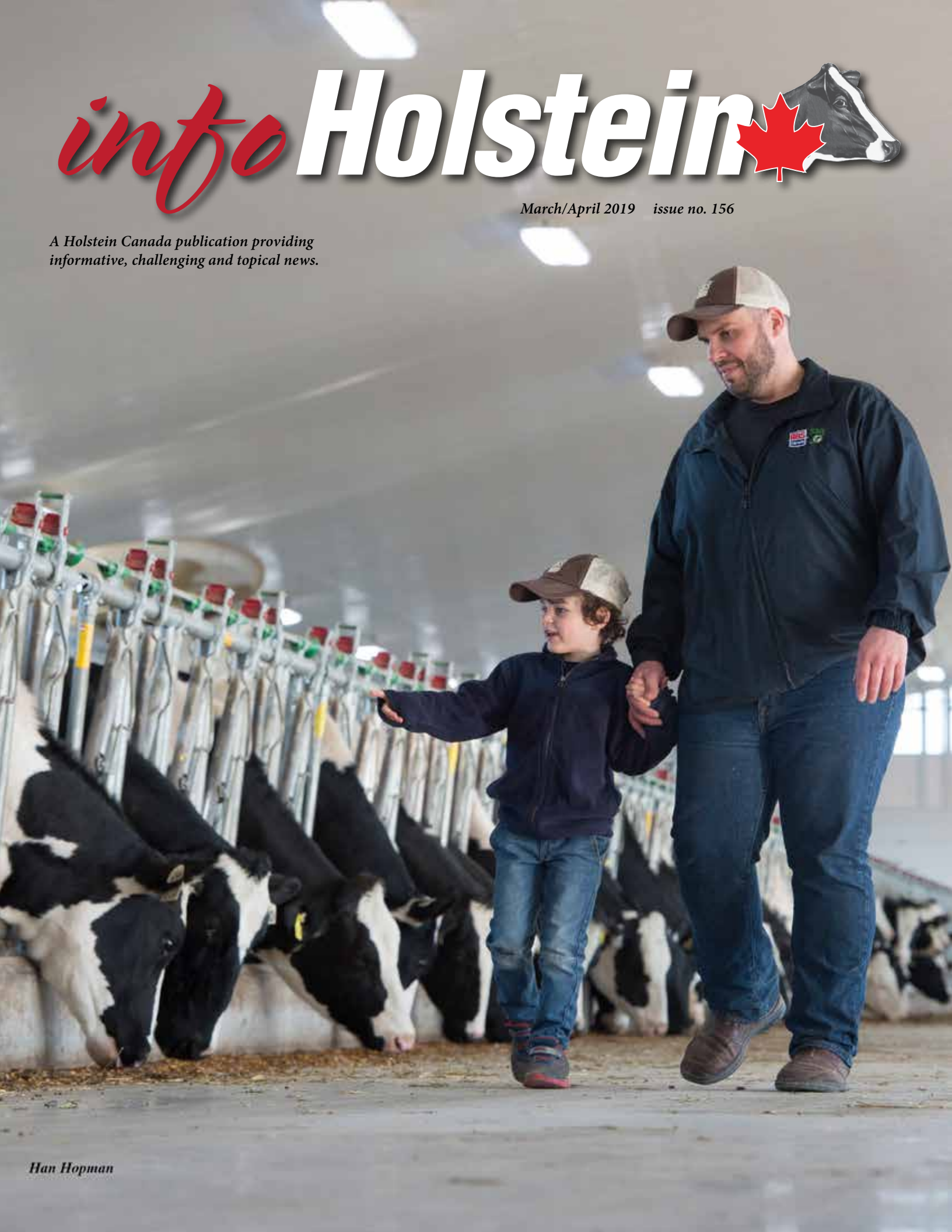
info Holstein

March/April 2019 issue no. 156

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



Han Hopman

CHARLOTTETOWN, PEI | APRIL 24-27

2019 NATIONAL HOLSTEIN CONVENTION

Come From Away

Chris MacBeath,
Chairman,
2019 National Holstein Convention

On behalf of Prince Edward Island Holsteins and our committee, we look forward to seeing you in Charlottetown in April!

With a show and sale, farm tours, and nightly entertainment, we are confident that it will be the best convention yet!

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: March 25, 2019

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ABOVE: On page 5, we profile Young Leader Scott Tannahill as he helps his family farm move from tie-stall to free-stall; we're profiling organic dairy farmers across the country starting on page 7; and on page 18, Alison Buckrell will answer your questions about what to do when you've forgotten your password in Dear Customer Service!
ON THE COVER: Chris Nooyen and his son Ty check out their Master Breeder-winning herd. Photo courtesy Han Hopman.

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President's Message

Harry Van der Linden, Holstein Canada President

DEAR MEMBERS,

I am in the final stretch of my Presidential year at Holstein Canada. I would like to share a few thoughts with you from this point of view, but also as an active dairy producer and the father of a member of the next generation of dedicated producers.

Holstein producers and the incredible cow they raise continue to improve. Thanks to breed improvement tools, enhanced genetics/genomics, and refined nutritional management and cow comfort, our herds are reaching new heights.

These tools are only useful if used. This progress is due to you, the Canadian Holstein farm family, continuously looking ahead. In recent months, looking ahead was tough. However, your passion for dairy farming has risen to the top. I have witnessed this from coast to coast.

Protecting and improving our way of life is a marathon, not a sprint. Seeing producers, processors and consumers come together around the Blue Cow logo was one of the more inspiring trends from the last year. Keeping the momentum going well into 2019 will require moving forward together.

The other good news is seeing Holstein Canada breaking records in registrations and number of cows classified. Again, this is due to your loyalty and to using our services as management tools. We will continue looking to the future with you by providing service and assistance for your farm's unique needs.

Harry with Judy Versteeg of Red Oak Holsteins

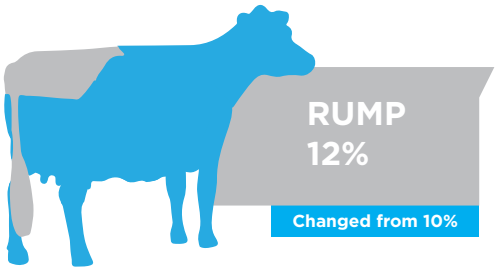
It has been an honour and privilege representing you, supported by a very dedicated Board, Management Team and staff. A special thank you to all who welcomed me into their barns from St John's, Newfoundland to Vancouver Island. Allow me to return the hospitality, and as Atlantic National Director, invite you to "Come From Away" and enjoy great cows and our Atlantic hospitality during the upcoming Holstein Canada Convention in Charlottetown, April 24-27. I hope to see you there!

