

JULY/AUG/SEPT 2023 ISSUE NO. 179

infoHolstein

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



2023

INTERNATIONAL
PERSON OF THE YEAR

(p. 8)

BEEF-ON-DAIRY

Every herd has a bottom
where it can fit (p. 17)

NEW TRAITS IN THE
CLASSIFICATION
SCORECARD

(p. 22)



CONNEXION

Holstein Canada Presents

A Multi-Service App




Genomic Registration
Holstein only!
Try a simplified registration process as you sample animals!
Use Non-Genomic Registration for animals not genomic tested.

.....

Next
Skip

Genomic Test and Registration all in the palm of your hands!

Our NEW "Genomic Registration" saves you time by simplifying the process to Register and submit tests for your Holstein calves.



Attestra Tag Inventory
Pretend your tag inventory to make things easier!
Not necessary for DairyTrace customers.

.....

Next
Skip

Save work, register in the App!

The back and forth to the farm office is over; register and send genomic requests from anywhere on the farm.



Matched TAG/TSU Combo
Use matched TAG/TSU Combo sets for the simplest and most accurate workflow!
Only available for DairyTrace customers.

.....

Login

Stay up to date on your Genomic Test Submissions!

Check the status on your TSU submissions to be notified of results and any possible issues.

Check out the App today!

EDITOR

Brad Eggink

CEO

Sartaj Sarkaria

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT

Ben Cuthbert, BC
250-246-6517
bcutberth@holstein.ca

VICE PRESIDENT

Angus MacKinnon, Qc
819-570-3891
AMackinnon@holstein.ca

3RD MEMBER TO THE EXECUTIVE

Doug Peart, ON
905-768-5163
DPeart@holstein.ca

Willem Vanderlinde, AB
403-302-1527
WVanderlinde@holstein.ca

Harold Sweetnam, SK & MB
204-362-8870
HSweetnam@holstein.ca

Brian Slaughter, ON
519-330-6062
BSlaughter@holstein.ca

Dennis Werry, ON
905-213-8228
DWerry@holstein.ca

Nancy Beerwort, ON
613-330-0348
NBeerwort@holstein.ca

Sylvie Mahannah, QC
450-269-2485
SMahannah@holstein.ca

Gilles Côté, QC
418-343-2597
GCote@holstein.ca

Benoît Turmel, QC
418-390-2269
BTurmel@holstein.ca

Karen Versloot, Atlantic
506-363-8902
KVersloot@holstein.ca

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

Printed by BECK'S PRINTING
445 Hardy Rd Unit 5, Brantford, ON, Canada

6 NEW COMMITTEE PROCESS FOR EXTERNAL MEMBERS

7 TEAM CANADA 2023

Meet the 6 young leaders who will fly to Belgium at the end of August to live an extraordinary educational experience!

14 INTERNATIONAL FARM PROFILE: USA

Learn about USA reality with this interview we had with Oakfield Corners Dairy (OCD).

17 GENETICS 101- BEEF-ON-DAIRY PART 2

Learn the benefits of beef semen on dairy cows

20 METHANE EFFICIENCY & BODY METABOLIC REQUIREMENTS

The April round of proofs introduced two new traits evaluated in the Holstein breed as the industry increases the focus on reduced resource usage and carbon emissions.

22 CLASSIFICATION UPDATES - LOCOMOTION, FRONT LEGS VIEW AND ANOGENITAL DISTANCE

25 ALL-CANADIAN 2023

28 YOUNG LEADERS PAGE - LIFE ON THE PRAIRIES

29 SIRES CHARTS

On the Cover : Grazing time at the De la Station farm in Compton, Qc. The farm produces organic milk processed by the cheese dairy of the same name. Photo courtesy of Bruno Jubinville.



8
Bonnie Cooper, International Person of the Year



11
Kish Farm Ltd., British-Columbia




26
DFC Tag Transition





No fee to be paper-free!


**THE
SWITCH**




 **Have you made The Switch?** Update your preferences today to receive only e-documents! If you wish to receive print/mail documents, a \$5 fee is charged quarterly on your Holstein Canada invoice. The first billing will be in October for July, August and September.

 Going paper-free can help reduce negative impacts, promote sustainability and environmental responsibility, which as we know, is among the top priorities in the dairy industry right now.

 Digital processes allow you to track your registrations, awards, genomic tests, invoices and more, through your Holstein Canada Web Account, and access other relevant data in real-time. A new feature that we have added is that all of your data is now available forever!

 Eliminating paper reduces printing, paper and storage costs. Resources are freed up to invest in other areas of our business, to everyone's benefit!

 If you have any questions or wonder how The Switch might impact you, please reach out to our Customer Service Team at 519-756-8300 ext. 410.



 Login

www.holstein.ca

CEO Message



Greetings from the Holstein Canada Association! As we mark the first 100 days of my tenure as CEO, I wanted to take this opportunity to connect with all of you and share some exciting updates on our recent activities.

First and foremost, I want to express my gratitude to each and every one of you for your unwavering support and dedication. It is your commitment to the Holstein Canada Association and the dairy industry that drives us forward and inspires us to continually strive for excellence.

Over the past few months, one of my primary objectives has been to establish strong connections with our members. I firmly believe that open lines of communication and a collaborative spirit are essential for our association's success. Whether through virtual meetings or in-person encounters, I have had the pleasure of engaging with many of you one-on-one. Your valuable insights, aspirations, and feedback have been instrumental in shaping our vision for the future.

In June, we organized an all-staff event that brought our team together from across Canada for a day of productive discussions, team-building activities, and a shared sense of purpose. It was truly heartening to witness the spirit of camaraderie and unity that filled the room. This event underscored the dedication and passion that each member of our association brings to the table, further solidifying our commitment to serving you, our valued members.

As we move forward, our focus remains on key priorities that drive our association's success. We are diligently working towards achieving a balanced budget, ensuring financial stability and sustainability for the long term. By optimizing our resources and streamlining operations, we can continue providing you with exceptional service and support.

Additionally, we understand the importance of staying ahead of the curve and adapting to the evolving needs of our dairy producers. To that end, we are committed to introducing new service offerings

that address the challenges and opportunities facing our industry. Through market research, strategic partnerships, and innovative initiatives, we aim to equip our members with the tools and resources necessary to thrive in today's dynamic landscape.

In recent weeks, I had the privilege of representing Holstein Canada at the Holstein USA Annual General Meeting & Convention in Kentucky. This event provided a platform for industry leaders to come together, exchange ideas, and strengthen collaborations. It was an invaluable opportunity to share our vision for the future and reaffirm our commitment to working hand in hand with stakeholders across the dairy community.

Furthermore, I had the pleasure of attending the Brant-Wentworth and Northumberland Twilight Socials and Dinner-at-the-Dairy in Niagara. These events offered a glimpse into the remarkable work being done by our local dairy producers. Hearing their stories, understanding their needs, and witnessing their unwavering dedication was a humbling experience. It reaffirmed our belief in the power of community and the vital role we play in supporting each other's success.

In conclusion, I want to extend my heartfelt gratitude to each and every one of you for your continued support and trust in the Holstein Canada Association. The progress we have made in the first 100 days is a testament to our shared commitment and collective effort. Together, we will continue to elevate our association, ensuring that it remains at the forefront of the industry, advocating for your needs and championing the success of our members.

We look forward to the remarkable achievements that lie ahead 🍓

NEW

HOLSTEIN CANADA COMMITTEE PROCESS

FOR EXTERNAL MEMBERS

The Holstein Canada Board of Directors introduced a new process for external Committee candidates in 2023, to allow for more transparency and inclusivity across Canada.

An Open Call for Candidates was shared via Holstein Canada social media platforms and eblast to notify the membership of the open Committee positions. The posts and eblasts included a link that brought potential candidates to our Holstein Canada website which then provided the respondent with the

Committee Mandates and a simple, one-click application form.

Existing Committee members finishing a term were contacted to see if they were interested in having their name stand, if so, their information was sent to the Human Resources for consideration as well.

Once the submission deadline was met, the Human Resources Committee (comprised of three Board members and one external member) reviewed the applications, checked personal references, and made their selections for final Board approval. Successful applicants were contacted by the Holstein Canada President to welcome them to their

respective Committees.

The Open Call for Candidates was a huge success and brought in many applications for all of the Committee vacancies! We would like to thank everyone who took the time to apply to sit on a Committee - your passion and dedication to Holstein Canada shined through.

Moving forward, Committee vacancies will continue to be announced in this manner and an Open Call for Candidates will be shared in the Spring. Keep an eye on our social media platforms and eblasts for the next opportunity to become part of a Holstein Canada Committee.



**You're invited to the
2024 NATIONAL
HOLSTEIN CONVENTION**
April 24 – 27, 2024 | Hamilton, Ontario



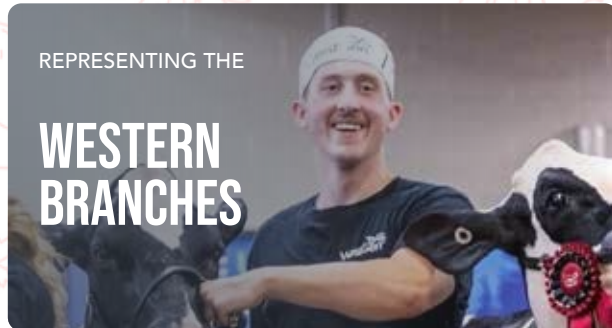
STAY TUNED
events.holstein.ca

 [Experience the Escarpment](#)
 2024holsteinconvention@gmail.com



Good Luck Team Canada!

From August 30 to September 3rd, 6 young leaders from Canada will represent the country at the 21st edition of the **Young Breeders' School**. Young enthusiasts from 20 countries are expected in Belgium to perfect their knowledge of the show and breeding world's respectively. This year, our young delegates will also be able to benefit from the support of Semexto offer them an even more enriching experience! Follow them on our social networks from August 30!



