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infoHolstein

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

FARM PROFILE

Ferme Labrise Inc. (p. 8)

ALL ABOUT CALVES

Feeding to Enhance Calf Immunity (p. 12) TEAM CANADA

2024

Meet the six Young Leaders representing Canada (p. 23)





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CONTENTS

- 4 CEO MESSAGE
- 5 MEET THE PRESIDENT: GILLES CÔTÉ
- 16 GENETICS 101
 Genetics of Calf Health
- 19 VALUE OF REGISTRATION
- 20 CONNEXXION CORNER
 Using the app for simplifying your genomic testing
- 23 TEAM CANADA 2024

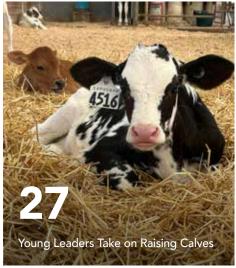
 Meet the six Young Leaders representing Canada at the 2024 European Young Breeders School
- 24 HOLSTEIN CANADA'S CLASSIFICATION: A KEY TOOL FOR DAIRY HERD MANAGEMENT
- 28 MEET CANADA'S OLDEST MILKING HOLSTEIN

On the Cover: Photo by Lyndsay Berry Photography



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CEO Message

Building a Bright Future: Commitment, Innovation & Growth





I want to assure each and every one of our members that your Board of Directors and I are deeply committed to building a strong foundation for Holstein Canada's future. We recognize the importance of stability and are dedicated to fostering growth and innovation within our association.

A key component of our strategic focus is to collaborate with organizations who share similar goals, like the Canadian Angus Association. We recently announced a joint initiative to understand the value of using camera and computer vision tools to evaluate traits in Dairy and Angus purebred cattle, as well as Angus/Holstein crossbred cattle. This multi-year project addresses the need to evolve efficient data collection processes and leverages the expertise of both Holstein Canada and Canadian Angus, particularly in response to the increased use of beef semen in dairy cattle.

Chris Bartels has been at the forefront of this initiative, and I am proud to announce his promotion to Senior Director, Innovations & Business Operations. Chris has consistently demonstrated exceptional leadership and innovation in driving solutions forward. In his

expanded role, he will spearhead our business operations strategy, enhance our innovation pipeline, and work closely with field staff and classifiers to ensure operational excellence in on-farm service delivery.

In our commitment to financial stability, we are conducting a comprehensive cost analysis of our entire business. This project will provide valuable insights to inform our upcoming Strategic Planning efforts, ensuring a robust and sustainable financial future for Holstein Canada.

Our vision is one of positivity and progress. We are dedicated to driving innovation, enhancing member services, and building a strong, resilient association. I extend my heartfelt thanks to our members and stakeholders for your continued support and engagement. Your dedication and commitment are vital to our success, and we are grateful for your unwavering trust in Holstein Canada.

Together, we will build a bright future for our organization.

Warm regards,

Sartaj Sarkaria 📣



Message from our New President: Gilles Côté



Dear Holstein Canada Members,



It is with great pride that I address you as the new President of our esteemed Association. First and foremost, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the Board of Directors and the membership for their dedication and hard work towards the industry and the community. We are all deeply grateful for your involvement.

My Farm: A Family Story

I am co-owner of Ferme Lacnor, a dairy and grain farm in Lac-Saint-Jean, Quebec. It is a beautiful area, north of Quebec City, with hot summers and snowy winters. The Lacnor farm has been run by our family for four generations, and we are now moving into the fifth generation. We work alongside my brothers, our daughter Anne-Sophie, her spouse Kevin, and now our three-year-old grandson Henri. Our farm has 120 milking cows and we deliver 180 kg of quota every day. Classification and genomics are essential for the advancement of our herd, which includes 9 Excellent, 60 Very Good and 60 Good Plus cows.

Shows are also an important opportunity to validate our breeding program. In 2023, our Jeanri prefix won the Breeder banner and Reserve Grand Champion title at the Chicoutimi Expo. And in 2024, we won the Breeder

and Exhibitor banners, as well as the Grand Champion title at the Breeders' Cup organized by our Saguenay Lac-Saint-Jean Club. Our herd average is 11,213 kg of milk with 4.5% fat and 3.5% protein. Lacnor farms 1200 acres of hay, barley, wheat, corn, canola and soybeans. Anne-Sophie is responsible for accounting and herd management, while Kevin is in charge of genetic advancement and field work.