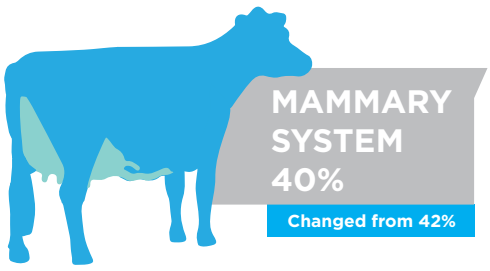
Harry Van der Linden

Classification Changes

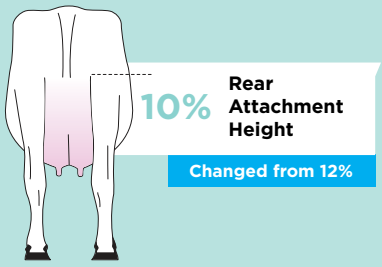
Aware of the growing industry need for improved Rump structure, the Classification Advisory Committee researched a change, which was later approved by the Board of Directors, in the proportion of Rump in the final classification score, changing it from 10% to 12%. It is accompanied by a decrease in the final weighting of Mammary System from 42 to 40%. Within the Mammary System scorecard, the weightings have been changed to recognize profitability; Rear Attachment Width will change from 10% to 12%, and the weighting of Rear Attachment Height will be reduced from 12% to 10%.

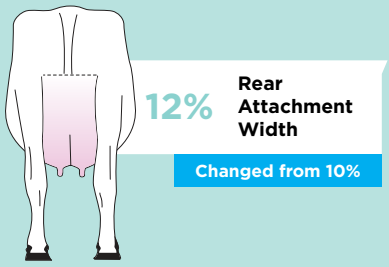
Changes to classification weightings come into effect February 4, 2019





Within Mammary System





young LEADER PROGRAM

Managing herd transition from tie-stall to free-stall

Featured article on Scott Tannahill

Scott Tannahill was born and raised on the family farm in Godmanchester, Quebec. He is currently the fifth generation of farmers to milk under the Cloverlea prefix. Growing up participating in the local 4H club and learning by working alongside his father, he discovered his passion for the dairy industry. Since 2010, he is 50% shareholder, with the other 50% belonging to his mom. Scott operates the farm alongside his mom and sister, his father in-law, and his ever-growing family.

As the industry evolved, new technology became available and the family situation changed. It was apparent to the family that they needed to make a change in their daily tasks. In May 2017, they entered their new chapter of working in a free-stall robotic facility. There have been many positive outcomes, but there have also been some struggles. There is no better way for others who may be struggling with transitioning facilities to learn than to hear someone's own experience.

Q&A

What is your farm history? What are your farm philosophies/ farm goals?
We immigrated from Renfrewshire, Scotland in 1832, laying the foundation of what came to be Cloverlea Holsteins. I am now the fifth generation farmer. Our goal has always been to both milk good quality cattle who are nice to look at and breed an animal that can deliver quality milk. It was in May of 2017 that the cows moved into the new facility.

How long were you set up in a tie-stall barn and what made you want to transition to a free-stall? What steps did you take before landing on the type of barn you were looking to build?
Growing up on a dairy farm was lots of fun but as the farm size increased, it became more of a challenge to find hired help. That was the number one reason for us to go the robotic route. The cows had always been housed in a tie-stall facility. The cows were staying in the barn stalls 365 days of the year and we were beginning to have trouble with longevity in our herd. We had been visiting many new barns over a period of two years before deciding what type of robotic housing we wanted to have on our operation. We loved the idea of having cows choose what they wanted to do when they wanted to do it. We were also looking for something that would be efficient for the worker. That is why we went with DeLaval's optimized free flow with Herd Navigator. The cows still have the flexibility to do what they want, but if a cow needs to be milked, she is directed back to the robot holding area until she goes to be milked.

How many animals was your tie-stall set up for? Did you build in order to increase your herd or maintain the size? Is your goal to increase the size of the herd or peak at a certain number and maintain it no matter what the market is?
The old tie-stall barn had 68 stalls, and we had another six cows in a free-stall. I would switch the free-stall cows into the tie-stall to milk. When the cows were being milked in the old barn we were averaging around 30 kg/cow; in less than two years our average has gone up to 35-40 kg/cow. At the end of the day, we want to be able to push the cows as much as we can but as a business, it still needs to profitable.

How has your management philosophy changed with your new set up? What new tools (if there are any) do you use for breeding, herd health, overall management, etc.? Can you compare what you were doing before to what you are doing now?
Herd Navigator has dramatically changed our herd management. In the tie-stall barn, we would be doing most of the breeding with protocols; now we watch the computer screen. It tells us everything that is going on in that cow. Whether it is a heat, in calf, cystic, abortion, ketosis, or mastitis. It does have a cost to it, but I think it pays for itself in the long term.

What are some of the obstacles that you encountered when you were transitioning the animals to the new barn? What are some of your suggestions that you have concerning those obstacles, if any?
One of the biggest challenges we had when we moved in was our feet. We should have ran a footbath the very first day the cows were in the free-stall. We had purchased some animals and with that, we were introduced to strawberry foot. A cow with bad feet in a robot barn will not go to be milked.

Do you still keep animals in your old set up? Did you renovate it or is it still the same?
The free-stall has 114 stalls for the milking cows, but until we reach that number, we are keeping the dry cows in the same barn. When the time comes, we will renovate the old facility to house all the dry cows.

What piece of advice can you give someone who might be thinking of building to transition?
My advice to someone who is thinking of building is to go visit as many barns as possible. Every barn has its own personality and was built to meet the criteria of the farmer. You can learn a lot by asking questions and being exposed to many farms.

Presenting the 2018 Scholarship Winners

Congratulations to the six outstanding young leaders selected to receive the 2018 Scholarships:

ERIN CUTHBERT, BRITISH COLUMBIA:
Erin is currently furthering her education at the University of Glasgow, completing her Masters in Animal Welfare Science, Ethics, and Law. Having previously taken a break from school, Erin has worked for the B.C. Ministry of Agriculture as a Provincial Dairy Technologist. Her goal is to return to this position and to continue to work with B.C. dairy farms to improve their milk quality, herd management practices, and help identify areas of improvement on their farms to enhance animal welfare.

LARS IVERSEN, ALBERTA:

Lars is currently completing his degree in Agribusiness at the University of Saskatchewan. He is a well-rounded young man who has enjoyed many aspects of the dairy industry, from on-farm work to working as a genetic consultant. Upon completion of his degree, his short-term goals include helping out on the family farm (Innislake) and carrying out a full-time position working for a genetic or animal nutrition company. Long-term, he hopes to be able to take on more responsibility on the family farm but maintain a more minor role in his day job.

DERRICK KNILL, ONTARIO:

He is currently in his second year of the Bachelor of Science in Agriculture Program, majoring in Animal Science at the University of Guelph. Derrick discovered his passion for working with dairy cattle through participation in 4H. He aspires to be able to attend the Ontario Veterinary College to one day become a bovine veterinarian specializing in embryo transfer and dairy cattle genetics.

CASSANDRA ALLEN, ONTARIO:

Cassie is presently majoring in Animal Sciences at the University of Guelph, enrolled in the Bachelor of Science in Agriculture Program. Having grown up on her family farm, she grew a keen interest in animal nutrition and genetics with the prospect of gaining a job in one of those fields. With many short-term goals, she hopes to be able to gain enough experience and knowledge to help her achieve her ultimate career in the agri-food industry.

ÉMILE POULIOT, QUEBEC:

Émile is currently studying agricultural economics at the University of Laval. In ten years' time, he hopes to be able to take over his family's herd and raise them to a new level using his past work experiences on a variety of different farm settings. In the meantime, he hopes when he finishes his BAC to be able to find a full-time position in his field of study but maintain a work relationship with his family farm.

