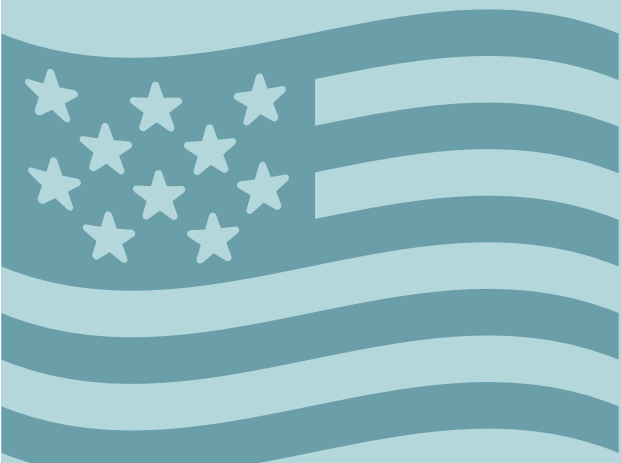
The advantage is that we can now offer economies of scale to all members on a monthly basis. Additionally, this monthly calculation will allow members to continue business as usual on a daily basis and take advantage of the accumulation of transfers done throughout the course of the same month.

An extra condition applies if you are selling your whole or partial herd to one buyer (same seller and buyer for all) and transfer more than 50 animals. In this case, you will receive an additional \$5 rebate, excluding the first 50 transfers.



**CONTACT OUR CUSTOMER SERVICE STAFF FOR FURTHER INFORMATION AT 1-855-756-8300 EXT. 410 (ENGLISH) OR EXT. 420 (FRENCH).**

# Price Increase for US Genomic Values



Holstein Canada made the decision to increase the price of US genomic values for females starting January 1, 2016. The cost was \$15 for an initial request. Every proof round following, these values are updated with the most current and accurate information on all animals in the pedigree - at no extra cost. As of January 1, 2016 – the new price to order US genomic values for females is \$20. This price increase comes as a result of the decrease in the value of the Canadian dollar compared to the American dollar.



## FARM PROFILE

### Multi-Generational

# Goldstreak Holsteins

Middle Musquodoboit, Nova Scotia



**PEOPLE INVOLVED:** Greg, Adam, Joan & Barry Archibald, as well as Herdsman Daniel Hamilton.

**# OF YEARS AS A HOLSTEIN CANADA MEMBER:** 46 years

**# OF COWS MILKED:** 85

**# OF ACRES FARMED:** 440

**FACILITY TYPE:** Free-stall housing and milking parlour.

**FEEDING SYSTEM:** The milking herd is fed a TMR made up of grass alfalfa silage, corn silage, ground grain corn and a protein mineral supplement. Dry cows and heifers are fed round bales of hay and silage.

**OTHER BREEDS:** No

**HOLSTEIN CANADA SERVICES USED:** Registration, Classification & Genomic testing.



### WHAT ARE YOUR HERD OBJECTIVES?

To have cows that milk well, last a long time and classify well, in addition to also balancing animal wellbeing and the profitability of the herd.

**WHAT IS YOUR BREEDING/ REPLACEMENT STRATEGY?** We raise all heifers. In the past, 5-10% of our young stock was sold; however, because of potential for an expansion, going forward we will keep all of the heifers. The bottom 5-10% of the cows are bred to beef sires or used as embryo recipients.

**WHAT IN YOUR OPERATION ARE YOU MOST PROUD OF?** We are most proud of the fact that the 6th and 7th generations are on the farm!

**TO ENSURE THE SUCCESS OF THE NEXT GENERATION WHAT DO YOU NEED MOST FROM YOUR INDUSTRY PARTNERS?** We need them to ensure the three pillars of supply management are maintained. We also need to have producers and processors come together on common ground and work with one common goal: to maintain the profitability of the whole dairy industry.

**HAVE YOU COMPLETED YOUR SUCCESSION PLANNING? IF SO, WHAT IS A PIECE OF ADVICE YOU OFFER OTHERS IN TERMS OF SUCCESSION PLANNING?** Yes, we are actually working on the second one. Our advice is that each generation has to lay out where they want the farm to be and where they themselves want to go. Also, having good, trusted advisors to help you through the succession process is key. Finally, all generations involved need to both give and take to find solutions.

**HOW DO YOU BALANCE THE DIFFERENT IDEAS AND PERSPECTIVES OF THE DIFFERENT GENERATIONS ON YOUR FARM?** We try to balance the experience and knowledge of the older generation with the enthusiasm and energy of the younger generation to arrive at a common goal.

**WHAT DOES FARM MANAGEMENT LOOK LIKE WITH MULTI-GENERATIONS ACTIVE ON THE FARM?** Everyone is given a role, job or area that they are in charge of. Then, any big decisions are run past all the different generations. Sometimes you will disagree, but you take opinions, advice and experience of all generations and come to a decision together. Also as the newer generations comes on, the older generations need to let them learn on their own.