REPRESENTING THE

**WESTERN
BRANCHES**

Ethan Nienhuis, 19 years old
Saskatoon, SK



REPRESENTING THE

**ONTARIO
BRANCH**

Emma Finch, 22 years old
Utopia, ON



REPRESENTING THE

**QUEBEC
BRANCH**

Félix Lemire, 21 years old
Saint-Zéphirin-de-Courval, QC



REPRESENTING THE

**ONTARIO
BRANCH**

Sarah Dean, 22 years old
Guelph, ON



REPRESENTING THE

**QUEBEC
BRANCH**

Kolton Crack, 19 years old
Cleveland, QC



REPRESENTING THE

**EASTERN
BRANCHES**

Grace Hughes, 22 years old
Bonshaw, PEI



INTERNATIONAL PERSON OF THE YEAR



BONNIE COOPER

This coming October, Bonnie Cooper is set to receive the prestigious 'International Person of the Year' award from the World Dairy Expo in Madison, Wisconsin. Since its establishment in 1982, this annual accolade has been bestowed upon individuals residing outside of the United States who have made remarkable contributions to the global dairy industry. ***It recognizes their exceptional achievements in areas such as research, development, education, marketing, manufacturing, and other related fields. This esteemed award serves as a testament to their unwavering dedication, expertise, and invaluable contributions*** to the international dairy community. We had the opportunity to speak with Bonnie and learn more about her journey and the factors that led to this remarkable recognition.

Bonnie Cooper, a true Holstein enthusiast, began her journey in 1973 at the Holstein Journal in Canada.

Born and raised on a registered Holstein family farm near Madison, WI, Bonnie developed a passion for the breed early in life. With a degree in Agriculture Journalism from the University of Wisconsin in Madison, Bonnie's search for a job led her to the Holstein Journal, where she initially joined as an Associate Editor in August 1973.

Bonnie's connection with the Holstein Journal started in an intriguing way. While applying for positions, she contacted the Holstein World, who informed her of an opening at the Holstein Journal due to a retirement. Coincidentally, the day she received an invitation for an interview from Hugh Colson, the editor of the Holstein Journal at that time, was the same day she embarked on a university class trip to Canada, her very first trip ever in Canada. During her visit, Bonnie had the opportunity to explore various farms and gain insights into the Canadian Holstein industry.

Impressing the interviewers, Bonnie secured the job and made her move to Canada as a landed immigrant. In November 1975, she was appointed as the editor of the Holstein Journal. With her expertise and dedication, Bonnie remained at the Holstein Journal until its final issue in March 2019.

Starting in a time when few women were involved in the industry, Bonnie broke barriers as the first woman on the editorial staff at the Holstein Journal. In the past, societal expectations limited women's roles in agriculture, as evidenced by a university advisor suggesting she pursue home economics instead of dairy science. However, Bonnie persisted and pursued a career in agriculture through journalism. Despite the challenges, Bonnie found acceptance within the farming community, where

wives and daughters played integral roles in dairy operations.

Throughout her tenure, Bonnie covered a wide range of topics, including high records, long-time productions, industry meetings, herd and people profiles, cow families, bull features and significant sales and shows.

She aimed to reflect the pulse of the Canadian Holstein industry, promoting its genetics and bloodlines while being a keeper of records and history.

Working on the special edition "The Century of Achievement" in 1984 was a profound experience for Bonnie. The book, created by the Holstein Journal to celebrate Holstein Canada's 100th anniversary, allowed her to immerse herself in the history of the Canadian Holstein industry. Bonnie conducted extensive research, carefully studying every Holstein Journal and exploring the physical association herdbooks that contained registrations and meeting minutes. Collaborating with esteemed Holstein leaders like George Clemons, Johnny Powell, and Roy Snyder, Bonnie gained a comprehensive understanding of the industry's evolution and the individuals who played pivotal roles. This project provided an exceptional education and deepened Bonnie's appreciation for the rich heritage of Canadian Holsteins.

Bonnie's experience at the Holstein Journal extended beyond writing. While it was the official publication of Holstein Canada until 1990, she attended the association's board and committee meetings, becoming the official reporter for those events. This allowed her to closely document the industry's progress and achievements.

Over the years, Bonnie witnessed the changing landscape of agriculture journalism. She emphasized the

importance of storytelling with accuracy, integrity, and attention to detail. Unlike the trend of opinion-based reporting in mainstream media, the Holstein Journal focused on factual reporting, highlighting the people and events shaping the industry. She cherished her experiences at farm visits, shows, and sales, where she learned something new with each encounter.

The All-Canadian contest also holds a special place in Bonnie's heart, as she dedicated her efforts to it every year during her time at the Holstein Journal. The passion and commitment she poured into the contest stemmed from her deep appreciation for showcasing the best of the Canadian dairy industry. Bonnie's love for the All-Canadian contest reflects her enduring connection to the industry and her unwavering commitment to promoting excellence and recognition within it.



Reflecting on her career, Bonnie acknowledged that she could have been more involved in Holstein activities outside of work. Nevertheless, she expressed gratitude for the friendships and support she received from the Canadian Holstein community, considering them her extended family.

Since the closure of the Holstein Journal, Bonnie has been actively involved in freelance writing and staying connected to the industry. Initially approached by the Dairy Shrine to assist with press releases, Bonnie started receiving calls for various publications for freelance work. She even had articles published in Japanese through a collaboration with Semex. Bonnie compiles a monthly “coming events” column for the Holstein industry that she sends by email and recently expanded that mailing to include news of appointments, awards and other updates. She remains engaged in the industry by attending shows and keeping up with the politics and changes within organizations. Overall, she enjoys being busy, staying involved, and embracing new opportunities.

Bonnie is deeply humbled by the achievement she'll receive this Fall. The news came as a complete surprise since she had no knowledge of the nomination. It was her niece, Vicki, who prepared the nomination, gathering support letters from various organizations such as Holstein Canada. The revelation that the nomination had been orchestrated without Bonnie's awareness only added to her astonishment. She believes the award is a shared accomplishment with the Canadian Holstein Breeders, whose invaluable support has been essential to her career and the existence of the Holstein Journal.

Bonnie extends heartfelt gratitude to the Canadian Holstein breeders, the Canadian dairy industry, AI companies, Milk Recording, Holstein Canada and the Holstein Journal team. Each entity has played a vital role, and she feels honored to share this prestigious award with them.

The World Dairy Expo holds a special place in Bonnie's heart as it takes place near her family's residence in Madison, WI. Her family has been actively involved in the Expo since its inception, and Bonnie

has attended every year. This tradition is further enriched by her father's service on the board, underscoring the personal significance of the Expo. The recognition from this esteemed organization brings immense joy and excitement to Bonnie.

As the fourth Canadian to receive this prestigious award, Bonnie considers it a great privilege. It was first bestowed upon George Clemons, former Secretary of Holstein Canada, in 1987, followed by Lowell Lindsay in 2014 and Mark Comfort last year. Being included among this list of exceptional recipients is truly impressive to Bonnie.

With a rich history at the Holstein Journal, Bonnie's contributions as an editor and journalist have left an indelible mark on the Canadian Holstein industry. Her dedication and passion for the breed will always be remembered as an integral part of Holstein Journal's legacy. Holstein Canada extends its heartfelt congratulations to Bonnie Cooper for her prestigious recognition. 🐄



FARM PROFILES

West



By Toby Kleinsasser - Field Service Business
Partner – Western Canada

Kish Farms Ltd.



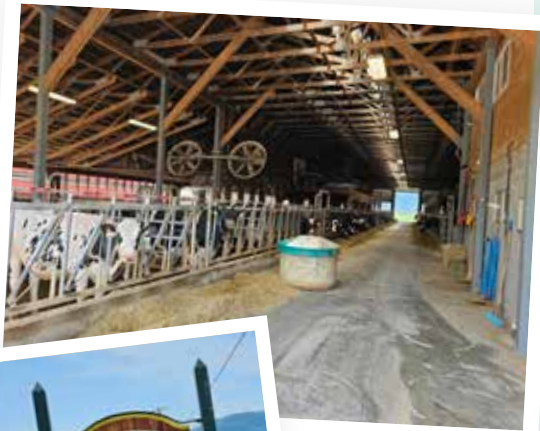
We recently sat down with Derrick and Colleen Epp to chat about the important partnership nutrition and functional conformation share. Very quickly the immense passion Derrick has for dairy farming comes through as he speaks of the journey that brought him and his family where they are today.

“I was about 17 when I started working for Darren Kish” explains Derrick, “some help with hay and milking every other week-end is where it all began”. By 2010 Derrick was doing all the morning milking’s and working quite closely with Darren. Darren had started slowing down, and in 2015, not wanting to disperse his herd, Darren approached Derrick to see if he would be interested in taking over the farm someday. “It was my ultimate goal” expresses Derrick, “by the time I was 22 I was running the farm!”.

What was your childhood like before working on dairy farms, did your parents farm? “My parents didn’t farm, I worked at the neighbor’s farm and worked for another fellow that had a really good herd of cows”. It was at both of these places that Derrick’s passion for genetics and good cattle was conceived.

“He taught me a lot about breeding cows” explains Derrick as he references Gordon Ferguson of Enterprize Holsteins & Jerseys. “He knew how to get a lot of milk out of his cows and the important role conformation played in that”.

Derrick chuckles as he expresses that he knew he wanted to be a dairy farmer since he was 2-years old. “As a kid I would just sit outside and watch my neighbours work the fields and I knew that’s where I wanted to be”. Having friends that were from dairy farms allowed Derrick the opportunity to spend time with cattle, whether it was pushing in feed or just hanging out in the barn, Derrick quickly realized that one gets out of farming what one puts into it. “I was fascinated watching cows eat” remarks Derrick, “it was always interesting to me how you could get so much milk out of cows by just



Quick Stats

PREFIX: Kish Farms Ltd.

PEOPLE INVOLVED: Derrick and Colleen Epp and their kids Ryder (7), Stirling (4) and Morgan (1)

OF COWS MILKED: 80 cows with 100 replacements, use 50/50 sexed/beef

FACILITY TYPE: 90 stalls, 2x milking

FEEDING SYSTEM: TMR fed once daily

OF ACRES FARMED: 100 acres, 50/50 corn grass

HERD PRODUCTION AVERAGE (COW/DAY): 40 kg, 4.7%F, 3.6%P, 150,000 SCC

HOLSTEIN CANADA SERVICES USED: Registration, Genomic Testing, Classification



paying attention to what they eat.”