My Background and Commitments

My involvement with the Holstein breed began at an early age. I started out in my Regional Club and worked my way up to become its President. I expanded my involvement to the provincial level with Holstein Québec, where I sat on various committees, including the Genetics Committee. One of my most memorable experiences was chairing the Holstein Québec Picnic in 2012 and working as an official Holstein Québec Judge.

After almost two decades of volunteer work with the Genetic Evaluation Board (GEB), I was able to join the Canadian Dairy Network (CDN) Board of Directors and witness the creation of Lactanet. I sat on the Board for four years and helped design and implement DairyTrace to improve traceability across Canada. All these experiences, as well as my last ten years on the Holstein Canada Board of Directors, have been a source of great personal satisfaction and enriching knowledge.

Ensuring Long-Term Durability

To ensure the long-term future of our Association, we need to work closely with the community, other breeds, and industry partners. We will take on initiatives to standardize our services and offer integrated Holstein Canada services. In addition, strengthening our relationships within the industry is essential. By simplifying processes and offering common solutions with our partners, we will be better prepared to respond effectively to the various needs of Canadian breeders, while offering more tailored and agile services to support the continued growth of dairy production in Canada.

With this in mind, one of our main priorities is to continue to work and build our relationships with other breeds and our industry partners. Together, we will simplify and develop

integrated services, while ensuring that we remain efficient and effective.

Our focus on data automation will become a key priority to make our services more efficient and better adapted to the needs of the sector, as will the improved integration of management data into our recognition and service delivery processes.

One of our main priorities is to develop and implement a new strategic plan that aligns with Holstein Canada's objectives. This will help the organization adapt and thrive in a rapidly changing world and industry. All this is aimed at modernizing and optimizing our services to meet the fast-changing demands of today's producers.

My Message to the Holstein Community

We now have an opportunity to build upon our culture and governance at Holstein Canada. By working hand in hand with the community, the industry and adapting our strategies, we can build a prosperous future for our Association and for future generations.

I look forward to working with each and every one of you to further our common goal. Together, we will make Holstein Canada even stronger and more dynamic.

Yours sincerely,

Gilles Côté 📣







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FARM PROFILES



By Emly Bergeron, Assistant to the Advisors, Holstein Québec



Ferme Labrise Inc.

Breeding Investments That Pay Off

Located in the heart of Quebec's Montérégie Region and founded in 1946, Ferme Labrise is a fourth-generation family operation, now run by Guy Labrecque, Lynda St-Jacques, and their children Vincent and Olivier.

In 1993, Guy worked at the farm after completing his studies at the Institut de technologie agroalimentaire (ITA) in Saint-Hyacinthe. At that time, the family owned 32 kg of quota and were just starting herd classification. In 2000, Guy and Lynda decided to buy the farm and by 2007, they built a new tie-stall barn, manure pit, silo, and purchased 15 kg of quota. In 2021, their son Vincent came on board, and by 2022, a new free-stall barn had been built for dry cows and replacements, along with a nursery. After completing his studies at the ITA in Saint-Hyacinthe, Olivier also joined the family business in 2023.

The Labrise herd's current strategy focuses on breeding heifers for optimal development. To achieve this, the Labrecques focus on their animals' conformation and

production in order to maximize their genetic potential. Hoping to achieve 20 EX classifications, they now raise 14 EX, 55 VG and 20 GP. The goal is to develop young animals into productive, high-quality dairy cows, capable of making a significant contribution to the farm's milk production. This strategy will enable the family to maximize their current infrastructure for the best possible return on investment.