**WITH THE ADDITION OF THE NEXT GENERATION, HAVE YOU INCORPORATED ANY NEW INNOVATIONS OR CHOSEN TO DIVERSIFY YOUR OPERATION TO ACCOMMODATE THE EXTRA PERSON/ PEOPLE?** No, not yet. Expansion of our current dairy herd would be the first goal. Currently, we also have some beef/dairy cross animals, so we may add more of a beef herd to add another source of income.

**WHAT DO YOU FEEL IS THE MOST REWARDING PART OF OPERATING WITH MULTIPLE GENERATIONS ON THE FARM?** There is a real sense of history with seven generations having been here on this farm for over 205 years. For better or worse, richer or poorer, we get to work with our family.

**BECAUSE HOLSTEIN COWS ARE THE NAME OF THE GAME AT HOLSTEIN CANADA, WHAT DOES THE IDEAL COW LOOK LIKE ON YOUR FARM? AND, FOR FUN, DOES EVERYONE ON THE FARM SHARE THIS IDEAL? OR DOES THE IDEAL COW LOOK DIFFERENT TO EACH GENERATION?** We all like well-balanced cows with nice feet, legs and udders, but ideal size preference tends to vary between the generations!



## WHAT ARE YOUR HERD OBJECTIVES?

To work with our best cow families and maintain a great balance of milk production and conformation. We are also passionate about shows, so another objective is to show our animals with the goal of winning Premier Breeder banners.

## WHAT IS YOUR BREEDING/

**REPLACEMENT STRATEGY?** We have been regularly flushing our best cow families for several years, and have also had success with cows producing in-vitro embryos at Bovitec. We raise all of our replacements, selling a few animals to other farms when needed. Occasionally, the farm also buys embryos or top quality cows.

## WHAT IN YOUR OPERATION ARE

**YOU MOST PROUD OF?** Our farm has been flourishing since 1925, with the next generation ready to carry on. We are proud of our ability to keep our best cow families and maintain an average over 12,000 kg of milk and a great classification average; and proud to have passed on our show passion to each generation. Additionally, we have won two Master Breeder Shields, the Mérite agricole Gold Medal in 1995 and Hermel Giard was inducted into Quebec's Agricultural Hall of Fame in 2003. We are also the only family to have had three generations serve as President of Holstein Québec.

## TO ENSURE THE SUCCESS OF THE NEXT GENERATION WHAT DO YOU NEED MOST FROM YOUR INDUSTRY PARTNERS?

To simplify the collection of on-farm data. Also, the dairy industry must certainly maintain high quality standards, but protocols for quality programs shouldn't place undue burdens on the work of producers.

## HAVE YOU COMPLETED YOUR SUCCESSION PLANNING? IF SO, WHAT IS A PIECE OF ADVICE YOU OFFER OTHERS IN TERMS OF SUCCESSION PLANNING?

The next generation has been on the farm for a few years. There needs to be a great relationship between generations, especially with farms that keep growing. People should start planning their succession early.

## HOW DO YOU BALANCE THE DIFFERENT IDEAS AND PERSPECTIVES OF THE DIFFERENT GENERATIONS ON YOUR FARM?

We meet regularly to share ideas and points of view. The barn office serves as our meeting place.

## WHAT DOES FARM MANAGEMENT LOOK LIKE WITH MULTI-GENERATIONS ACTIVE ON THE FARM?

Tasks are split up. Bruno focuses on field work and mechanical items. Samuel takes care of the fresh and dry cows, the robot and the calves, while Simon is in charge of feeding and doing breeding follow ups. Planting, harvest and shows, all three generations work together, and we all take turns being "on call" for calvings or robot calls. Valérie also helps on weekends.

## WITH THE ADDITION OF THE NEXT GENERATION, HAVE YOU INCORPORATED ANY INNOVATIONS OR CHOSEN TO DIVERSIFY YOUR OPERATION TO ACCOMMODATE THE

**EXTRA PERSON/PEOPLE?** In 2013 the operation introduced robotic milking. As a result, we have reduced the need for outside labour, have greater flexibility of work hours and the farm remains a family farm despite its size.

## WHAT DO YOU FEEL IS THE MOST REWARDING PART OF OPERATING WITH MULTIPLE GENERATIONS ON THE FARM?

We take pride that our farm is able to remain a family farm despite its size. Simon is also very proud to see the work accomplished by the previous generations will continue in the future.

## BECAUSE HOLSTEIN COWS ARE THE NAME OF THE GAME AT HOLSTEIN CANADA, WHAT DOES THE IDEAL COW LOOK LIKE ON YOUR FARM? AND, FOR FUN, DOES EVERYONE ON THE FARM SHARE THIS IDEAL?

The ideal cow must calve every year and be modern, classified VG as a two-year-old, with a BCA over 300 and a low cell count. Everyone agrees she must also win her class at the show!



## FARM PROFILE

### Multi-Generational



## Ferme Giard

St-Simon de Bagot, Que.