“When I started working for Darren Kish, he had a pretty good herd of cows, and as we kept working together, I would watch him win awards for high BCA, seeing those achievements really sparked my interest and intrigued me to see if we could get even more milk out of Darren’s herd”.

Reflecting back on the last several years, Derrick is quick to mention Darren’s low key, humble approach. “I was given the opportunity to farm from Darren because at one time, someone gave Darren that same opportunity and he wanted to pass it forward”.

What Holstein Canada tools are you using, and explain how. “We use all the tools” explains Derrick. Registration, Classification, Genomic Testing are all herd management tools at the

farm. Milk recording through Lactanet is an important tool as well.

Genomic testing has really allowed the herd to focus on the health traits. Improving the longevity of the herd is important for Derrick, as a result, health traits along with conformation are an important

part of selection when choosing bulls. A healthy balance of sexed semen and beef semen is used on the herd. A holistic view of the herd, their strengths and their weaknesses, determine who receives sexed semen and who receives beef semen. Older cows are often bred with sexed semen if the data Derrick receives back from their genetics, milk recording and classification indicate they are cows he wants to breed from.

Classification in of itself is really important for the herd. Benchmarking how far they have come helps to drive the future. “I really enjoy when the classifier comes out”, explains Derrick, “I may aim for a smaller cow than most, but watching these cows develop and improve year-over-year, is really exciting for me”.

Do you believe there is a relationship between functional Conformation and Nutrition? “There is a strong relationship between nutrition and functional conformation” expressed Derrick, “we breed our heifers young so it is important they are well cared for and that we have fed a balanced diet for proper growth and development”.

When chatting with Derrick it becomes apparent how closely related nutrition and functional conformation are. He explains with eagerness how much careful attention he puts toward the right diet and the correct selection of conformation traits. “If you don’t have a good foot and you have the wrong ingredients in the diet, you’re going to have problems” remarks Derrick, “we experienced that combo and the result was Feet and Leg issues, ulcers and abscesses”. Much of the gains Derrick has realized since he has been on the farm is a result of the careful management and selection of both good nutrition and good conformation. “I don’t think you will ever achieve the full potential of a cow if you’re not paying attention to both

of these simultaneously”. With the majority of heifers on farm bred at 10 months of age, the perfect recipe becomes crucial to success.

Derrick goes on to explain, as every good dairy farmer knows, that it all starts at birth. “Our calf care has changed quite a bit in the last few years. We used to be on whole milk and it was a real struggle. Although We followed all the right protocols, our calves weren’t doing well and it was very frustrating”.

Since then they have switched to all milk replacer and test all their colostrum prior to use, and if they have too, they will enhance the colostrum. It is really important for Derrick and Colleen to ensure each new calf receives 6 liters in the first 6 hours of birth. Since transitioning to milk replacer and controlled and tested colostrum, they have noticed that their heifers grow better and more consistently, the calves are eager to eat, more aggressive and as they transition into breeding age, their conception rate is better than when they were raised on whole milk. Derrick’s wife, Colleen, quickly states “we noticed if an animal has a problem once, it will be recurring and we try to get away from that as much as possible”. With this in mind, Derrick and Colleen keep track of any calf problems they may encounter so they can keep a closer eye on those heifers as they mature.

Sound Conformation and Balanced Nutrition play an integral role in a successful farm; how does it work on your farm?

“The two really work together” explains Derrick, “We work hard to eliminate any environmental obstacles to allow the cows to achieve their potential. If nutrition or conformation is lacking, their potential will never be realized”. Derrick explains it this way, if you have a high producing cow but she has bad Feet & Legs or Thurls that are too farm back, she isn’t going to last long, no matter how well you feed her. Similarly, you can have the most structurally sound cow but if you don’t feed her right, she won’t pay for herself.

How can sound Nutrition create efficiencies?

“I had a discussion with my nutritionist, Cole Molag, from Dairysmart, about the methane and feed efficiency indexes” explains Derrick. “Diets have come a long way, we are more educated about our rations. On this farm, we look at our passage rate, we want everything we put in that ration to be utilized. Proper ration balancing is important to not waste good feed. If the feed is good and the balance is right, everything going in the ration should have a return, whether it be production, or reproduction.

Which 3 Traits do you believe are most affected by nutrition? Without much hesitation, Derrick and his nutritionist, Cole Molag, let us know that Feet and Legs, Body Condition, Repro and production are the primary traits or areas on their farm affected by nutrition, this is coupled with the transition period.

Focusing on good forages with an apt amount of good fiber while adding chelated minerals to the diet is crucial for foot health. Body condition is important to maintain production and to achieve the right repro. Using the right mix of high-quality forage with sustainable fat intake is key to achieving high production and as well as having cows checked pregnant at the right time in their lactation at Kish farms.

Derrick is quick to tell us that although their sire selection on-farm is important for genetic gain, their focus on maintaining a healthy BCS and good Feet & Legs comes mostly from their keen eye on a balanced ration. “We don’t want our cows to be too fat at dry off, that is a recipe for disaster but they need to maintain body weight throughout their lactation to produce what we ask them too and get in calf on time, it is a constant attention to detail” explains Derrick.

Openness of rib and correct body depth is also important at Kish farms, in Derrick’s estimation, if these traits are ideal, the cows have all the opportunity in the world to consume the right amount of feed to excel in production. “We never want our cows to be hungry, if they can eat it, we feed it and they will also produce more” states Derrick.

Hoof Health has a high relationship to lameness, repro and production. How do you focus on this on your farm? “We focus on heel depth a lot! Both in mating’s and on-farm” explains Derrick. Concentrating on properly selecting through genetics, proper foot care on-farm, both through regular hoof-trimming, individual care and a proper foot bath routine are all part of the strategy at Kish Farms that aims to have cattle walking on healthy feet each and every day. Derrick and his nutritionist, Cole, have quickly found that cows with foot problems at any stage of their lactation are always those cows that are more difficult to get in-calf, this can lead to high days in milk, which means a later dry-off period which often leads to over-conditioning and as a result, a difficult transition period. “If you’re not paying attention to hoof health, it will have a negative ripple effect for a long time” expresses Derrick.

“All the pieces have to fit together to make the strategy really work. If you give the cows everything they need, they will take care of you.”

What are some other Conformation traits you play close attention too? It is evident as we chat with Derrick that Feet & Legs are a primary focal point at Kish farms. When asked what other conformation traits they play close attention too, Derrick quickly mentions ‘sound feet’ once again.

Achieving the production successes, they have, it is clear that they manage the herds Feet & Legs meticulously. However, coupled with Feet & Legs is close attention to Thurl Placement and Pin Set. “If you have high pins and thurls too far back you’re asking for problems” remarks Derrick, “they’re not as mobile, slower to the bunk, slower to the parlor, hard to breed back and hard to calve”.

Classifiers have played an integral role in helping Derrick and Colleen improve the conformation of the herd. Whether it’s about Feet & Legs, Pin Set or Mammary Systems, Derrick is quick to ask a classifier for more information on any given trait. “When you want to improve longevity and your cows produce a lot of milk, the pieces have to fit together so it is important for us to hear what the classifiers have to say” mentions Derrick.

Successful Heifer Rearing is crucial to success; can you explain how this works for you? “If you have a plan, stick to it! Don’t cut corners” Derrick emphatically states. “We breed our heifers young, and you have to commit to that. Every single mix we dump in front of those heifers has to be consistent, every link has to be solid, so each animal has the maximum opportunity to be trouble free.” At Kish farms, they are very aware that if you’re cutting corners on feeding costs, you will be losing on production. “Good forage is important” explains Derrick, “I can’t very well go to my nutritionist and expect him to work miracles if I have been harvesting low quality feed”.

The pre-partum period sets up cows for success in their lactation, have you changed anything and noticed any differences? Derrick chuckles as he explains, from experience, that cutting corners never pays off. “We were adding an expensive supplement to our close-up ration but we wanted to save some money, so I asked Cole to pull it from the ration, it wasn’t very long after where we started having issues with retained placenta’s and Displaced Abdomens – we added it back and the transition problems went away pretty quickly” expressed Derrick.

Throughout the interview it becomes very apparent that Derrick and Colleen rely heavily on the experts around them, and are not shy to mention it either. “Team work is important. We feel if you surround yourself with successful people, you will be successful. I am not a vet, or a nutritionist or a genetic advisor” explains Derrick, “but we develop relationships with these partners because they are good at their jobs. We like to develop both business and personal relationships with these people. They all know they are good at their job. As farmers, we bring to the table the best we can do, and in return we expect them to do the same and do their job well. Everyone has to bring something to the table.”

Colleen quickly adds that it is crucial to set goals. For anyone, it is easy to get lost in the day-to-day items and activities and loose site of tomorrow. “Short-term and long-term goals are important and it is important to revisit those goals and benchmark them regularly. Be patient with your goals, they take time to come to fruition, but keep your goals in site”

When asking Derrick what his advice for others would be, he quickly and humbly states “never give up! Stepping out of your comfort zone can be scary but sometimes breaking tradition and placing personal feelings aside is the only way to reach your goals”

Colleen’s background in fashion design and business management has allowed her to be a very objective advisory to Derrick, she regularly questions the current model of doing things and challenges for change while challenging Derrick in efficiencies regularly. “Colleen brings a very different outlook” explains Derrick, “it’s what makes this work so well”

Referencing Derrick’s quote above, “team work is important. We feel if you surround yourself with successful people, you will be successful”, relates almost specifically to the role nutrition and conformation have together. It is a team as well, if one or the other is not carefully managed and progressively challenged, the other will suffer. At Kish Farms, nutrition and conformation are highly relatable; in order for either to be profitable on-farm, the two go hand-in-hand. A carefully constructed and managed strategy with proper goal setting and attention to detail becomes the handbook for success. 🐄



INTERNATIONAL FARM PROFILE



Oakfield Corners Dairy (OCD) *Oakland, New York, USA*



Oakfield Corners Dairy

Farm name: Oakfield Corners Dairy (OCD)

Owner (s): Jonathan and Alicia Lamb, Matthew & Kendra Lamb, Gordon and Peggy Lamb (parents), Jim Veazey and his daughter Janette (crops)

People involved on the farm : 140 employees between all locations. At the OCD location, 25 employees

City / region : 3 Farms in Oakfield, New York and 1 Farm in Ohio

How many cows : 10,500 Milking & 8,900 Young Stock between all locations

Milking system: 2 Rotaries (1 Robotic), 1 Herringbone and 1 Parallel

Services Used: Registration, Genomic Testing, Classification

Breeds: Holsteins

Crops: Corn Silage, Alfalfa Haylage, Cornmeal, Soybean Meal and other Commodities

Nestled in Genesee County, New York., Oakfield Corners Dairy (OCD) sits adjacent

to the town of Oakfield, named appropriately for the abundance of Oak Trees found in this beautiful rural American neighborhood centrally located between Buffalo NY and Rochester NY.