RYAN PORTER, NOVA SCOTIA:
Ryan is presently majoring in Animal Sciences at Dalhousie University. He hopes to be accepted into the Vet school program. His dream job would be to bring his full education home to the family farm as well operate his own private large animal practice. His goal for the future is to one day have a cow with the family prefix win Grand Champion at the Royal Agriculture Winter Fair.

For more information on Education Awards, please visit the Young Leader section of the Holstein Canada website.

FARM PROFILE

Organic Farming

Sardius Holsteins

Steinbach, Manitoba

By Morgan Sangster, Holstein Canada Field Service Business Partner

PREFIX: Sardius

PEOPLE INVOLVED: Sam, Anne, Jim (son - runs Creamery), family, friends, and neighbours help out, too

 # OF YEARS AS A HOLSTEIN CANADA MEMBER: 40 Years

 # OF COWS MILKED: 100

 # OF ACRES FARMED: 1500 acres (pasture/ hayland) 300 crop

FACILITY TYPE: Free-stall with Robots

HERD PRODUCTION AVERAGE (L/COW): 22 - 25L / cow

HERD CLASSIFICATION: 21VG, 89GP, 40G

WHAT IS YOUR FEEDING SYSTEM? Round Bales and Robot Grain

ARE THERE OTHER BREEDS IN YOUR HERD? Just Red and White Holsteins

HOLSTEIN CANADA SERVICES USED: Register, Classify, some Genomic Testing

HAVE YOU ALWAYS BEEN AN ORGANIC OPERATION? No, we started 8-10 years ago. Organic Meadow and the Milk Board held meetings to look for producers, and it seemed like a good opportunity.

WHAT CHALLENGES HAVE YOU FACED? There was a contract with the Milk Board for seven years with an organic processing company; however, there were issues and it was not honoured for the full contract. While there is a market in Manitoba, it is supplied with out-of-province milk and dairy products, and with no processing and not being the premium originally discussed, it presents challenges. We are the only organic dairy farm left in Manitoba.

WHAT MADE YOU MAKE THE ORGANIC COMMITMENT? An organic processing company approached producers looking for interest in going organic. It seemed like a good idea at the time. Our son, Jim, bottles some of their own milk on-farm, and their customers enjoy it. We enjoy doing it, and not having to deal with the chemicals/ drugs is better in the long run.

WHAT DO YOU FEED THE COWS? Round bales of grass hay/alfalfa. The robot concentrate is a mixture of homegrown ground barley, field pea mixture with some oats, and their mineral package.

HOW DOES THE LOCAL CLIMATE AFFECT YOUR OPERATION? Winters are long in Manitoba; for the lactating cows, it's hard to meet the outdoor requirements for organic farming. We bank our forage crops, as we grow all at once and typically only get one cut. We also find it challenging to have good quality pasture. Alfalfa can be cut three or even four times, but the bulk of the grass grows in early June, so it may only be one cut and maybe graze balance later in the year, depending on the year. (Sometimes we do have two cuts and graze, some is simply grazed, and some grazed after first cut!).

WHAT IS SOME ADVICE YOU WOULD GIVE TO PEOPLE WHO ARE MAYBE LOOKING INTO BEING CERTIFIED ORGANIC? Check out the financial situation, check into processing and with the Milk Board that they will have a market for your product.

WHAT, IN YOUR OPINION, ARE SOME BENEFITS FOR THE COWS IN A CERTIFIED ORGANIC OPERATION? The cows like to be outside, weather permitting. So it's nice that they are to be outside every day. We have noticed benefits using organic straw, less pneumonia overall. We purchased some straw in under an exemption, that had not been sprayed 60 days prior to harvest, and noticed a difference in an increase of pneumonia. It's always nice to go check your cattle out on pasture, or to bring the girls in for milking.

DO YOU THINK THE TREND OF ORGANIC PRODUCTION IS GOING TO CHANGE IN THE FUTURE? Yes. How it will happen will be open to question. It will come about because people volunteer to be organic or want to be organic will drive the direction of the trend. That will only happen if the price of the product reflects the price they are getting for their milk. Economics need to be heavily considered. On the regulatory side, most of the CQM requirements are already in the organic standard requirements, and each year it seems another one comes in. Increased cost is put back onto the farmer, and not always reflected back into price of organic milk/product.

WHAT ARE YOUR EXPECTATIONS FOR THE FUTURE? We will continue to farm this way as long as we can. When your passion aligns with what you do for a living, it's a great lifestyle.

HAVE YOU ALWAYS BEEN AN ORGANIC OPERATION? No. We were conventional when we first came from Holland. When we took over the farm 20 years ago, we focused on reducing our costs, which meant reducing our inputs. The first thing we did was reduce the amount of grain we were feeding. Not only did we notice the cost of feed decrease, we also noticed our vet bill go down. We did not have as many problems with sick cows. After 3 years of farming on our own, we became certified organic in 2002. It has been going well ever since and the organic dairy community is really great.

WHAT CHALLENGES HAVE YOU FACED? Calf health was a challenge when we first certified organic. Now that we have been organic for quite a few years we have learned how to prevent sickness in young calves by feeding them more milk in the first 3-4 months of life. This also helps the transition off milk go smoother. The better job you do with feeding your calves the more they thrive later in life.

An on-going challenge we face is fall pasture for cows. It can be very tough to balance the feed rations. If it is shorter and nutrient-dense I will add chopped straw and long-stem hay to the ration. If the pasture grass is too long it can be difficult to keep the milk up because there is not enough energy in the grass.

WHAT MADE YOU MAKE THE ORGANIC COMMITMENT? It's much more fun! It is nice to have the cows at pasture most of the year and see the cows last longer! I takes pride in good quality milk for the consumer. I would rather not see organic milk being imported from the US because we cannot fill the demand for organic milk.

WHAT DO YOU FEED THE COWS? A mixture of haylage, corn silage, soybeans, mineral supplements, and grain depending on the time of year. The micronutrients in all of the supplements we use help with enzyme functions in the body. Dry kelp is high in iodine will help to function thyroid and potentially show better heats. Although starch drives milk production I notice the organic ration makes cows more active and shows better heats then higher starch diets. Cows that are on organic rations do not have as many problems with metabolic diseases if you feed them right and keep starch levels at 17% of the diet.

HOW DOES THE LOCAL CLIMATE AFFECT YOUR OPERATION? Fall pasture is a challenge for balancing rations. Fall season brings shorter days which means slower growing periods for grasses. We graze our cows from May to October. We also pasture 100 dry cows and heifers that stay outside all summer and most years we are able to feed only 20 bales of hay all summer.

WHAT IS SOME ADVICE YOU WOULD GIVE TO PEOPLE WHO MAY BE LOOKING INTO BEING CERTIFIED ORGANIC? If you are a perfectionist, don't go organic! Go visit other organic producers, go to seminars, guest speakers, conferences to learn more about what a successful operation looks like. Each operation is different. You should make sure you have your overall cow knowledge figured out.

WHAT, IN YOUR OPINION, ARE SOME BENEFITS FOR THE COWS IN A CERTIFIED ORGANIC OPERATION? Cow livability. We noticed we were keeping cows longer when we reduced the amount of starches we feed. There are some notable cows, specifically Sprucecourt Linjet Zoe EX-92 8E* is working on her 11th lactation with a projected butter fat of 4.6% and 6 generations in the barn form that cow family to date. My oldest cow was born in August 2002 - the year I became certified organic.