**PEOPLE INVOLVED:** Hermel Giard, 2nd generation; Simon and Bruno Giard (owners), 3rd generation, and the future generation, Samuel and Valérie, 4th generation.

**# OF YEARS AS A HOLSTEIN CANADA MEMBER:** 91 years (since 1925)

**# OF COWS MILKED:** 110

**# OF ACRES FARMED:** 1,200

**FACILITY TYPE:** Tie-stall with two ROBOLÉO robots.

**FEEDING SYSTEM:** A TMR Valmetal Autoration System with a TMR & Rail Ration Distributor – The feeding system is almost fully automated.

**OTHER BREEDS:** No

**HOLSTEIN CANADA SERVICES USED:** Registration and Classification (regular and mid-rounds) as well as a few genotyping tests.





## FARM PROFILE

Multi-Generational

### Bellson Farms Strathroy, Ontario



**PEOPLE INVOLVED:** Wayne & Phyllis and Andrew & Jessica Campbell (and their two children), with help from Phyllis's father and a part-time milker.

**# OF YEARS AS A HOLSTEIN CANADA MEMBER:** 29 Years

**# OF COWS MILKED:** 50 cows milked

**# OF ACRES FARMED:** 400 acres

**FACILITY TYPE:** Tie-stall

**FEEDING SYSTEM:** TMR of corn silage, dry hay, dry corn chop, supplements and minerals.

**OTHER BREEDS:** No

**HOLSTEIN CANADA SERVICES USED:** Registration and Classification



#### WHAT ARE YOUR HERD OBJECTIVES?

Our objective is to have a healthy, long-lasting herd that is very productive.

**WHAT IS YOUR BREEDING/REPLACEMENT STRATEGY?** Our heifer program has been successful over the years to provide all of the replacements our herd needs.

**WHAT IN YOUR OPERATION ARE YOU MOST PROUD OF?** To be consistently improving. Our classification and production numbers continue to climb – something we credit our partners with for helping us set and achieve our goals.

**TO ENSURE THE SUCCESS OF THE NEXT GENERATION WHAT DO YOU NEED MOST FROM YOUR INDUSTRY PARTNERS?** Trust. We want to focus on what we can control on-farm and to be improving those things. Whether it be policy support from groups like DFC, or health advice and direction from our nutritionists and vets, trusting in them and their ideas is incredibly important to us.

**HAVE YOU COMPLETED YOUR SUCCESSION PLANNING? IF SO, WHAT IS A PIECE OF ADVICE YOU WOULD OFFER OTHERS IN TERMS OF SUCCESSION PLANNING?** Yes, we have. However much time you think it is going to take – It will take much longer. Even if it is a pretty easy plan, talking it out, filing paperwork, getting opinions from tax and legal experts – it takes far longer than you think it will. So start now!

**HOW DO YOU BALANCE THE DIFFERENT IDEAS AND PERSPECTIVES OF THE DIFFERENT GENERATIONS ON YOUR FARM?** Part of it is counting on different people to be responsible for different areas of the farm, while the other part is ensuring we do our homework before offering changes. We love to try things that we think can make an improvement on the farm, but we like to pencil those changes out first and try to have everyone agree on how to make them work before going ahead.

#### WHAT DOES FARM MANAGEMENT LOOK LIKE WITH MULTIPLE GENERATIONS ACTIVE ON THE FARM?

While we try to have consistent farm meetings to bring everyone up to speed on different ideas and goals, everyone has their area they are responsible to maintain on a daily basis. Large decisions (like big purchases or major protocol changes) need three of four partners on board before going ahead.

**WITH THE ADDITION OF THE NEXT GENERATION, HAVE YOU INCORPORATED ANY NEW INNOVATIONS OR CHOSEN TO DIVERSIFY YOUR OPERATION TO ACCOMMODATE THE EXTRA PERSON/PEOPLE?** We have made a lot of changes over the last few years. We went to a 100% TMR feed from a part-TMR. We made major renovations to the barn to allow for more air and light. We've even made changes to some of the partners we work with, all with an eye on improving the efficiency and profitability of the farm to incorporate the next generation.

**WHAT DO YOU FEEL IS THE MOST REWARDING PART OF OPERATING WITH MULTIPLE GENERATIONS ON THE FARM?** Wayne probably says this most often: It is having the kids – their grandkids – come out to the barn and hand out paper towels when milking, mix milk for the calves or just run circles around the barn. Putting the family in the farm is the most rewarding part.

**WHAT DOES THE IDEAL COW LOOK LIKE ON YOUR FARM? AND, FOR FUN, DOES EVERYONE ON THE FARM SHARE THIS IDEAL? OR DOES THE IDEAL COW LOOK DIFFERENT TO EACH GENERATION?** We all share the same vision: A healthy and productive cow that is going to last for many lactations. That longevity for us comes in the form of well-attached udders, solid feet & legs and large frames to get the feed in and the milk out. We each have our favourites in the herd when it comes down to details like style or strength, but the base of what makes an ideal cow is something we all agree on.