Jonathan and his brother Matthew along with their wives, Alicia and Kendra, complete 12 generations of Lamb family history of dairy farmers in the United States. The current location of OCD was purchased in 1966 and gradual expansion over the next several decades would bring OCD to be a 1500 cow dairy by 1996, a significant size for that era – the same year Jonathan came home from college. “We still consider ourselves a family farm” states Jonathan; that mindset coupled with continuity and progression has evolved OCD to where they are today, milking

10,500 cows across 4 locations and two (2) States, yet still seemingly an ‘average’ size herd for the USA.

Jonathan is quick to attest, though, that even though they are large, to not ever let that underestimate their passion for breeding.

“We still love cows and the way we care for cows is crucial” marks Jonathan while he proudly but humbly states “we will never be in a situation where we will not calve-out our high genomic 2yr old’s (a growing phenomenon in the USA), we believe these young cows with full pedigrees and phenotypic data are foundational”. Full pedigrees, classification scores and production records are crucial to OCD’s success, both on their farm, in the show ring and in marketing their genetics.

In the late 1990’s, when Jonathan came home from college and rejoined the family farm, he and Alicia largely concentrated their Embryo Transfer (ET) program on show genetics, at that time approximately



90% was show genetics while the remaining was Index based. Prominent cow families such as 'Markwell Bstar Raven', 'Comestar Laurie Sheik', 'Windsor-Manor Rud (Rudolph) Zip', 'Eastside Lewisdale Gold Missy' and 'BWM Ginny' have all had a lasting impact on the OCD herd, both on site and internationally.

Since the introduction of Genomics in 2009, however, OCD began to shift their focus away from show genetics and concentrate more on Index base breeding where Total Profit Index (TPI) is now their central focus. "It makes sense to breed through index" remarks Jonathan, "genetic gain happens simultaneously across all fronts". While TPI is the central focus at OCD, they also pay close attention to the Canadian LPI Index for animals destined for the Canadian system. Jonathan, his Sire Analysts and ET Manager and his team work to identify a pool of bulls they really like then pass that list off to their ET Program Manager to do some more of the fine tuning. Diversity in their breeding program is a major priority, "a very diverse set of sire stacks within the herd allows for a strategy that spreads the risk" says Jonathan. Beef semen also plays an important role at OCD, with 40% of all lactating cows being bred to a terminal cross. The increasing cost to raise replacements has pushed the farm to manage their heifer inventory much closer.

Currently, OCD genotypes around 6500 animals annually which equates to approximately 30% of all live animals on the farm at any given time. Parental Averages (PA's) are used to sort the groups to determine who will be genotyped, any animal with a TPI of 2900+ will be sampled and become a flush candidate. Once that selection is made, any other animal that is not bred to a terminal cross is utilized as a recipient. With a high-indexing herd and

over 70 bulls in AI, the genetic strategy at OCD has proven its worth!

Although OCD has refocused their breeding philosophy to an index-based system, it has not pivoted them away from using classification as an integral tool for their farm management system.

“The genetic evaluation system relies on phenotypic information, if that ever ‘shuts-off’ or becomes less robust, the entire system is in jeopardy for not being as accurate as possible” explains Jonathan. “Today, in the US, too small of a group of producers are participating and we need to be constructive but vocal to ensure dairymen are reminded of the value that this data brings to our genetic evaluation system”.

Living by the words they preach, OCD classifies cattle at all four (4) locations where all genomic young 2yr old's and any donor dam of a potential stud are classified. The OCD home location classifies four times a year where all 1st lactation cattle and a selection of 2nd+ Lactation cattle are also classified. As



a reader, if you have had the chance to follow OCD on their social media channels, you will be the first to know that OCD is a true promoter of the value of a robust system. Alicia Lamb, who serves on the Dairy One Board, is the force behind all the Social Media content for OCD and does an excellent job at education and extension.

Like so many dairy farmers across the world, when asked what one of the largest challenges they face on their farm today, Jonathan is quick to name weather as the largest single factor that brings difficulties. The last 3 years have been extremely dry for all four locations so ensuring there is enough feed and water for a herd of this size is something that is always at top-of-mind for the team at OCD. Next to that, the labour market. New York's political environment in terms



of the labour market is challenging, it is difficult to businesses and farms. "Governmental policies of New York have sold more robots than anything else" states Jonathan. The robotic rotary at one of the locations at OCD has cut their labour requirements down by three times what it once was.

The challenges of today are going to continue to be the challenges of the future. The dairy industry continues to shrink while the size of farms continues to increase. With extreme weather patterns hitting all of North American coupled with a shortage in reliable labour, farmers will have to continue to diversify and look to find new ways to be more efficient on all fronts. When asked what the future looks like for OCD, Jonathan is clear, "OCD doesn't expand for the sake of expansion, it needs to be the right decision for the business and the families involved, there must always be work/life balance".

No matter the country, the product we produce is reliant on one foundational factor, our consumer. As we look ahead 10 years down the road, it is evident that the consumer will continue to demand transparency and a fundamental understanding of where their food comes from.

"We have a good story to tell and we shouldn't shy away from it", states Jonathan, "educating our consumer is critical to the success of our future".

OCD embraces this educational model holistically with visitor centers at their locations as well as hosting school and community tours on a regular basis, all in the vein of teaching their consumer, thereby encouraging transparency in how their farm operates each and every day.

When speaking with Jonathan, his passion for not only the Holstein cow, but the larger industry, exudes from him when he talks. "One of the greatest things about this industry is the people, they are the salt of the earth" explains Jonathan. Having served on the Board of Directors for Holstein USA from 2009-2015 illustrates his desire to network and learn from his colleagues. Re-Elected as Vice-President in 2019, Jonathan is now currently serving his 2nd year as President of the Association.

First dipping his toe in the committee process back in 2002 while working on updating the TPI formula, Jonathan quickly realized the importance of this governance structure and was very impressed with how receptive the process was to change and evolve. Through that initial process he then served on the Classification Committee before taking his turn on the Board. "Getting to know people from all over the country, an opportunity to learn from one another is what makes these committees great" explains Jonathan as he expresses the importance grassroots have on their association.



Through his time on the Board he has also had the pleasure to visit Canada at the Holstein Canada National Convention a few times. "We are similar in one fundamental thing – our passion for our cow. As a result, you can communicate with just about anyone, making the relationship really fun!"

When speaking with Jonathan, it is like speaking to any dairy farmer I have spoken to in Canada or around the world, he's a farmer who loves what he does and loves the family who works alongside him. To close the interview, I asked one final question; "What have you done differently from other farms that has been a game changer for you?" His answer embodies the who conversation: "I wish I could say I have an answer to that, but I don't. Attention to detail and small steps with a continual state of progress and improvement while always surrounding yourself with good people is how we got to where we are today. I don't believe there is one silver bullet, work hard, always work to do better each day and that, that will add up to something". 🇨🇦



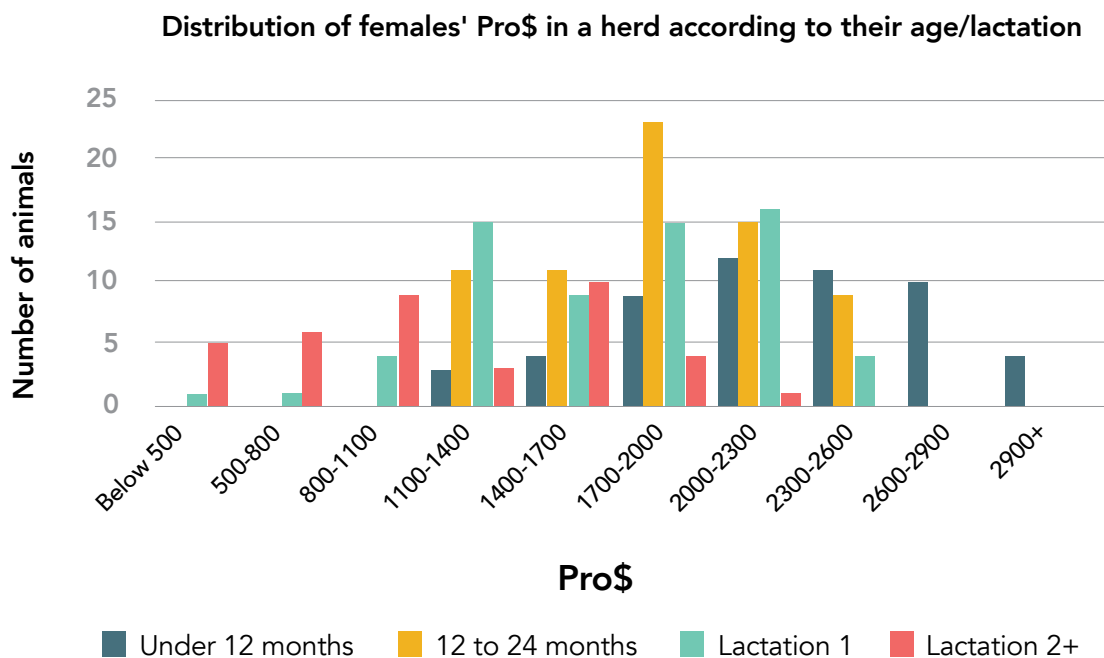
BEEF-ON-DAIRY: EVERY HERD HAS A BOTTOM WHERE IT CAN FIT

PART TWO

In the second part of this article, we will look at some trends and statistics of beef-on-dairy, the aspects driving the interest from both sides, the dairy and the beef industry as well as point out some risks and opportunities associated with applying this strategy.