DO YOU THINK THE TREND OF ORGANIC PRODUCTION IS GOING TO CHANGE IN THE FUTURE? The consumer is demanding more and more organic products. Organic producers receive a good premium. It would be better for the entire dairy sector for more producers to consider switching to organic. We need more organic producers to service the organic demand.

WHAT ARE YOUR EXPECTATIONS FOR THE FUTURE? We want to scale down on replacements heifers, breed 1/3 of herd to beef, and become a 100% A2A2 herd.

FARM PROFILE

Organic Farming

Sprucecourt Farm

Troy, Ontario

By Amanda Comfort, Ontario Holstein Field Representative

PREFIX: Sprucecourt

PEOPLE INVOLVED: Quite a few, including one full-time employee plus students.

 # OF YEARS AS A HOLSTEIN CANADA MEMBER: 20

 # OF COWS MILKED: 140-160; 250 young stock

 # OF ACRES FARMED: 500

FACILITY TYPE: Free-Stall

HERD PRODUCTION AVERAGE: 1kg BF/cow

HERD CLASSIFICATION: 4ME, 10 EX, 80GP, 80VG, 10 G

WHAT IS YOUR FEEDING SYSTEM? TMR

ARE THERE OTHER BREEDS IN YOUR HERD? Jerseys and Brown Swiss

HOLSTEIN CANADA SERVICES USED: Registering and classifying

FARM PROFILE

Organic Farming

Ferme Y. Lampron & Fils Inc.

Saint-Boniface, Quebec

By Roxanne Montplaisir, Holstein Québec Advisor for Central Quebec

PREFIX: Sevy

PEOPLE INVOLVED: Pierre Lampron, Daniel Lampron, Alexandre Lampron, Jean-Yves Lampron & Gabriel Lampron

 # OF YEARS AS A HOLSTEIN CANADA MEMBER: Over 50 years

 # OF COWS MILKED: 135 cows

 # OF ACRES FARMED: 955 acres

FACILITY TYPE: Free-stall with sand-bedded stalls, Double-10 milking parlor

WHAT IS YOUR FEEDING SYSTEM? TMR with a Siloking self-loader feed mixer

ARE THERE OTHER BREEDS IN YOUR HERD? Rotational matings on approx. 20% of the herd: Holstein–Ayrshire or Red Norwegian or Red Swedish–Montbéliarde or Brown Swiss

HOLSTEIN CANADA SERVICES USED: Classification & Registration

HAVE YOU ALWAYS BEEN AN ORGANIC OPERATION? We received our first organic certification in 1998 for our crops and in 2001 for our milk.

WHAT CHALLENGES HAVE YOU FACED? At the very beginning, organic production resources were more limited and advisors were less specialized. We went through a lot of trial and error to find out what worked well. Fortunately, a lot has changed since then. Somatic cell count is a challenge in our herd and we overcame it through good practices such as using CMT. We also pay great attention to udder health in our breeding strategy. Weed management is also one of the challenges we have faced, as well as the negative impacts of working with pastures. We always try to improve the uniformity of our pastures to avoid variations in consumption and feeding and therefore variable performances of our herd.

WHAT MADE YOU MAKE THE ORGANIC COMMITMENT? It is simply a life choice for us! We are committed to innovation to move forward into the future. We value health and the environment. This life philosophy comes with finding long-term solutions for our operation, as well as with the desire to not be dependent on suppliers. We like to understand what we do instead of following a ready-made recipe.

WHAT DO YOU FEED THE COWS? We feed our cows TMR twice a day. Feeding is divided into two groups of lactating cows, soon to be three with our recent expansion. Our TMR is composed of hay silage, corn silage, dry hay, dry grain corn, barley, extruded soybeans and minerals. We buy soybeans, grain corn and hay for our dry cows.

HOW DOES THE LOCAL CLIMATE AFFECT YOUR OPERATION? We enjoy a rather northern climate. We are therefore in a borderline zone to be successful with grain corn, which is why we only do corn silage. For the first time in several years, we had a drought and hay yields fell by 33%. We also have a lot of snow in the winter, which usually allows our alfalfa to keep well.

WHAT IS SOME ADVICE YOU WOULD GIVE PEOPLE WHO MAY BE LOOKING INTO ORGANIC CERTIFICATION? They would need to do it for the right reasons, not just from a financial point of view. They would truly need to like organic farming practices, because they require good monitoring and a rigorous approach. It is also important to embrace challenges and demonstrate openness to different agricultural practices. In short, you have to be ready to think differently.

WHAT, IN YOUR OPINION, ARE SOME BENEFITS FOR THE COWS IN A CERTIFIED ORGANIC OPERATION? Organic production maximizes animal welfare; the animals are out to pasture and are more physically active. There is also a greater emphasis on a preventive approach and the use of forages to their maximum.

DO YOU THINK THE TREND OF ORGANIC PRODUCTION IS GOING TO CHANGE IN THE FUTURE? We believe that evolving new practices will help organic producers improve their performances both in the barn and in the field. We think that supply will continue to follow the growing demand for organic products. We also believe that, because of their many benefits, good organic practices will be used in conventional production and will have a positive influence.

WHAT ARE YOUR EXPECTATIONS FOR THE FUTURE? We want to continue to thrive using our organic production method while continuing to meet consumer expectations.

The Unique Challenges of **Organic Farming**

100% ORGANIC FOOD

THE CANADIAN DAIRY INDUSTRY has some of the highest purity standards in the world, and as any farmer could tell you, it's a product guaranteed to be free from antibiotics and hormones. However, many consumers and producers want to go beyond what's coming out of our Holsteins; for organic dairy, it is what's going *in* that abides by different standards.

Mike Main is a technician and laboratory instructor at Dalhousie Agricultural Campus (formerly NSAC) in Truro, N.S., and has worked in organic dairy research. He says that because feeding standards are different, getting the necessary organic certification is complicated.

"A farm must comply with CFIA organic standards. It involves using only permitted substances for pesticides, fertilizers, and medications."

"A farm must comply with CFIA organic standards. It involves using only permitted substances for pesticides, fertilizers, and medications," he said. "Many of the best practices are the same for organic as the rest of the industry, but there are some exceptions, like feeding the calf on the cow for a certain duration of time, the calves require socialization, 75% of the milking diet must be forage, and the minimum space requirements are different. Animal health trumps organic methods, so the use of antibiotics to treat animals is permitted; however, it is double the withdrawal time. There are also annual inspections performed by accredited agencies in order to maintain certification."

While becoming organic is a challenge in and of itself, one of the biggest limitations to expansion is processing, especially in the Maritimes. Philip Nunn is a producer in Nova Scotia, and he is the former President of the now-defunct East Coast Organic Co-op. He says that a lack of processors, as well as feed suppliers, makes it difficult for organic farmers to sell their milk.

"There was also the issue of not having enough producers to not only meet critical supply requirements, but to also allow for quantities of things we need, rock phosphorus, certified grain, etc. to be brought in at a decent price. For example, there is a certified feed mill in Sussex, New Brunswick, but to ship feed to central Nova Scotia comes at a cost."

"We also need to look more at genetics for animals best suited for production on a mainly forage-based diet, one that needs less rumen bypass to achieve higher rates of production."

All these considerations about feed, breeding, and specialized processing are integral to the dairy being truly organic. Yet many consumers, and some fellow producers, hold some misunderstandings about the product.