## WHAT ARE YOUR HERD OBJECTIVES?

We have a strong focus on managing cows in order to deal with small problems before they become big. The main objective is to have a healthy, easily managed herd that puts milk in the tank cost efficiently.

## WHAT IS YOUR BREEDING/

**REPLACEMENT STRATEGY?** We raise all of our heifer calves for replacements. We breed cows using proven sires and use calving ease sires on heifers starting at 14 months. Breeding a cow that is both genetically and physically built to milk is ideal in our barn.

## WHAT IN YOUR OPERATION ARE YOU

**MOST PROUD OF?** In 1995, Mike's parents sold a portion of their ongoing dairy farm to each of their four sons. In the past 20 years, we have built up our farm from the initial 80 cows and 80 acres, allowing us to employ our children and expand our operation.

## TO ENSURE THE SUCCESS OF THE NEXT GENERATION WHAT DO YOU NEED MOST FROM YOUR INDUSTRY

**PARTNERS?** The use of technology is key with the next generation. They have access to a lot of information for decision making. Industry partners should have their information readily available and current; be prompt in answering questions, and keep up with technology in all areas.

## HAVE YOU COMPLETED YOUR SUCCESSION PLANNING? IF SO, WHAT IS A PIECE OF ADVICE YOU OFFER OTHERS IN TERMS OF SUCCESSION PLANNING?

It is a work in progress. We are thankful for the opportunity given by Mike's parents and it motivates us to, in some way, duplicate that for our kids. The children can learn under you for a while but then you must let go and allow them to make decisions. It is also good if the kids work off the farm for a while to have an appreciation for farming and to make sure it is the commitment they want to make.

## HOW DO YOU BALANCE THE DIFFERENT IDEAS AND PERSPECTIVES OF THE DIFFERENT GENERATIONS ON YOUR

**FARM?** You have to allow for each members' skill in different areas to reach full potential. Let them make their own small decisions in those areas. It is good to have open

communication and discussion on how to proceed when planning something new or a big change.

## WHAT DOES FARM MANAGEMENT LOOK LIKE WITH MULTI-GENERATIONS

**ACTIVE ON THE FARM?** Mike picked up a gem from a Swedish farmer while on tour there. The farmer said if the job is not getting done the way you want it done, then look in the mirror. If you are leading a group of workers, whether family or not, and the job isn't getting done, then either you haven't explained it well or don't have the right equipment or expectations. It's up to you to fix it. Currently the main decisions are still left with Mike and Rose but with open communication the rest of the family has input and are making more of the decisions.

## WITH THE ADDITION OF THE NEXT GENERATION, HAVE YOU INCORPORATED ANY NEW INNOVATIONS OR CHOSEN TO DIVERSIFY YOUR OPERATION TO ACCOMMODATE THE EXTRA PERSON/

**PEOPLE?** We renovated our farm in 2013-14 with a new parlour building and renovated free-stall barn. We put in water beds, large fans and chimneys to improve cow comfort and increase production. We also purchased a second dairy farm near Lacombe, Alta. in May 2015. Our son Eric and son-in-law Jesse manage that farm, Boxrose. This also gives more responsibility to the other kids on the home farm.

## WHAT DO YOU FEEL IS THE MOST REWARDING PART OF OPERATING WITH MULTIPLE GENERATIONS ON THE FARM?

We all can have the benefits of country living and feel a sense of accomplishment in the work of each day since it has been completed together.

## BECAUSE HOLSTEIN COWS ARE THE NAME OF THE GAME AT HOLSTEIN CANADA, WHAT DOES THE IDEAL COW

**LOOK LIKE ON YOUR FARM?** Mike and Rose prefer a well-balanced, average size cow with good feet and legs and a soft udder that produces consistently, while Jesse likes to use the aAa system to build a better cow with a big wide chest, deep ribs and a well-balanced body.



## FARM PROFILE

Multi-Generational

## Ridgebeam Farms Ltd.

Abbotsford, British Columbia

**PEOPLE INVOLVED:** Mike, Rose, Eric, Allan, Dale & Jill Boeve and Lisa & Jesse Bouwknecht.

**# OF YEARS AS A HOLSTEIN CANADA MEMBER:** 20 years

**# OF COWS MILKED:** 140 cows milked

**# OF ACRES FARMED:** 150 acres

**FACILITY TYPE:** Free-stall housing with a milking parlour

**FEEDING SYSTEM:** TMR fed with a mixer wagon.

**OTHER BREEDS:** No

**HOLSTEIN CANADA SERVICES USED:** Registration, NLID tags and Classification.



# 2015 Education Award Winners



Holstein Canada's commitment to young dairy leaders across the country remains evident in the Education awards given annually. The \$1,000-Education Awards fall under pillar three of "Awards and Recognition" in the Association's Young Leader program, and are awarded to up to six exemplary Young Leaders from across the country each year.