BOOSTING THE GENETIC GAIN ON THE DAIRY SIDE

A large proportion of the increased use of beef semen is due to large heifer inventory on-farm and historically low fresh cow prices. With fewer females needed, there is a greater opportunity to use sexed semen on top-end females. Although many producers would use sexed semen on all heifers, which is a starting point, it is not optimal. The graph below shows the genetic potential for every female from a real herd, and helps to show that many young heifers do not have as high potential as some older cows.





In the same vein, the table below illustrates 3 different scenarios for a herd with 100 cows and 100 heifers (like the one mentioned above).

- **One considers using conventional semen for all females** (120 Holstein pregnancies/year) and raising all the heifers
- **Second, sexed semen on all heifers and beef on all adult cows** (50 Holstein females, 70 beef pregnancies/year)
- **Last one, sexed semen on the 60 females with highest genetic potential, no matter their age** (50 Holstein females, 70 beef pregnancies/year)

Clearly, using only conventional semen results in the least genetic gain for the herd – this is because you are basically flipping a coin to decide which females are going to be the dams of the next generation of milking cows. The impact of this strategy would not be realized until 3+ years down the line, which ultimately is too late. Differences this significant is too large to be ignored. In a nutshell, you can invest the same amount raising females that have the potential to give back to you over \$500 more than they would if you were using only conventional semen.

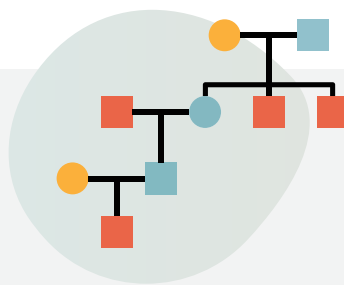
It becomes quickly apparent in the table below that a selective and precise

mating strategy with the appropriate use of beef semen will have a positive result on a herd, improving their genetic gain more quickly, compared to a herd using conventional semen as the majority.

It is also important to note that herds utilizing beef semen have an increased financial gain in the short-term. Predominantly, the income received from selling beef-cross calves will far outweigh that of the sale of a dairy bull calf. Furthermore, the rearing costs for a larger number of heifers is significant. When a herd begins to tighten their heifer inventory, there is likely to be a great amount of savings. In the scenario below, we considered \$3,500/animal rearing cost to 24 months of age and \$300 for each crossbred calf sold. Your price and costs will vary, but it is a starting point to visualize how much opportunity could be on the table.

The first factors contributed to create a larger surplus of heifers available to the market, so the supply of fresh cows grew. In the meantime, the demand for cows reduced due to herds' limiting their expansion. The consequence has been a weak market, and the cash flow that used to come to producers' pocket through selling animals is not there anymore. Moreover, back-to-back years of unfavourable weather and below average crops left many herds short on feed, so reducing inventory became necessary.

STRATEGY	RAISING COSTS	PRO\$ PREDICTION FOR THE OFFSPRING	GENETIC FAT PREDICTION	INCOME FROM BEEF CALVES
100% Conventional	\$105,000	\$1762	55 kg	0 to \$3,000
Sexed all heifers	\$87,000	\$2138	74 kg	\$21,000
Sexed best 60 females	\$87,000	\$2411	85 kg	\$21,000



THE RISKS AROUND BEEF-ON-DAIRY

One can argue using beef-on-dairy did not work for them, and it brings risks. Fair point, and we can point out a few aspects that must be watched.

LOW PRICE FOR THE DAIRY-BEEF CROSS CALF – this is not something you can control within your operation, but ensuring you have a good calf that suits the area’s market can reduce the risks. However, selling calves is the least risky, typically, as you have a good idea on where the market is going to be within 10 months, and you can avoid the risks and increased costs around raising/finishing dairy-beef cross calves.

HARD CALVING - this also exists when picking Holstein sires though this is manageable by choosing the right bulls, either beef or dairy.

RUNNING SHORT OF REPLACEMENT HEIFERS – this is always a concern in dairy farms, however, this can be mitigated by planning ahead well, and working with a good margin of safety in terms of the amount of sexed semen to use. Here, it is essential to have a solid and efficient reproductive program, otherwise you may run short in replacements.

THE ECONOMICS AND ADDED VALUE

Before using beef-on-dairy, it is important do your homework to set yourself up for success. Understanding the local market is key – look at it as a new business within your farm, ensure you are delivering a product that fits what the next piece on the supply chain is looking for. This is going to set up the foundation for further decisions. Being a new business, it should be seen with the same professionalism as you do dairy farming. That way, you are diversifying your business, which is positive, and hedges risks for the operation as a whole. Even though the costs are also heavily tied to feed cost, the market can be more or less resilient at times. In general terms, the economics have been very favourable over the last years, which has been a major trigger for producers to use beef-on-dairy. For those with highly efficient reproductive programs, the tool has brought very positive results. The table above illustrate

the reality both short and long-term.

Choosing which beef bulls to use and ensuring success with the calves

Most of the producers sell very young calves, but some raise them to weaning or even grow to finish (you need space, feed, labour...). The reality of the market in your area may favour one or the other, so keep that in mind. The same applies to breeds: Angus is the most popular because of its market acceptance, price, and ease of calving, though specific regions/herds may have a beef operator/packer that prefer other breeds. Also, there are producers raising their own calves to address a targeted niche market – for example, crossing with Wagyu to sell the animals at a premium.

On simple traits, just a black, beef-looking calf may not guarantee premiums. Besides calving ease, birth weight and gestation length, traits linked to meat production must be on the radar. Marbling, yearling height and weight, carcass weight, and

ribeye weight are some traits valued by the buyers. Once again, working with a contractor or your local ranches and packers can assure you deliver an animal in line with what the market is looking for, with the possibility of higher premiums. It is also important to remember to keep a good calf program for the cross calves, the same way you would do with your dairy females. Again, professionalism and efficiency are key to assure good results!

TAKE HOME MESSAGES

The adoption of beef-on-dairy has some specifics that must be considered before you use it. You should be as professional as you are with your dairy operation; just because it is not your main source of income, it shouldn't be dismissed. Being ahead of the game will bring benefits and increase profitability. At the same time, it works very well with the genetic planning to make sure you are generating the best calves to create an even more productive herd in the future. 🐄

Methane Efficiency & Body Metabolic Requirements - the New Canadian Genetic Evaluations



The April round of proofs introduced two new traits evaluated in the Holstein breed, Methane Efficiency (ME) and Body Metabolic Requirements (BMR), as the industry increases the focus on reduced resource usage and carbon emissions. Methane Efficiency is a result of a long-term investment in research and multiple collaborations over the years. In fact, Canada is the first country in the world to publish genetic evaluations directly linked to the reduction of enteric methane produced by the cows. It represents a very important step towards the net-zero goals established by Dairy Farmers of Canada (DFC). Meanwhile, Body Metabolic Requirements allows you to select for weight, which results in smaller or larger cows.

Methane Efficiency: Canada leading the way

The evaluation focused on reducing the methane produced by the cows, is a result of over half a decade of intense research and data collection. Let's dive into some details and common questions around it.

How does the evaluation work?

Like all functional traits, it ranges normally from 85 to 115, with 100 being the average while any number higher than 100 is desirable. That means a higher value results in lower methane production.

If I select for it, am I going to lose in other areas (like production)?

No, the trait was developed to have insignificant correlations with production traits, LPI and Pro\$, so you can continue selecting for the traits/index you normally select for, and add methane efficiency to your selection as well.

How much gain can my herd make?

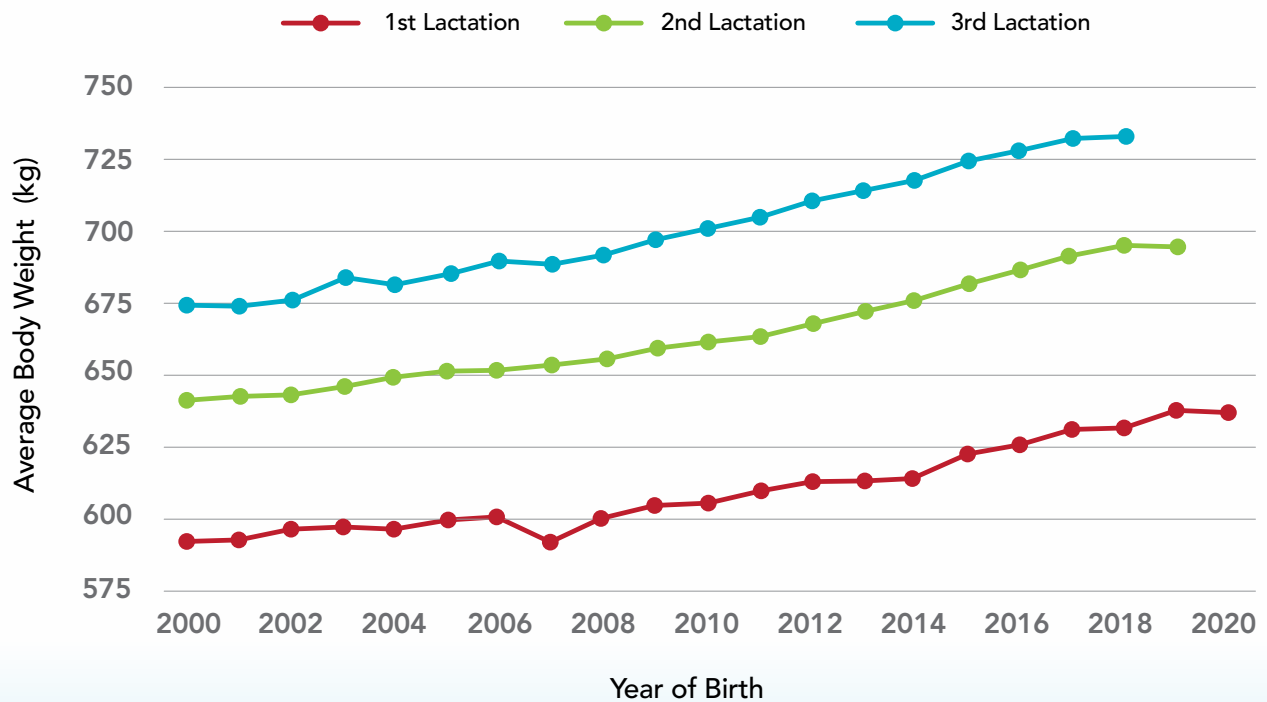
It depends on how much emphasis you put on the trait. If you were to use only bulls over 110 for methane efficiency, you could achieve about 30% reduction by 2050. However, this is not realistic because you would have a group of half-a-dozen bulls to pick from every year.