"Sometimes it seems to be 'us vs them'," said Mike. "It's often implicated that organic is 'better' and there is no proof that organic milk is of better quality. A more forage-based diet will change the fatty acid composition of the milk, but organic is more of a production philosophy, and if it is something consumers desire, we would like to fill that niche market."

"Most organic dairy producers see the potential environmental and health benefits of organic methods, but they also acknowledge that the great majority of farmers, like themselves, wish to produce quality products in a sustainable manner, while making a good living. Organic is one approach, but few would argue that it is the only approach. "

Philip agrees, and believes that it's not a competition – it's a small philosophical difference. "There is also the misconception that organic is dead set against antibiotics, but it is not. They are a part of management. The organic philosophy is to change or mitigate the situation that is causing the issue, not just deal with the effects of the problem. Antibiotics are not a cure for the problem; they are a treatment of the symptoms."

"Other producers may feel that we think the quality of organic milk is 'better' - it is not so. There is no scientific basis for that. It would mean that for 50 years our farm was producing an 'inferior' product, and I know that is not the case!"

HOLSTEIN CANADA AWARDS

THE NEW ANNUAL HOLSTEIN CANADA AWARDS are given to individual animals and herds owned by Holstein Canada members. While no physical awards will be mailed out, the complete list of winners is on the Holstein Canada website.

The Awards are based on lactations terminated in 2018. The total production for the entire lactation is indicated. Animals must be registered and at least of 75% purity. Information listed is the days in milk, type of housing, milking system, classification, owner and province.

THE 2018 TOP PRODUCERS OF EACH AWARD CATEGORY ARE LISTED BELOW; FOR THE COMPLETE FILE FOR EACH AWARD, GO TO THE HOLSTEIN CANADA WEBSITE AND CLICK ON THE BUTTON TO DOWNLOAD THE EXCEL FILE AND FILTER BY COLUMN.

DAILY PRODUCTION CHAMPION: Top value per day of life

- Animals must be 60 months of age or older and have completed a minimum of four lactations.
- Animals are ranked in order of top kilograms of milk per day of life. Total milk, fat and protein values are divided by the number of days of life (birthdate to completion of lactation).

RANKING	ANIMAL NAME	MILK	FAT	PROT	COMP	AGE	LACTS	DAYS	MILK	FAT	PROT	COMP	HOUSING	FREQ	CLASS	FARM NAME	PROV
1	HOLDREAM SHOTTLE RIDA	38.1	1.4	1.2	2.63	10	5	3546	135041	5113	4226	9339	T	2	EX-91-3E	GUILLAUME & ETIENNE LESSARD	QC
2	HOLDREAM MAGNETISM ROSANGE	38.1	1.6	1.2	2.8	7	5	2727	103804	4358	3278	7636	T	2	VG-85-2YR	GUILLAUME & ETIENNE LESSARD	QC
3	SUNNYPOINT 1290 ASHLAR	38	1.4	1.1	2.55	9	6	3150	119528	4436	3606	8042	F	3	VG-87-4YR	SUNNY POINT FARMS LTD	NS
4	SUMMITHOLM ASHLAR LEE	37.9	1.4	1.2	2.61	10	7	3678	139194	5189	4414	9603	F	3	VG-85-7YR	JOE LOEWITH & SONS LTD	ON
5	SUMMITHOLM DAWSON CHERI	37.1	1.3	1.2	2.52	14	12	4993	185448	6614	5971	12585	F	3	GP-83-2YR	JOE LOEWITH & SONS LTD	ON

HERD OF DISTINCTION AWARDS: Total lifetime production of animals in the herd

- Includes all cows in the herd having completed a lactation in 2018
- Total milk, fat and protein lifetime production of those animals in the herd are then used to calculate the herd average
- Grouped by herd size

HERD			TOTAL				MILK		
Herd	Farm Name	Animals	Milk	Fat	Prot	Milk Avg	Housing	Freq	Prov
20-39	DAMESTAR HOLSTEIN	33	1402238	54953	45178	42492	T	2	QC
40-49	RAYMOND KLEIN GEBBINCK	43	1762673	70867	59215	40992	T	2	ON
50-59	GENTLEACRES	56	2393604	94016	76266	42743	F	2	ON
60-69	BERTRAND BOUTIN & FILS INC	66	2887915	118323	94351	43756	T	2	QC
70-89	MARTIN & RENAUD BOUTIN INC	70	2996979	133447	101068	42814	T	2	QC
90-129	REAL J. SIMON	126	4636928	179459	150491	36801	T	2	MB
130+	JOE LOEWITH & SONS LTD	502	22010692	862310	698747	43846	F	3	ON

OUTSTANDING PRODUCTION CHAMPIONS: Top production values by age

- Top total milk by age at completion of their last lactation in 2018, within their age group
- Looking at performance at the same age