This year the Young Leader Committee consisting of Kenton Lindenbach (Western Canada); Stephanie Murphy (Ontario); Melissa Marcoux (Québec); and Nick Brown (Eastern Canada) helped in selecting six worthy recipients from a fantastic crop of 2015 applicants. Candidates were evaluated on their farm and work involvement; youth program involvement; career choice; and scholastic achievements. **Congratulations to the following six individuals chosen as the 2015 Education Award winners:**



**DEREK VAN DE WALLE**  
St. Mary's, Ont.

**Education:** University of Guelph – B. Sc. (Animal Science)

**Youth Program Involvement:** Holstein Canada Junior member as of 2011, active member in the 4-H program, member of Ontario Judging Team at the World Dairy Expo 2015.

**Work Experience:** Kirkton Veterinary Clinic and ET Vets, Avonbank Farms Ltd., Vandeholm Farms (Family Farm), Elora Dairy Research Station.

**Farm Involvement:** Breeding, raising and caring for dairy cattle and goats, owning and managing several of his own Holstein cows, herd health, operating farm machinery.

**Career Choice:** Become a large animal veterinarian.



**SHAELYN PRINS**  
Corbyville, Ont.

**Education:** University of Guelph – B. Sc. (Animal Science) with a business certificate.

**Youth Program Involvement:** 4-H member (29 projects), TD Canadian 4-H Dairy Classic, University of Guelph Dairy Science Club, University of Guelph Aggie DG.

**Work Experience:** Twiddy Berry Farm, Foxboro Foodland, Prinsview Holsteins (Family Farm).

**Farm Involvement:** Calf management (feeding and registering) and herd reproduction (heat detection, sire selection, and artificial insemination),

**Career Choice:** Work in and promote the dairy industry to consumers and be an advocate! Hope to, one day, own my own dairy farm or be a dairy nutritionist.



The goal of the Education awards is to select and award well-rounded individuals in the Canadian dairy industry that have made a commitment to their industry, career, community and school. Winners selected to receive the awards excel in all of these areas, and every year are exceptional candidates amongst strong groups of applicants. For more information on the Holstein Canada Education Awards, visit [holstein.ca](http://holstein.ca).



### LAURIE LALIBERTÉ

Leclercville, Que.

**Education:** University of Laval – agronomy, Institut de technologie agroalimentaire, campus La Pocatière - Management and operation of agricultural business.

**Youth Program Involvement:** member of AGEITAL (Association Générale Étudiante de l'Institut

de Technologie Agroalimentaire du Campus de LaPocatière), Vice president of GEEA (Gestion et Exploitation d'Entreprises Agricoles), member of the administrative council for the Lotbinière Holstein Club, volunteer for Expo-Poc.

**Work Experience:** Ferme Camilienne (Family Farm), Ferme Miréan, Ferme Lapokita, Wedgwood Holsteins, Venne Holsteins (in the Netherlands).

**Farm Involvement:** Milking, cow nutrition, genetics and herd health, calf feeding, showing and field work.

**Career Choice:** Work in either animal genetics or crops to gain more knowledge and experience for a couple of years before returning to the family farm.



### MAURANNE HÉBERT

Ste-Hélène-de-Kamouraska, Que.

**Education:** Institut de technologie agroalimentaire, La Pocatière, Collège Sainte-Anne-de-la-Pocatière

**Youth Program Involvement:** EYBS participant in Belgium (2015), l'École de preparation

(2015), involved with AJRQ, member of the Expo-Poc sale committee, member on the student government.

**Work Experience:** Ferme Rotaly (Family farm), Idee Holsteins, worked at many shows and sales for a number of well-known breeders.

**Farm Involvement:** Milking, feeding (cows and calves), registration, working with the show string (picking calves, taking care of them, training, showing).

**Career Choice:** My biggest goal is to take over the family farm!



### MARK SWEETNAM

Winkler, Man.

**Education:** Lakeland College – Double diploma (Animal Science Technology and Agribusiness)

**Youth Program Involvement:** 4-H member (Dairy and Dairy Judging), Western Canadian Classic, competitive hockey, long distance running.

**Work Experience:** Sweetridge Farms (Family farm), Lucky Hill Dairy.

**Farm Involvement:** General calf and heifer care, milking, artificial insemination, managing string at shows and general field work.

**Career Choice:** Return home and take over the family farm.



### HALEY WILSON

Whycocomagh, N.S.

**Education:** St. Francis Xavier University - Biology.

**Youth Program Involvement:** 4-H member (participated in the National 4-H Dairy Conference), TD Canadian 4-H Dairy Classic, involved in University track and field.

**Work Experience:** Wilsonburg Holsteins (Family Farm).

**Farm Involvement:** Many day-to-day chores such as feeding, milking, and cropping.

**Career Choice:** Still undecided, but want to follow my two passions, farming and teaching.

# Representing Canadian Holsteins



Young Leaders Bridget Wilson of Whycomomagh, N.S. and Cindy Jatton of Compton, Que. will take part in an experience of a lifetime at the end of March. As part of the “Practical Learning Opportunities” pillar in the Young Leader initiative, these two delegates will travel to Buenos Aires, Argentina to take part in the World Holstein Conference Youth Meeting held in conjunction with the 14th World Holstein Conference. There, they will have the opportunity to meet, exchange ideas, have fun, learn, and build relationships with other global Holstein youth, uniting participants for life.