Overall, 5 points (one standard deviation) results in a difference of 1.5% in methane production, so even picking only 100+ bulls will help in the long run.

Which cows have an evaluation?

Every cow linked to a herd inventory that is on milk recording will have an evaluation. If you are on milk recording and some of your animals do not have it, the animal may not be linked to the herd. A producer not on Milk Recording is able to purchase the evaluation, along with feed efficiency via Lactanet's website. Producers not on milk recording but utilizing classification will receive the evaluation at a discounted price.





Body Maintenance Requirement (BMR)

BMR is a genetic evaluation directly linked to the body weight, and is a result of body weight measurements collected in 1st, 2nd and 3rd lactations from herds mainly in Quebec over the last decade. As you can imagine, Holstein cattle weights have been slowly increasing over time – the 1st lactation cows now weigh, on average, about 55kg more than they did 20 years ago (see graph below). Also, this trait is highly linked to conformation traits, especially stature. A few more details are below.

How does the evaluation work?

BMR also ranges mostly between 85 and

115 and the average is 100. Higher than 100 means lighter/smaller animals, while below 100 means larger/heavier animals. Every 5-point difference results in about 20kg body weight difference.

What is the advantage of selecting for it?

By selecting for small animals, you can reduce the amount of feed required for maintenance. Every 5-point difference results in savings around \$70 over three lactations.

How related to other traits is it?

Regarding conformation traits, it has a heavy negative correlation with most

conformation traits (higher BMR, poorer conformation traits). It has no correlation with feed efficiency, meaning you can easily select for both at the same time, which should boost the reduction in feed cost. However, it does have a negative correlation with Pro\$, meaning higher BMR (smaller cows) is associated with lower profitability.

How can I use this trait?

If you want to reduce the size of your cows, you can strive for above 100 BMR. However, high BMR is associated with lower profitability, so the sweet spot is somewhere closer to average (100). That way, you are able to balance out not increasing the size of your cows, while still optimizing profitability.



Classification Updates

Locomotion, Front Legs View and Anogenital Distance

Holstein Canada is thrilled to introduce two new officially weighted traits in the classification scorecard, along with a novel research trait that is very promising, phenotypic data collection on a fertility trait that could significantly identify increased or decreased fertility in dairy cattle. After over a decade of collecting Locomotion as a research trait, it will now be weighted in loose-housing environments. Front Legs View, a research trait for the past 4 years, will now be weighted in all environments. Both of these traits already receive genetic evaluations within the Feet & Leg Composite index. Anogenital distance (AGD) is a new trait globally, Holstein Canada will be including it in the scorecard with the objective to collect more information and, possibly, create a genetic evaluation in the future.

Locomotion & Front Legs View weighting

The two Feet and Legs traits have been included in the system for a while, leading us to have enough information for the publication of their genetic evaluations back in the December 2021 proofs. You can find more details on what they are and how they are evaluated in the October/November/December 2022 InfoHolstein edition. Front Legs View is scored as an intermediate trait, where code 7 is ideal, anywhere below that trends toward knock-knee, a common issue in the breed currently. Locomotion as an ideal code 9, meaning an extremely fluid, long and straight gait. Anywhere below that means

a shorter stride and possibly paddle-gait. They are both linked to sound mobility and functionality, something essential for good performance.

Loose-Housing x Tie-Stall Classification

It is important to note for Tie-Stall environments, Locomotion will not currently be an officially weighted trait as it cannot be appraised in the literal sense. The weight associated with Locomotion in the scorecard will be distributed among the other F&L traits according to their correlation with Locomotion. Locomotion in Tie-Stall environments will be gathered as a 'Research Trait' for a period of time

so Holstein Canada can validate its in-house regression equation which can predict the Locomotion in Tie-Stalls based on the correlation of other F&L traits to Locomotion.

New Weights

With the two new traits in place, the Classification Advisory Committee, approved by the Board of Directors, decided on the new distribution of weights within the Feet & Legs section. The decision was based on the relevance of each trait to longevity and profitability. You can compare the current weighting and the new weighting for both Loose Housing and Tie-Stall environments to the right.

FEET & LEGS TRAITS WEIGHTING - LOOSE HOUSING

Trait	Current Weight	New Weight
Foot Angle	9%	7%
Heel Depth	22%	21%
Bone Quality	5%	4%
Rear Leg Side View	19%	14%
Rear Leg Rear View	31%	18%
Front Legs View	0	7%
Locomotion	0	18%
Thurl Placement	14%	11%

FEET & LEGS TRAITS WEIGHTING - TIE STALL

Trait	Current Weight	New Weight
Foot Angle	9%	7%
Heel Depth	22%	21%
Bone Quality	5%	4%
Rear Leg Side View	19%	21%
Rear Leg Rear View	31%	25%
Front Legs View	0	11%
Locomotion	0	0
Thurl Placement	14%	11%

Anogenital Distance (AGD)

Bringing this new trait to the classification system is a long-term accomplishment from a partnership established in 2017 with Dr. Divakar Ambrose. Holstein Canada has supported the research conducted by Dr. Ambrose's and his group of students from the University of Alberta. The extended work on this trait has resulted in a series of publications and, now, a Holstein Canada classification research trait.

What is Anogenital Distance and how is it measured?

In cows, AGD is a direct measurement of the distance between the center of the anus and the clitoris of the cow. This is a fairly easy measurement that can be collected on farm using a ruler or a caliper.

Why AGD and the goals with the trait

AGD is a trait known to have associations with fertility in some species such as rats and other primates, including humans. Physiologically, some aspects linked to hormone exposure during embryonic development are linked to larger (Longer distance between the Anus and Clitoris) or smaller (shorter distance between the Anus and Clitoris) AGD, which helps explain the association with fertility. However, there had been very few studies in bovines that looked into the association between AGD and fertility. The recent studies conducted by the University of Alberta have found promising results.

- **The heritability of the trait is fairly high, estimated to be around 35%; for comparison, the current genetic fertility traits have heritability between 2 and 5%.**
- **It is also very repeatable, meaning it does not have a lot of variation from 6 to 16 months of age, neither across lactations. These numbers are very promising because they show potential to predict fertility reliably from an early age.**

The research team found encouraging relationships between the trait phenotype (AGD measurement) and the actual reproductive performance in Holstein cows and heifers.



- **A study with over 6,000 animals from multiple herds showed higher fertility in short AGD heifers and cows compared to long AGD females.**
- **Another study found that short AGD cows showed heat earlier, had stronger estrus expression, greater ovulation rate, and had progesterone concentrations that favoured better reproductive outcomes.**

With strong initial evidence of the potential of this novel trait to help the selection for higher fertility females, Holstein Canada is moving forward in collecting more data for a potential future genetic evaluation. Our team is currently working on the development of the tools necessary to properly record the measurements, setting us up for the future. 🐄



2023 ALL-CANADIAN COMPETITION

ALL HOLSTEIN CLASSES!

1. Summer Heifer
2. Spring Heifer
3. Winter Heifer
4. Fall Heifer
5. Summer Yearling
6. Spring Yearling
7. Winter Yearling
8. Winter Yearling in milk
9. Fall Yearling in milk
10. Summer 2-Year-Old
11. Spring 2-Year-Old
12. Winter 2-Year-Old
13. Fall 2-Year-Old
14. Junior 3-Year-Old
15. Senior 3-Year-Old
16. 4-Year-Old
17. 5-Year-Old
18. Mature Cow
19. Longtime Production -70,000 kg
20. Breeder's Herd
21. Junior Breeder's Herd

MORE R&W CLASSES!

22. **R&W** Summer Calf
23. **R&W** Spring Calf
24. **R&W** Winter Calf
25. **R&W** Fall Calf
26. **R&W** Summer Yearling
27. **R&W** Spring Yearling
28. **R&W** Winter Yearling
29. **R&W** Milking Yearling (Winter & Fall)
30. **R&W** Summer-Spring 2-Year-Old
31. **R&W** Junior Cow
32. **R&W** Senior Cow
33. **R&W** Mature Cow

JUNIOR CLASSES!

34. Junior – Spring Heifer Calf
35. Junior – Winter Heifer Calf
36. Junior – Fall Heifer Calf
37. Junior - Summer Yearling
38. Junior – Spring Yearling

The Junior participant must be a member in good standing of a 4-H or a Jeunes Ruraux club. See the complete list of rules on the Holstein Canada website.