ANIMAL NAME	AGE	LACTS	MILK	FAT	PROT	RANK	HOUSING	FREQ	CLASS	MEMBERSHIP NAME	PROV
TONESA LAKOTA MANIFOLD	2	1	20061	754	636	1	F	3	GP-81-2YR	TONESA HOLSTEINS LTD	BC
STANTONS SS CUPID-ET	2	1	19939	673	594	2	F	2	VG-86-3YR	BOKMA FARMS LTD	NS
SUNOL JOHNSON TARZAN	3	2	43760	1411	1275	1	F	R	VG-85-3YR	SUNOL FARMS	ON
SUNOL BOOKEL TOPPLE	3	2	37765	1356	1283	2	F	R	EX-90-4YR	SUNOL FARMS	ON
ALBADON LETITSNOW CARROT	4	3	56391	2017	1591	1	F	3	VG-85-4YR	ALBADON FARMS LTD	ON
RE-MONT SKYPE GIANNA	4	3	55000	1775	1719	2	T	3	VG-87-3YR	BERTOM FARMS	ON
DAIRI-ACRES RUFFIAN 1343	5	4	74952	2272	2243	1	F	2	GP-80-2YR	DAIRI-ACRES FARMS LTD	ON
HOLDREAM BEACON ANGELINA	5	4	74327	3081	2299	2	T	2	VG-87-3YR	GUILLAUME & ETIENNE LESSARD	QC
MARSFIELD WINDBROOK GEORGA	6	5	87048	2886	2570	1	F	2	GP-80-2YR	GERT & SONJA SCHRYVER	AB
SUMMITHOLM MANIFOLD BROCCOLI	6	5	86735	2926	2559	2	F	3	VG-86-3YR	JOE LOEWITH & SONS LTD	ON
S-S-HOLSTEIN GARRETT 1839	7	5	106961	3725	3482	1	F	3	VG-86-6YR	ONTARIO INC 1024248	ON
HOLDREAM MAGNETISM ROSANGE	7	5	103804	4358	3278	2	T	2	VG-85-2YR	GUILLAUME & ETIENNE LESSARD	QC
SUNNYPOINT 1290 ASHLAR	8	6	119528	4436	3606	1	F	3	VG-87-4YR	SUNNY POINT FARMS LTD	NS
SUMMITHOLM JOBERT TASTIC	8	7	118374	4343	3621	2	F	3	VG-88-5YR	JOE LOEWITH & SONS LTD	ON
HOLDREAM SHOTTLE RIDA	9	5	135041	5113	4226	1	T	2	EX-91-3E	GUILLAUME & ETIENNE LESSARD	QC
S-S-HOLSTEIN JEEVES 1623	9	6	126247	4212	3651	2	F	3	VG-85-8YR	ONTARIO INC 1024248	ON
SUMMITHOLM ASHLAR LEE	10	7	139194	5189	4414	1	F	3	VG-85-7YR	JOE LOEWITH & SONS LTD	ON
LARENWOOD BUCKEYE RITZ 465	10	8	129243	4812	3881	2	F	2	VG-85-4YR	LARENWOOD FARMS	ON
LEGAULT GOLDWYN GUYLAINE	11	9	157181	6098	5110	1	T	2	EX-90-7E	FERME GUYETTE & FILS S.E.N.C	QC
SUNNYHOME BLITZ MELODY	11	8	145957	4880	3949	2	F	2	VG-88-7YR	SUNNYHOME FARMS LTD	BC
HYDEN BLITZ PIZZA	12	8	166756	5717	4794	1	T	2	EX-92-6E	HYDEN HOLSTEINS	ON
DEL RIO DEESSE BLITZ	12	6	161928	6365	4888	2	T	2	VG-85-4YR	FERME DEL RIO	QC
VAL DES PLOURDE BRETTY	13	9	162749	6170	4872	1	T	2	EX-90-6E	FERME LES ARPENTS VERTS INC	QC
SUMMITHOLM DIAMOND POLLY	13	9	153035	5591	4625	2	F	2	GP-81-2YR	JOE LOEWITH & SONS LTD	ON
ARNITA ROY RUBALY	14	11	155758	5875	5047	1	T	2	EX-95-9E	ANITA & AMBROS ARNOLD	QC
RIVERBYE RUDOLPH TESSIE	14	10	147894	5242	4781	2	T	2	EX-90-7E	S & K REMBER REG'D	QC
SUMMITHOLM TRENT KATE	15	11	167633	7342	5730	1	F	2	VG-85-4YR	JOE LOEWITH & SONS LTD	ON
LIVET REVENUE RAGUEL	15	11	143572	6046	4763	2	T	2	VG-86-3YR	FERME BENLAUR	QC
JUNEL OUTSIDE LINDORA	16	8	136133	5172	4101	1	T	2	VG-88-9YR	JUNEL HOLSTEINS	ON
PICHEL MALIBU SHALOU	16	13	135439	5220	4665	2	T	2	VG-85-5YR	FERME PICHEL INC	QC
LOLEAF S R QUINELLA	17	9	99557	3977	3196	1	T	2	GP-80-4YR	DONALD J. MURRAY	NS
SWISSKESS RUDOLPH MAYA	19	16	180128	6245	5946	1	F	2	VG-85-3YR	SWISSKESS INC	QC

LEGEND: HOUSING: T = TIE-STALL F= FREE-STALL TIMES MILKED: 9 = ROBOT

HOLSTEIN CANADA'S 136TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

SATURDAY, APRIL 27, 2019 | DELTA HOTELS PRINCE EDWARD, 18 QUEEN STREET, CHARLOTTETOWN, P.E.I.

AGENDA

- BREAKFAST opens at 7:30 a.m.
- 9:00 a.m. WELCOME AND NATIONAL ANTHEM
- CALL TO ORDER
- APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA
- MOMENT OF SILENCE in memory of departed members of the Holstein Canada Family
- MINUTES of 2018 Annual General Meeting of Members
- Address of the President
- CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORT
- 2018 FINANCIAL REPORT
- Presentation of the 2019 BUDGET
- APPOINTMENT OF AUDIT FIRM
- Introduction of Industry Partners
- Remarks from Industry Partners & International Guests
- Presentation of CENTURY OF HOLSTEINS AWARDS
- Proposed BY-LAW AMENDMENTS
- 2019 Member RESOLUTIONS
- COMMITTEE REPORTS
- Members' INPUT SESSION
- Invitation to the 2020 Convention and AGM in Saskatchewan
- Recognition of Outgoing President
- Unveiling of THE COW OF THE YEAR
- ADJOURNMENT

Immediately following the AGM, a short Fundraising activity followed by a Member input session on Exploring Show Class Options.

HOLSTEIN CANADA By-laws are rules and regulations established to ensure the Association meets legal obligations defined by the Animal Pedigree Act. Further, by-laws provide direction under which members determine how their Association operates. By-laws can only be amended at an Annual General Meeting since this is the only time members come together to discuss governance issues.

After presenting proposed amendments to members, they are voted upon at the AGM. A vote count for / against / abstain is taken and recorded. All amendments voted for are sent to the Federal Minister of Agriculture for review and approval. The Federal Minister of Agriculture has the final authority before amendments come into effect.

You have an opportunity to provide input into the direction of the Association at the April 2019 Annual Meeting. Below is the proposed by-law amendment; it is also be posted online at holstein.ca.

The 2019 By-law amendment proposed by the Board of Directors:

Repeal Section 9.3.3 which reads:

A member who has served as a director for nine (9) years is not eligible for election with the exception that those persons who were directors on April 15, 2013 remain eligible for future election so long as they have not served as a director for more than ten (10) years as of the date for completion of election balloting. Once a person has served as a director for nine (9) years, or ten (10) years in the case of persons who were directors on April 15, 2013, that person is deemed to resign as a director.

And substitute therefor the following:

A member who has served as a director for twelve (12) years is not eligible for election.

Reasoning:	To align with industry norm.

THE PRACTICAL SIDE OF GENOMICS

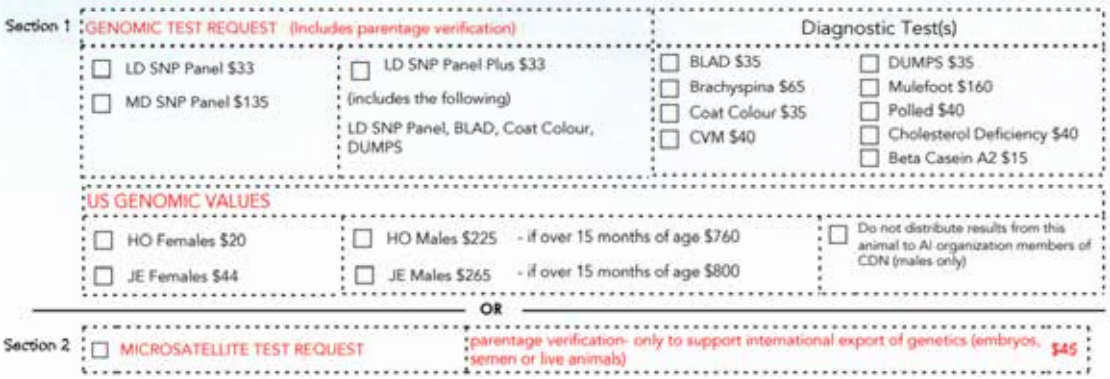
This year, genomics celebrates its tenth year of commercial availability in Canada's dairy industry, but there are still a lot of questions about it floating around. In this article, we'll give you the practical details you need to know to complete your understanding of genomics and what it can do for you.

What Is Genomics?

Genomics is a method of testing an animals' DNA to determine their genetic potential for specific traits. For example: thanks to genomic testing, a producer can know the exact genetic potential of a heifer for Milk Production, Udder Texture or Daughter Fertility, just to name a few. As genomic testing can be done at birth, this gives producers accurate information at an early stage of life.