As part of the application process, applicants were asked to create a short video on why they would make a great ambassador for Holstein Canada, the Canadian Holstein, and the Canadian dairy industry. These two keen young dairy women were selected from a crop of many strong applicants vying for the opportunity to represent Canada.

We took a few minutes to chat with them on their thoughts about the industry and what they are looking forward to on their trip:

## What do you think is the most significant challenge facing the next generation of dairy producers in Canada?

**CINDY JATON (CJ):** The next generation will face many challenges, but one of the biggest, in my opinion, is the ability to adapt to consumer demands, who's voices are becoming increasingly louder. The next generation will have to continue to show the population all rules and regulations that farmers need to follow in order to produce high quality milk, while respecting the animals and the environment.

**BRIDGET WILSON (BW):** One of the most significant challenges facing the next generation of dairy producers in Canada is coming up with ways to be diverse and efficient as a farmer. Milking 50 cows in a tie-stall (no small feat!) is in many cases no longer enough to meet the rising costs of farming. Especially given the fact that borders may be opening up to more dairy imports, we need to look to sidelines to help make our farms stronger businesses. It could range from embryo exports, becoming a seed sales rep, growing commodity crops or opening a corn maze just as a few examples. It is becoming essential to continually come up with new, creative and profitable pursuits alongside the day-to-day dairy farming.

## What is one way you can help better educate consumers about our industry?

**CJ:** We must find a way to show consumers the reality of dairy farming. I think even the small actions count. Whether it's sharing photos on social media, talking to friends/family and those around us, as well as organizing open farm days, we can greatly propagate



# on aWorld Stage

Bridget WILSON - WHYCOCOMAGH, N.S.



Cindy Jaton - COMPTON, QUE.

a positive image for agriculture.

**BW:** One important way I think you can better educate consumers about our industry is by becoming an active member of your community in some way. People like to have personal connections to their food and by reaching out to others just in simple everyday conversation whether it is waiting in line down at the co-op or on a break at a fitness class you help make farmers 'real' to the consumer. We are just like anyone trying to make a living at something we're passionate about and nothing you see on the internet will hit home more than speaking directly to a producer with firsthand experience. Always be positive and open to different opinions.

### What are you most looking forward to on the trip?

**CJ:** EVERYTHING! I am really excited to discover the Argentinian landscape, the people, the culture, their way of life and their dairy industry. The program for young leaders sounds very interesting and I hope to meet many others with the same passion for Holsteins as I do!

**BW:** I am looking forward to networking with youth from other

countries and learning about their perspectives on the Holstein industry based on what parts of the World they come from. What are their top priorities? Challenges? Innovations? Breeding strategies? Plus of course seeing some South American countryside, cows, culture and learning to Tango!!! I'm really excited!

### What do you hope to take away from this experience?

**CJ:** I hope to have fun, learn, share and leave with new ideas about agriculture in general. I hope to create great contacts with people around the globe!

**BW:** I hope to be able to come home with some new perspectives on our Holstein industry in Canada, have some connections for further educational travel opportunities and new ideas to use on our farm and share with others.

Check out Bridget and Cindy's winning video essays at: [www.youtube.com/HolsteinCanadaVideo](http://www.youtube.com/HolsteinCanadaVideo) and stay tuned to read more about their Argentinian adventures in a future issue of *InfoHolstein*. 🇨🇦



## A Registrar's Review – 2015 Show Season

By Pascal Lemire, Holstein Canada Registrar

**ON NOVEMBER 13, 2015**, I was sitting in the stands at the Ricoh Coliseum. With a little luck, I was able to steal a few minutes to watch the Grand Champion class. Peeking at my phone, an app showed that I had walked approximately 23 kilometers on that last day of the 2015 RAWF Holstein show. Over the four days at the RAWF, I had walked about 100 kilometers in my boots – my feet and legs remembered each kilometer. It was worth it all to watch the jubilation and celebration as the judge selected the Grand Champion. I witnessed numerous hugs, high fives and a few tears in the marshalling area behind the curtains. It was a privilege to be a spectator to such a tremendous display of raw emotion.

Sitting in the stands, resting my feet, I felt a lot of pride that day – pride for our Holstein breed; pride for our members and exhibitors; and also pride in the work the Ethics team does to help make the show a success.

Three years ago, I was given the task of monitoring and handling Show Ethics at the national and provincial levels. This was a task that came with a lot of history, challenges and responsibility. The first objective was to bring an open and educational culture to Show Ethics. The second objective was to maintain a high level of credibility by surrounding myself with knowledgeable, level-headed people. The third objective, however, is going to be the biggest challenge yet.