**Entry Deadline via AssistExpo:
Wednesday November 29, 2023**

Nominations Announcement:
January, 15, 2024

Results Announcement:
January 25, 2024

Complete Rules:

https://www.holstein.ca/Public/en/Awards-Lists/All-Canadian_Contest/All-Canadian_Contest

For more information:

1-855-756-8300 or show@holstein.ca





DFC Tag Transition Communications

Tag Requirement Changes Effective September 1, 2023

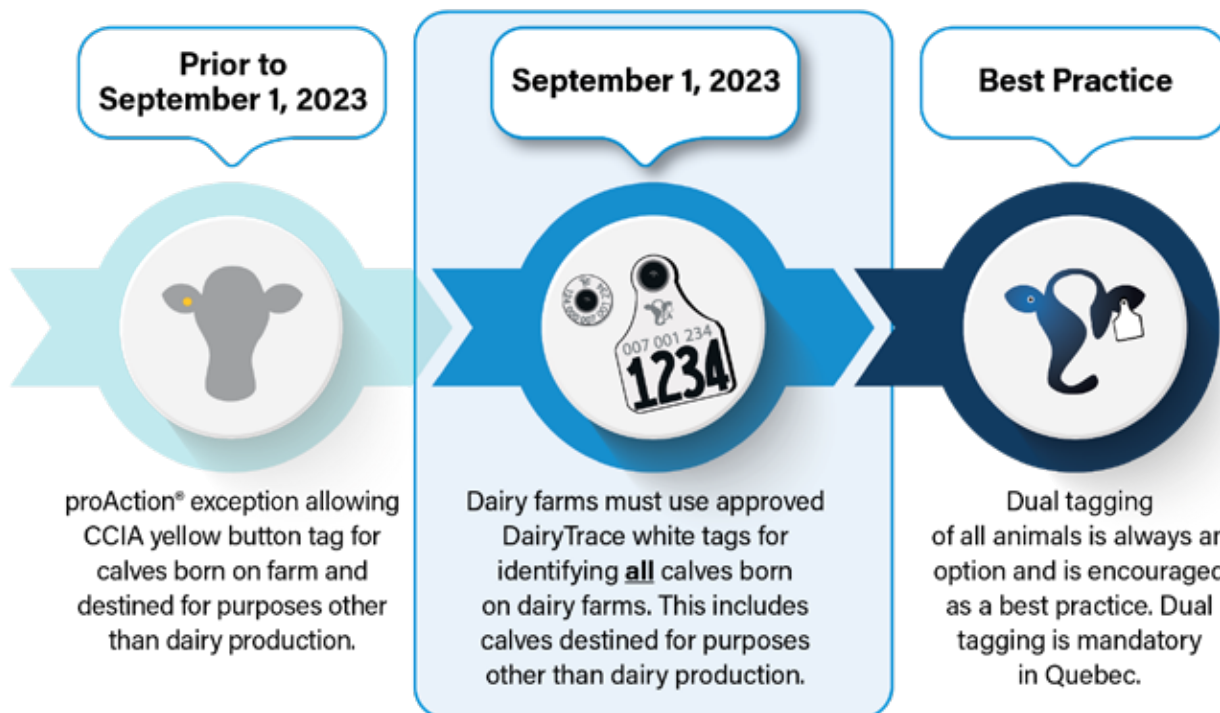
As of September 1, 2023, all calves born on dairy farms must be identified with approved white dairy tags (i.e. single button RFID tag or dual tag set). This proAction policy direction from Dairy Farmers of Canada was established and communicated in 2020 and has been part of a long-term plan to strengthen dairy traceability.

Dairy Farmers of Canada recognizes and applauds the 90% of DairyTrace tag customers in recent months who have already made this switch and are buying exclusively white DairyTrace tags.

What this means for farmers?

All calves born on a dairy farm that are expected to be used for dairy production and/or breeding must be dual tagged. The requirement of dual tagging is already mandatory in the province of Quebec for all bovine animals. The exception allowing calves born on a dairy farm destined for beef or veal production to be identified with a yellow button tag will be fully phased out effective September 1, 2023. From this date forward, dairy farms must use approved DairyTrace white tags for identifying all calves born on dairy farms, including those destined for purposes other than dairy production. This includes using a white dairy tag (not a yellow button tag) if a cull cow loses its original tag and then reporting the tag cross-reference event to DairyTrace when possible.





Dairy farmers can contact DairyTrace Customer Services or their proAction provincial coordinator for more information about the change.

DairyTrace Customer Services: 1-866-55-TRACE (1-866-558-7223) or info@DairyTrace.ca.

Transitioning to dual tagging of all animals is always an option and is encouraged as a best practice.

The modified tag requirement policy will be part of proAction’s Traceability module and will be verified by proAction validators as part of on-farm audits starting September 1, 2023.

Note that it is acceptable for animals in a dairy herd born before September 2017 (before dual tagging was required) to be identified using a yellow button tag. Animals currently tagged with a yellow button tag should not have their tags removed since federal regulations prohibit removal of official RFID tags.

How will this benefit farmers?

Using approved dairy tags results in more complete traceability data for the dairy sector. The DairyTrace system is designed to protect dairy farmers in the event of an animal health emergency. Protection is more effective when more effective when tag information and movements on and off dairy operations or other premises are fully traceable, which is only possible when farmers use white DairyTrace tags are used. Having this information protects farms and the dairy industry by enabling effective and rapid traceback.

This change also lays the foundation for future benefits for farmers. Keeping information from calves born on a dairy farm in DairyTrace offers the potential to gather more data as those animals move through the value chain. More information will lead to a better understanding of these animals and is the foundation for potential future value-added opportunities for dairy farmers.

As a dairy industry, we strive to continually produce excellent products. Ultimately, the potential to provide end of life information back to farmers about the calves born on their farms provides the opportunity to build on this reputation and provide high quality animals for the meat sector.

Have Questions?

Dairy farmers can contact DairyTrace Customer Services or their proAction provincial coordinator for more information about the change.

Life on the Prairies; THE JOURNEY AND THE DESTINATION

Although we are currently enjoying the warm summer evenings, days spent outside and summer activities, we often forget what we endured to get here. Winter. For several months we put on layer after layer before heading out to do our daily chores. Winter isn't for the faint of heart, especially a prairie winter; with temperatures often hovering at thirty below freezing and poor driving conditions, it is no wonder we want to soon forget it as soon as Spring arrives.

However, there is some great activities that bring producers together through the winter months. Over the past several years, the winter season has become the time for breeder's cup competitions around the country. Manitoba and Saskatchewan are no exception. One distinct difference in Breeder's Cups in this area is this, MB and SK are the only two provinces to host province wide competitions. Saskatchewan has been hosting a successful breeder's cup for many years, where Manitoba's competition is relatively new but has gained massive popularity over the last couple years.

The breeder's cup is a great opportunity for a young judge to get their feet wet and analyze cows before stepping into the middle of the ring as an aspiring judge. When judging these competitions on the prairies, it also gives the judge an opportunity for a "holiday" from

their farm as the judging can take a week to complete. This year our judges traveled over three thousand kilometres each while looking at hundreds of cows.

Kevin Vanzessen of Saskatchewan traveled to Manitoba and found his Grand Champion in the 3+ lactation class; Norwind Jacot Vanilla. Owned by Norwind Dairy. Meanwhile, Katelyn Kozak from Alberta traveled to Saskatchewan and named Alley Sandstorm Ethel her Grand Champion. A third lactation cow, owned by Alley Holsteins.

Like most shows, once a champion is named, there must be a celebration. Each respective provincial branch hosts an awards night where the breeders, friends, family and industry partners are all in attendance to see the pictures and placings and enjoy a night of comradery.

Although Manitoba and Saskatchewan are the only provinces to host provincial competitions, they also have only one heifer show in their respective province per year. For those who are interested in showcasing their genetics more seriously, the distance from Winnipeg to the Westerner Dairy Showcase in Red Deer is over 1300 kilometres and from Regina it is 786 kilometres. For many, this is not feasible and the breeder's cup is something we

look forward too as a way to showcase our genetics, benchmark ourselves, see friendly faces, and stay connected with the industry. On the prairies, there are vast distances to be traveled; we always look forward to our destination, but ensure we make the most of the journey along the way.



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

Based on 1st Lactation Classifications March , April and May 2023

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

Sire	Daughters Classified	Avg Daus Score	Avg Dam Score
DELTA-LAMBDA	233	83.08	82.93
UNIX	321	82.31	82.51
ALLIGATOR	425	82.22	82.30
DOC	179	82.13	82.46
DURAN	102	81.43	80.99
KINGPIN	103	81.42	81.97
RANDALL	405	81.29	81.80
BRIDGESTONE	111	81.23	81.05
SEABISCUIT	113	81.16	81.54
KNOWHOW	146	81.10	80.77

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

Sire	Daughters Classified	Avg Daus Score	Avg Dam Score
MASTER	51	82.96	83.29
ASHBY	98	82.39	82.59
UNSTOPABULL	60	82.22	82.90
APPLE-CRISP	53	82.17	82.42
ALONGSIDE	52	82.15	82.12
SIDEROAD	44	82.09	82.57
HIGH OCTANE	40	81.83	81.98
ANGLER	44	81.80	81.93
RADIO	42	81.79	81.95
KNOX	55	81.76	81.98

Note: Daughters are included in this 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.

Top 15 Sires with the first 10 daughters Classified Daughters in a Six-Month Period

Sire Name	Daughters Classified	Avg Daus Score	Bull Proof for Conformation*
NIPIT-PP	12	82.92	2
LEGEND	38	82.90	13
ALLEYOOP	68	82.81	13
BAROLO SG	13	82.23	11
GENIE	15	82.20	9
FORTNITE	23	82.13	4
A2P2-PP	18	82.11	9
JAZZ	12	82.00	3
ROUX	11	82.00	1
SIDEROAD	68	81.99	11

Top 10 Sires for Health and Fertility with 100+ Daughters Classified in Three-Month Period

Sire Name	Daughters Classified	Sire Health & Fertility	Avg Daus Score
PORTER	291	607	80.7
RONALD	116	579	80.3
ALLIGATOR	712	552	82.0
HOMEGROUND	155	552	80.1
DUMBLEDORE	255	542	80.7
SALUKI	145	542	79.0
ALTAMARLON	153	535	80.3
BRIDGESTONE	152	534	81.2
DELTA	144	534	81.2
DRYDEN	267	534	80.1

Note: Some bulls have a small amount of daughters in a small number of herds. *Proof may be genomic, MACE or phenotype-based. Some may have a small number of daughters classified in a small number of herds.