What Can I Test For?

On top of finding out the potential for production, conformation and functional traits, genotyping can help you identify which animals are carriers of recessive genes. You can test for relatively harmless traits like Red and White Coat Colour or the Polled gene. However, you can also test for recessive genes that cause abortions, stillbirths, and sickly calves like Brachyspina or Cholesterol Deficiency. Tests for BLAD, Coat Colour and DUMPS can be included in the normal test at no extra cost, while all other tests have various added costs.



How Do You Test Your Animals?

To genotype an animal with Holstein Canada, producers collect hair or tissue samples from the animals they would like to test. They then mail the sample to HC along with a Genotype Request Form, which is available on our website. Hair samples consist of at least 40 clean tail hairs with follicles, securely taped together on the Genotype Request Form, or taped together in a small, sealed plastic bag stapled to the form. Tissue samples are collected using a Tissue Sample Unit (TSU), available in our online Holstein Store, which takes a tiny sample from the ear. In the process, the tissue sample is automatically placed in a sealed vial, which producers include in the envelope containing the Genotype Request Form that they mail to us.

How long does it take?

If the whole testing process goes smoothly, producers usually have their genomic results back within 4 to 6 weeks. Occasionally a second sample is needed if the first sample failed extraction due to not enough follicles or tissue. If this is the case you will be notified by Holstein Canada to submit a new sample.

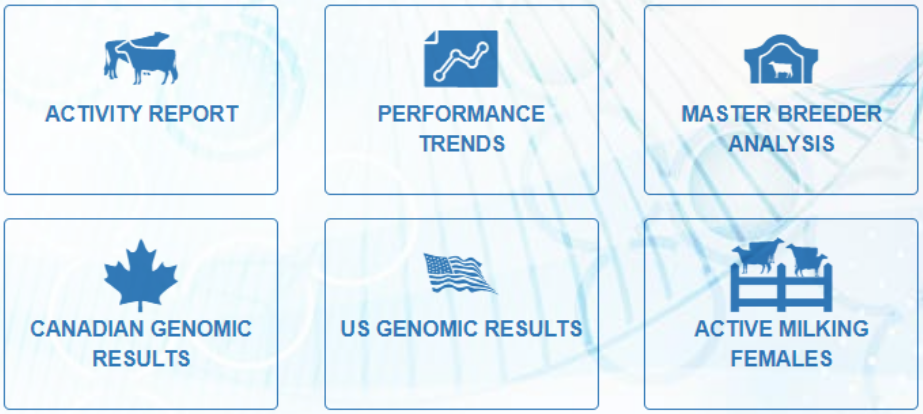
How much does it cost?

In Canada, only registered animals can be genotyped. Therefore, if your animal is not yet registered, the registration fee is added to the price of genotyping.

Holstein Animals	Low Density Genotype Fee	Herdbook Registration Fee	Total Fee
Base Animals	$33	$4	$37
Regular Calf Under 3 Months Old	$33	$9	$42
Regular Calf Over 3 Months	$33	$29	$62
Embryo Transfer Calf Under 3 Months	$33	$19	$52
Embryo Transer Calf Over 3 Months	$33	$39	$72

How do you access your results?

Genotyping results are available in your Web Account, simply click on the Canadian Genomic Results icon on your 'My Herdbook' page.



What to do with your results?

Producers apply the information from genomic results in many different ways. One way to put your genomic results to good use is using them to guide your breeding strategies. Testing your heifers can help you decide which females to sell, which to breed to conventional semen or sexed semen, which are good candidates for embryo transfer, and so on. Genotyping can also help you differentiate between true sisters, to see which one has the most potential and is worth the rearing costs. Finally, if the parentage of any animal is unknown or unclear, then genotyping is a great way to confirm lineage, crucial information needed for best mating practices.

To find out more about genomics and how to make this tool work best for you, visit our website and keep your eyes peeled for the next articles in this series, where we will cover everything from the upcoming genetic management software Compass, to managing recessives and haplotypes in your herd.

PART 1

A Closer Look at Direct Genomic Values: Part One

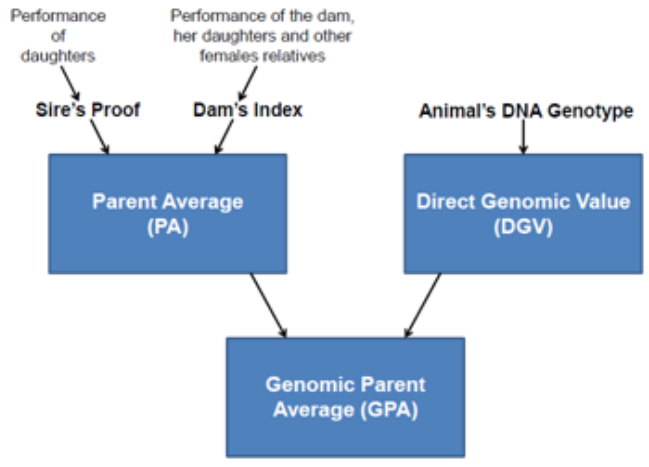
2019 WILL MARK THE TENTH ANNIVERSARY of the introduction of official genomic evaluations to Canada. When they were first introduced for Holsteins by CDN in August 2009, there was much questioning about whether the technology was real and useful or just hype. Today, we know the truth and, as a consequence, breeds with genomic evaluations have rapidly increased the rate of genetic progress for essentially all traits.

Basically, genomic selection added another source of data to the genetic evaluation systems at CDN. In addition to performance data and pedigree information, DNA became a new source of data for each genotyped animal. To improve the understanding of how this new source of data was being used to produce published genomic evaluations, CDN decided to make Direct Genomic Values (DGV) public. In recent months, there has been much discussion about the intent of CDN to no longer publish DGV. The strong interest and passion of Canadian breeders was clearly heard. For this reason, the CDN Board decided to delay the implementation of the GEB recommendation to be effective December 2019. Let's take a closer look at why CDN will be moving forward with this direction.

What is Genomic Parent Average (GPA)?

For genotyped animals, three main sources of information contribute to their official genomic evaluations. These include the animal's Parent Average (PA), any performance data (e.g. lactation, classification, mastitis, and fertility data) recorded on the animal and/or its progeny, and the DGV estimated from the animal's DNA. For young bulls and heifers, since no performance data exists, they receive a Genomic Parent Average (GPA), which combines its PA and its DGV into the single official genomic evaluation published by CDN, as shown in Figure 1.

Figure 1: Combining Parent Average (PA) and Direct Genomic Value (DGV) into the Official Genomic Parent Average (GPA)



There are several important differences between DGV and GPA, as well as considerations of DGV usage, which must be taken into account to understand why CDN will be moving forward with the direction of no longer publishing DGV. The first two considerations are covered below, while the final three will be covered in ***Part 2 of this piece, to be released in the May/June issue of InfoHolstein:***

- **Scale differences**
- **Animal ranking differences**
- **Predictability of future genetic evaluations**
- **DGV superiority (the difference between DGV and PA) as a tool to select animals**
- **Breeding for the next generation of extremes**

Scale Differences

Since PA is simply the average of the evaluations for the animal's sire and dam, the range for PA can never be wider than it is for evaluations of bulls and cows old enough to be parents. Looking at Conformation as an example, the highest active sire in A.I. currently has a rating of +20, while the highest proven sire is +16 and the highest breeding age female born in Canada is +18. This means that it is impossible for Canadian-bred animals to have a PA higher than +19. Looking at DGV for Conformation, however, the highest bulls are at +22. This higher scale for DGV attracts extra attention to these values for marketing purposes. However, due to their different scales, DGV cannot be directly compared to GPA values. Further, since GPA results from a blending of PA and DGV, the most elite animals of the breed will almost always have a DGV higher than GPA.