As I continue to meet members and fellow passionate Holstein people, I hear more and more that they “used to show” but gave up because they felt there was too much “funny business” going

on. Therefore, my third objective is to convince these former show supporters that times are changing. While it is difficult to describe exactly how they are changing, the following is a great example of how we are on the right track.

As I sat in the stands on that final day at the RAWF, the pride I was feeling was the result of knowing the team and the program had done its job. While issues are always handled in a private and confidential manner (that is my promise to all exhibitors), I felt pride because I was confident that the winners were the right animals on that day. Many exhibitors, regardless of their placing, have personally expressed their thanks for making shows a clean and fair competition for everyone. Many people have agreed it was an incredibly strong line-up of Holstein animals at the RAWF in 2015 and that is indeed good news for our breed.

Show Ethics and “funny business” – I guess you could say that I walked 23 kilometers in one day to help prevent “funny business”. You could also say that I am walking at a lot of fairgrounds, in a lot of towns, in a lot of provinces to communicate to, educate and help exhibitors. Perhaps, the more I walk, the more likely we will convince some of those former show exhibitors to come back and show their animals again. In the meantime, while you think about it, I’ll keep walking.

Congratulations to all of the exhibitors, in all the shows across Canada. Thank you for showing us, and the public, our great Canadian Holstein cattle! 🐄





# The Latest on Crampiness

Spastic syndrome, more commonly known as “crampiness”, affects a relatively small but important portion of the Canadian Holstein population and can lead to losses in the form of decreased production and increased culling. Over the past few years, Canadian researchers have been investigating the underlying genetic causes of crampiness. Here’s an update on the topic.



**DEFECTIVE CHARACTERISTICS** can be seen on a bull’s “Type” tab on CDN’s website. Bulls with a significant frequency of a defective characteristic, such as “Crampy,” are identified with an “\*” next to their negative (undesirable) numerical rating.

## RECORDING CRAMPINESS

Crampiness is recorded as a defective characteristic by Holstein Canada classifiers at the time of classification. When an animal is appraised, a classifier may “tick” the animal as displaying a defective characteristic, such as Crampiness, at two degrees of severity: minor or major. “Crampy” falls into the Feet & Legs section and if ticked, can lead to an adjusted score for this section. On a sire by sire basis, the frequency of Crampiness is calculated based on classified daughters. This means we’d expect sires with more Crampy daughters to have a somewhat lower proof for overall Feet & Legs than bulls without or with fewer Crampy daughters.

## THE ISSUE WITH RECORDING

As you know, herds using classification as a management tool are only required to present new first lactation animals to the classifier. For older cows, which are presented for classification is up to the breeder’s discretion. Due to the progressive nature of crampiness, first lactation animals are less likely to display symptoms. What’s more, cows that go on to become crampy are more likely to not be presented to the classifier at a later lactation, or be culled, depending on the severity. This means the “best” and most complete crampiness data isn’t available to flow from Holstein Canada to CDN, contributing to further research, and ultimately, genetic evaluations.

## GENETIC SELECTION AGAINST CRAMPINESS

The most recent research has shown that there are certain regions of the genome that are likely to have an effect on crampiness, but unfortunately don’t explain the entire phenotype. In other words, Crampiness is a complicated disorder controlled by several genes, not just one. Nevertheless, this recent research proved that genomic selection for crampiness is moderately accurate and has the potential to be useful.

Calculating genetic evaluations based on ticks for Crampy by classifiers is currently the best option for selection against this syndrome. Over the course of the next year, CDN plans to initiate such a genetic evaluation. How the trait will be expressed and where it will be published is still to be decided. Finally, there may be future opportunity to collect information on older animals not presented to the classifier through updated on-farm software. This could significantly increase the amount of data available on crampy animals that are second lactation and older. 🐄

## Check out our Top four finalists from Theme #2 – Chore Time!



*Maple-Ain Braxton*  
Noble patiently waiting for Gerald Hunter to deliver fresh straw to play and lay in. – submitted by Lyndsay Dickson, Smiths Falls, Ont.



*David Lapointe and his son, Milan (2.5)* working hard at Ferme Gilles & David Lapointe S.E.N.C. – submitted by Sabrina Giard, Jonquiere, Que.



*Dinner time at Mistyglens Holsteins!* – submitted by Suzanne Pettit, Belmont, Ont.



*Anastasia Schneider (2)* bringing in Dameya Zalgadis Jassilia Red under the supervision of her aunt Danyca Schneider at the end of a beautiful November afternoon. – submitted by Myriam Schneider, Glen Robertson, Ont.

# #FrameTheHerd Photo Contest

Great photos are still rolling in for the #FrameTheHerd Photo contest!  
Thank you to everyone for your submissions!

## THEME #4 IS: GENERATIONS

Someone wise once said, “You need to know where you have come from in the past in order to know where you are going in the future.” Dairy farming in Canada is very much a family business and in many cases, the farming family (and the herd!) is made up of multiple generations working together – balancing the experience, energy and enthusiasm of all generations involved. Fire up your cameras and smart phones and send us your best photos of the generations on your farm – both human and bovine! As always, bonus points if you can get a Holstein Canada logo in the photos somehow (hats, jackets, etc.!) And of course, we also don’t discriminate against colour, so send us those all-breed photos as well!