Top 10 Sires for EBV Fat with 100+ Daughters Classified in Three-Month Period

Sire Name	Daughters Classified	Sire EBV Fat Kg	Avg Daus Score
ALCOVE	380	136	79.9
POSITIVE	368	120	80.5
HELIX	167	119	80.1
CIRCUS	148	119	79.9
DUKE	205	118	80.2
RUBICON	143	115	80.9
FUEL	210	114	81.1
IMPERIAL	105	109	79.8
PHANTOM	278	100	80.8
DARWIN	222	97	80.3

Top 10 Sires for 305d Fat Production with 50+ Daughters Classified in Three-Month Period

Common Name	Classified Daughters	Avg Daus Score	Average 305-Day Fat	Sire Proof for Fat
ALTALAWSON	57	79.4	441.4	99.0
HELIX	104	79.8	439.8	119.0
COCKPIT	68	81.2	436.1	112.0
DUKE	140	80.3	432.8	118.0
EXCALIBUR	76	80.8	428.6	90.0
ALTAZAREK	71	79.9	427.5	102.0
DELTA	89	81.2	423.3	50.0
DURAN	90	81.5	422.3	74.0
ALCOVE	212	79.9	421.3	136.0
ALPHABET	65	80.2	421.0	91.0

Note: Daughters are included in the statistics if they had their last milk test/lactation termination date beyond Mar. 1st, 2023.

Classification Schedule

Mid-round **MR**

JULY

PEI PEI Western, PEI Central
 NB Moncton, Miramichi, Sussex, Fredericton, Carleton
 NS East Nova, West Nova, Central
 NL New Foundland

EARLY

AUGUST

ON Perth
 QC Quebec West, Quebec Central, Bagot & St. Hyacinthe, Montmagny, L'Islet

EARLY

ON Simcoe, Dufferin, Ontario, Bruce, Grey, Leeds & Grenville, Lanark, Renfrew & Pontiac
 QC Deux Montagnes & Terrebone, Bellechasse, Montmagny

MID

ON Middlesex, Lambton, Huron
 QC Kamouraska, Quebec North Central, Portneuf
 SK Regina, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan NE

LATE

SEPTEMBER

SK Regina, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan NE
 ON Middlesex, Essex & Kent, Elgin, Waterloo
 QC Rimouski, Riviere Du Loup, Temiscouata, Lac St. Jean & Roberval, Lapointe & Chicoutimi, North Shore Central

EARLY

AB Brooks, Lethbridge, Calgary, Red Deer, Leduc, Gibbons, Peace River, Wetaskawin

ON Waterloo, Ontario Central, Victoria & Durham, Peterborough, Northumberland, Elgin
 QC Matane, Rimouski, Riviere Du Loup, North Shore Central

MID

QC Iberville & St. Jean, Chateaguay & Beauharnois, Matapedia, Bonaventure & Matane, Vaudreuil & Huntingdon
 ON Oxford, Waterloo

LATE

Top Sires According to Trait Section Average Score of 1st Lactation Daughters

Based on 1st Lactation Classifications March, April and May 2023

Top 10 Sires for Rump Score with 100+ Daughters
Classified in Three-Month Period

Sire Name	Daughters Classified	Average Daus Rump	Sire Proof for Rump
DELTA-LAMBDA	299	83.37	7
CHIEF	308	83.20	9
RANDALL	536	82.85	11
UNIX	485	82.74	6
IMPRESSION	466	82.62	10
LAUTRUST	476	82.59	8
MIRAND	396	82.51	9
RUBELS RED	134	82.43	9
KINGPIN	169	82.40	9
ASHBY	131	82.34	6

Top 10 Sires for Dairy Strength Score with 100+ Daughters
Classified in Three-Month Period

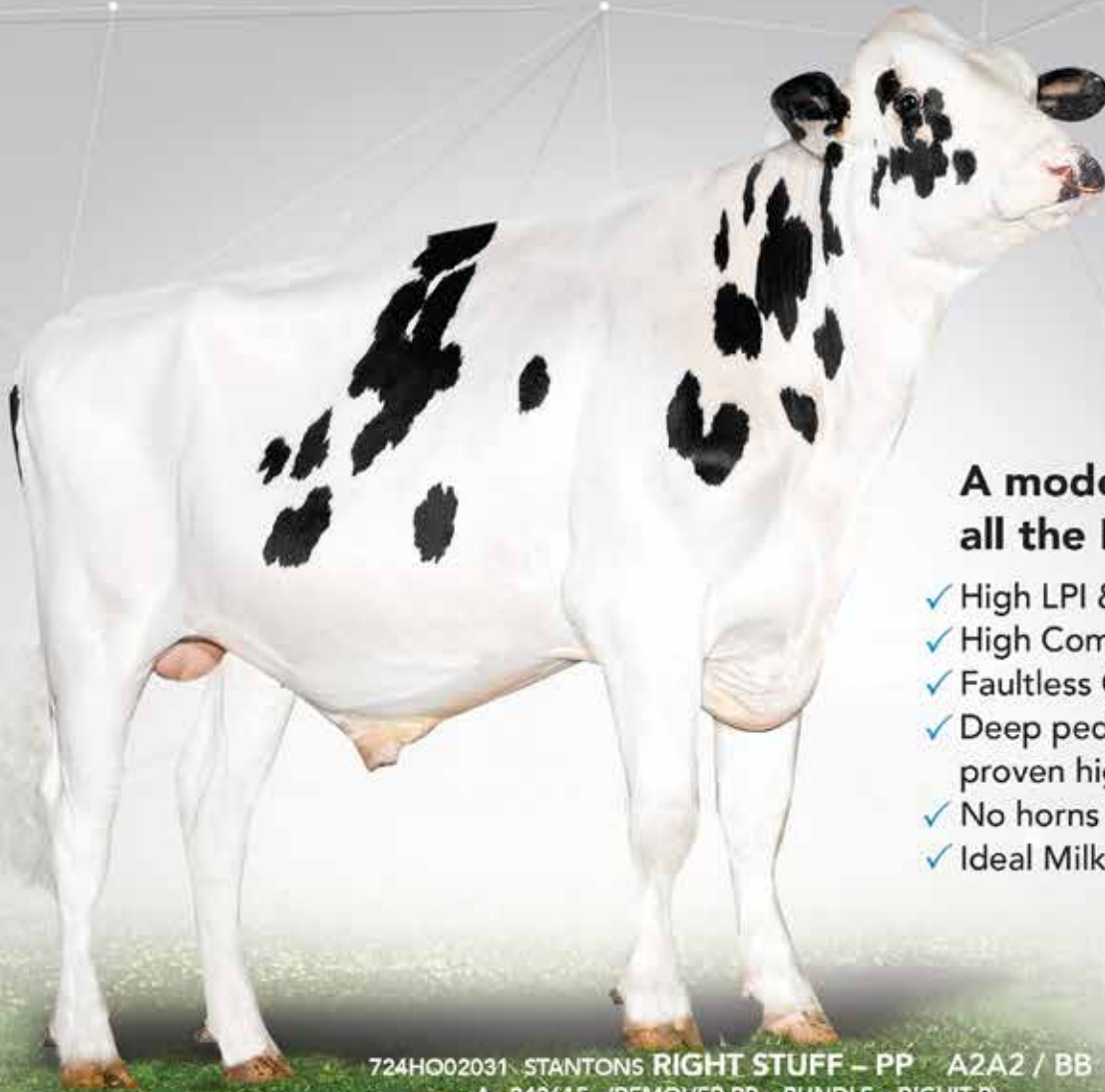
Sire Name	Daughters Classified	Average Daus Dairy Strength	Sire Proof for Dairy Strength
DUKE	193	84.01	17
DELTA-LAMBDA	299	83.71	6
DOORMAN	176	83.52	8
DOC	265	83.19	8
CIRCUS	144	83.10	10
SIDEKICK	349	82.94	11
PHANTOM	278	82.94	11
CHIEF	308	82.84	5
ALLIGATOR	667	82.80	7
RUBICON	140	82.74	4

Top 10 Sires for Mammary System with 100+ Daughters
Classified in Three-Month Period

Sire Name	Daughters Classified	Average Daus Mammary System	Sire Proof for Mammary System
CHIEF	308	83.38	9
DELTA-LAMBDA	299	83.37	10
DOORMAN	176	83.13	6
ASHBY	131	82.95	4
UNIX	485	82.85	8
CRUSHABULL	110	82.56	12
SIDEKICK	349	82.54	12
ALLIGATOR	667	82.48	11
DOC	265	82.41	7
HARVEST	134	82.09	5

This schedule is subject to change within a 1-2 week period.

The Future...Ahead of Schedule



A modern sire with all the RIGHT STUFF

- ✓ High LPI & Pro\$
- ✓ High Components
- ✓ Faultless Conformation
- ✓ Deep pedigree from proven high-ranking cows
- ✓ No horns ever
- ✓ Ideal Milk caseins

724HO02031 STANTONS RIGHT STUFF – PP A2A2 / BB
aAa 243615 (REMOVER PP x BUNDLE x BIGHT P)



Dam: Stantons What It Takes P (VG-85 2yr)
#4 GLPI Cow Apr '23



2nd Dam Bight Melody P (VG-85 2yr 3*)
#3 GLPI Cow & Dam of #1 & 2 GLPI Cows

The recently updated "Code of Practice for Care and Handling of Dairy Cattle" in Canada states "breed cows to polled sires to avoid the need for bud/horn removal" as a recommended practice.


Congratulations to his breeders Stanton's for their foresight to develop a bull so easy to use that has all the "RIGHT STUFF"

Available in Canada from



Validity
GENETIC TESTING
Home of Vector Genetics

Contact for International
Semen Marketing

dave@validitytesting.com • 905-866-7800 

Would you like to advertise in *info*Holstein ?

Request a Holstein Canada Media Kit today
For more information email beggink@holstein.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.

Advertise with us by contacting the editor

Editor: Brad Eggink
beggink@holstein.ca

Publications Mail
Agreement 40008691

Published four times annually
Subscription: \$18 outside Canada

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