Animal Rankings

Even though the scales for GPA and DGV are not exactly the same, the rankings for top animals of greatest interest for selection are essentially identical. In fact, regardless of the trait looked at (i.e.: LPI, Pro$, Conformation, etc.), over 90% of the highest genomic bulls would be the same if ranked by GPA versus DGV. In this sense, DGV does not help identify the most elite animals for selection and mating compared to using GPA alone.

In part two of this article, we'll look at why GPA is a better predictor of future genetic evaluations compared to DGV, as well as evaluate the strategy of using DGV superiority as a tool to select animals or breed the next generation of extremes.

Dear Customer Service Team

*Answering your question today is **Alison Buckrell!** Alison was born and raised on a dairy farm, and every day after work she goes home and helps out on the farm. She brings her experience and dairy knowledge into her role as a customer service rep and always looks forward to talking to dairy producers!*

What do I do if I forget my Holstein Web Account user name and login password?

If you forgot your user name, contact customer service at 1-855-756-8300. Be prepared to answer a few questions to authenticate your identification and relationship to the customer account.

Your password, like most online passwords, can be reset – FORGET PASSWORD.

You can reset your online password with the personal verification question and answers you had previously provided when you created your Web Account. If you need any assistance, don't hesitate to contact us.

What's New In Web Accounts?

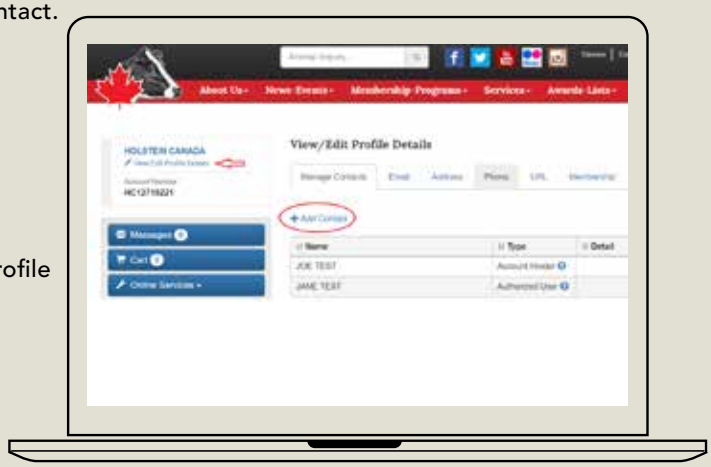
While in your Web Account, check out what is new in your View/Edit Profile Details.

Holstein Canada Account Holder(s) are the person(s) responsible for the customer and have full authority to conduct business with Holstein Canada and manage Customer details.

As an Account Holder, you can authorize other individuals to conduct business on your behalf (Authorized Users). You can grant full authorization, or limit their access to specific areas of business.

Additionally, Account Holders may identify other persons to contact.

Contacts have no authorizations for conducting business; they are defined for inquiry and informational purposes only.



Authorizations:

- PRODUCTS AND SERVICES – order products and services
- FINANCIALS – view financial transaction and make payments
- CUSTOMER MAINTENANCE – view and maintain customer profile and preferences

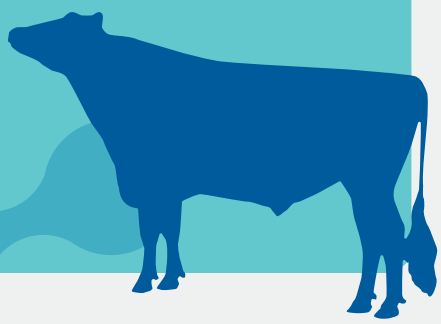
All of this and more, can now be managed within View/Edit Profile Details.

View your profile details and update authorized users and/or contacts as well as contact info (email, phone, and address).

If you have any questions, contact customer service at 1-855-756-8300.

Genotyping all Males for Registration

All bulls now require genotyping to be eligible for registration. Genotyping at a young age will give you additional information to use in your breeding and marketing decisions. Bulls under a year of age will receive a genomic evaluation, along with added information, e.g. genetic traits, haplotypes. Furthermore, when your farm bull is genotyped, it will assist should parentage issues arise in your herd. Send in your sample when submitting your application for registry; indicate a sample is en route as a comment on the registration request.



TOP SIRES ACCORDING TO AVERAGE FINAL SCORE OF FIRST LACTATION DAUGHTERS

Based on First Lactation Classifications November/December 2018

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

Sire	Daughters Classified	Avg. Daus Score	Avg. Dam Score
SOLOMON	103	82.60	82.70
GOLD CHIP	107	81.74	82.07
DEMPSEY	165	81.50	81.68
HIGH OCTANE	178	81.44	81.75
CINDERDOOR	118	81.34	81.58
MERIDIAN	244	80.99	80.96
SUPERPOWER	153	80.83	80.56
BREWMASTER	235	80.81	81.24
IMPRESSION	184	80.51	80.71
EPIC	135	80.44	80.97

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

Sire	Daughters Classified	Avg. Daus Score	Avg. Dam Score
G W ATWOOD	53	82.85	83.40
AVALANCHE	53	82.66	82.79
JACOBY	46	82.43	82.89
MILLENNIUM	40	82.30	82.55
BRADNICK	97	81.81	82.03
SEAVER	40	81.75	81.63
BEEMER	87	81.75	82.41
ENDURE	63	81.65	82.17
ALONZO	82	81.61	81.61
KIAN	44	81.30	81.11

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

MARCH

EARLY

ON Grenville, Grey, Huron, Bruce
QC MR Frontenac, Beauce, Levis
QC Yamaska, Drummond, St-Hyacinthe & Chambly, Rouville

MID

ON Peel, Halton-York, Dufferin, Simcoe, Ontario
QC Bagot, Richelieu, Verchères, Abitibi, Temiscamingue, Labelle, Argenteuil, Papineau & Gatineau
QC MR Dorchester
AB MR
MB MR

LATE

ON Peterborough
QC Terrebonne, Deux Montagnes
QC MR Bellechasse

APRIL

EARLY

ON Dufferin, Victoria, Durham, Northumberland, Frontenac
ON MR Middlesex, Elgin, Lambton
QC L'Assomption, Montcalm, Joliette, Berthier, Maskinonge, St-Maurice, Champlain, Laviolette, Portneuf, Lac St-Jean
QC MR Montmagny & L'Islet

MID

ON Hastings, Prince Edward, Lennox & Addington
ON MR Oxford
QC Roberval, Lapointe, Dubuc, Charlevoix, Vaudreuil & Soulange
QC MR Kamouraska

LATE

ON Waterloo
QC Chicoutimi, Huntingdon, Chateauguay, Beauharnois, Iberville

PE, NB, NS, NL
SK Regina, Saskatoon

For the full Field Service schedule, see the Field Services section under Services on our website.

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