## THE DETAILS:

- Photos should be high-res digital images (300 dpi is preferred)
- There is no limit to the number of entries person
- Any visible animals MUST be properly tagged to be considered

Entries are to be emailed to [socialmedia@holstein.ca](mailto:socialmedia@holstein.ca) and should include the names of any people and animals, as well as the prefix when possible. \*If you do not have access to email, but wish to participate, call Jennifer at 1-855-756-8300 ext. 234 to make alternate arrangements.

**DEADLINE**  
**APRIL 30, 2016**

**ON SOCIAL MEDIA? SHARE YOUR ENTRY WITH THE WORLD! EMAIL YOUR ENTRY TO US AND THEN SHARE IT ON SOCIAL MEDIA USING #FRAMETHEHERD**

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA & JOIN THE CONVERSATION





## Update on HCD – Haplotype Associated with Cholesterol Deficiency

In the November/ December 2015 issue of the *InfoHolstein*, CDN's Industry Liaison Coordinator, Lynsay Beavers wrote an article entitled "A Different Kind of Haplotype". The article stated that "Since we don't know the exact gene for HCD, the only way to identify carriers is by using haplotype." However, since that article was published, researchers in Europe have been successful in identifying the causative gene underlying this genetically recessive anomaly. Researchers are currently working on a gene test which is expected to be available in the coming months; however the most economical way to identify HCD will continue to be genotyping. For more information on HCD, check out CDN's December Information Article available online. 🐄

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

Based on 1st Lactation Classifications from November/December 2015

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 |
|------------|----------------------|-----------------|----------------|------------|----------------------|-----------------|----------------|
| SID        | 133                  | 81.91           | 82.37          | CONTROL    | 41                   | 82.20           | 81.68          |
| WINDBROOK  | 543                  | 81.84           | 81.78          | DOORMAN    | 65                   | 82.03           | 81.14          |
| AFTERSHOCK | 133                  | 81.79           | 82.20          | BRADNICK   | 49                   | 82.00           | 82.90          |
| DEMPEY     | 235                  | 81.60           | 81.50          | DAY        | 33                   | 81.88           | 81.21          |
| SHADOW     | 121                  | 81.19           | 81.34          | MCCUTCHEN  | 64                   | 81.75           | 82.19          |
| NUMERO UNO | 159                  | 81.18           | 81.03          | WINDHAMMER | 79                   | 81.56           | 80.97          |
| SANCHEZ    | 107                  | 81.17           | 81.64          | CHELIOS    | 34                   | 81.47           | 81.00          |
| FEVER      | 754                  | 80.88           | 81.35          | SEAVER     | 35                   | 81.14           | 80.40          |
| REGINALD   | 113                  | 80.64           | 80.65          | LUMI       | 74                   | 81.09           | 80.35          |
| LAVANGUARD | 161                  | 80.60           | 80.77          | GUTHRIE    | 75                   | 80.81           | 81.07          |

**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**

FIELD SERVICE **FS**

### MARCH

ON **MR** Halton, York, Peel, Simcoe, Dufferin, Ontario

QC **MR** Saint-Maurice, Champlain, Lavolette, Portneuf, Lac Saint-Jean, Roberval, Lapointe, Dubuc, Charlevoix, Chicoutimi  
**FS** NB, BC

ON Elgin, Lambton, Middlesex, Essex & Kent

QC Témiscouata, Rimouski, Matapédia, Bonaventure, Matane

QC **MR** Valdreuil, Huntingdon  
**FS** AB, NL, NB

ON **MR** Peterborough, Northumberland, Victoria, Durham, Waterloo, Lennox, Addington, Frontenac, Hastings, Prince Edward

QC **MR** Châteauguay, Beauharnois, Iberville, Saint-Jean, Richmond, Missisquoi  
**FS** NB, NS, MB, SK

### APRIL

ON Oxford

QC Arthabaska

QC **MR** Shefford

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

**FS** MB, SK, PE

QC Wolfe, Mégantic

Saskatchewan North/South

**FS** AB, NB

ON **MR** Wellington

QC Lotbinière

QC **MR** Compton, Brome, Sherbrooke, Stanstead

**FS** AB

### MAY

ON **MR** Nipissing & Algoma, Timiskaming, Cochrane, Thunder Bay

QC Nicolet, Yamaska, Drummond

EARLY

MID

LATE

EARLY

MID

LATE

EARLY



# Purchase your NEW Holstein Gear at the 2016 National Convention in Alberta!



Order online now @

# HOLSTEINGEAR.CA



*info* **Holstein** 

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.

Editor: Jennifer Kyle  
jkyle@holstein.ca

Published six times annually  
Subscription: \$18 outside Canada

Publications Mail  
Agreement 40008691

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