Quick Stats



PEOPLE INVOLVED: Guy Labrecque, Lynda St-Jacques, and their children Vincent and Olivier

OF COWS: Ferme Labrise holds 120.9 kg of quota with a total of 80 milking cows, and farms 600 acres

FACILITY TYPE: Tie-Stall Barn

HERD PRODUCTION AVERAGE (MILK, FAT, PROTEIN):

13,000 kg 4.2% F 3.3% P

BCA (284M) (318F) (308P)

HOLSTEIN CANADA SERVICES

USED: Registration, Genotyping and Classification



MIMA

Their new facilities built in 2022 have led to a clear improvement in performance. Here is a look at the life of a calf at Labrise Farm:

Newborn Calves

Newborn calves are kept in the nursery, in individual pens, for seven to ten days. On arrival, basic care is provided, i.e. navel disinfection with iodine and colostrum feeding as soon as possible. These pens, which are disinfected after each calf, use a shavings base with straw. Calves drink from a teat bucket and receive colostrum and milk from their mother for three days. after which they are given a milk replacer twice a day. Three to five days after birth, calves receive a nasal vaccine. Finally, they are transferred to a pen with an automatic calf feeder and pressurized ventilation, meaning that clean air from the outside flows into the nursery via a diffuser wall.

Automatic Calf Feeder

The calf feeder is installed in two pens: one for calves aged from one week to one month, and the other for calves between the ages of one to two months. Calves are housed on straw bedding and the feeding area is separated by a low concrete wall. This area is regularly cleaned and covered with shavings. Calves drink milk from the automatic feeder for 60 days. The amount of milk available increases gradually, reaching a maximum of 10 litres per day between days 15 and 30, then gradually decreases again.

The automatic calf feeder is equipped with a HygieneBox system. For the family, purchasing this system was not an option, but a necessity. The device splashes water on the teat after each calf and automatically performs five washings a day, which keeps the feeder clean at all times. Calves also have access to farm-grown feed, consisting of 31% protein supplements and ground corn, dry hay, and unlimited water in a float waterer.



The Labrecque family with Labrise Dawson Lilystar EX 92. From left to right: Lynda St-Jacques, Vincent Labrecque, Olivier Labrecque and Guy Labrecque.

Weaning

After weaning, calves are transferred to a third pen, located behind the first two. Also on straw bedding, these pens are emptied four times a year. Keeping weaned calves in the same environment reduces stress and provides a more stable diet that is available at all times, thus promoting weight gain at weaning. As part of a student project at ITAQ, Olivier measured a weight gain of 0.9 kg/day before construction. Six months after the new nursery was built, measurements were taken again and showed that the average daily gain had increased by 0.20 kg/day to 1.1 kg/day.

Heifer Breeding

Heifers are grouped into five free stall pens based on age and size. When rotating between pens, the owners always make sure to move animals in groups of at least two to reduce stress and competition with older cows at the feed trough and in stalls. Heifers are fed a silage mixed ration twice a day, with hay and unlimited water.

Heifer Inseminations

When the time comes, at around 13 or 14 months, bred heifers are kept in tie stalls until pregnancy is confirmed. The farm uses artificial insemination, which the owner, Guy Labrecque, has handled himself since 1991. Once they are successfully inseminated, heifers are returned to their free stall pen with the other pregnant heifers. They are fed a silage mixed ration twice a day, with hay and unlimited water.

Calving Preparation

Pre-calving cows are housed four at a time, on straw bedding, in two pens equipped with surveillance cameras. Each newborn calf is isolated in an individual pen. Mothers stay in the calving pen for about three days and are milked there. During construction, the Labrecques installed a second milking system with a small milkhouse separate from the main one. The goal was to be able to milk fresh cows at any time, without having to start the main milking system. And, the cycle begins all over again!



Average Improvement of 600 kg of Milk in First Calvers

The new construction has led to improved production in first-calf cows, which has gone from 10,600 kg to 11,200 kg of milk in total, proving that the modifications are paying off.

Over time, these improvements have greatly enhanced the herd's performance, as shown in the figure to the right. Modern facilities support optimal management of calf development, ensuring healthy, robust calves thanks to a balanced diet and optimized environment.

A Few More Words About the Labrise Herd...

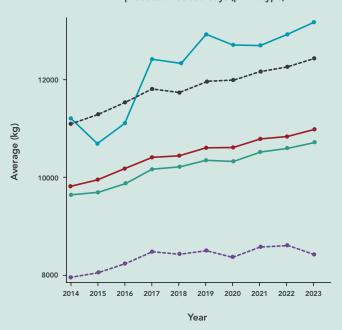
The most influential cow family in the farm's history is the Lily family. Labrise Dawson Lilystar EX 92 comes with eight generations of Very Good and Excellent cows behind her, as well as several cows with an average production of over 100,000 kg. Five generations before her, the Labrecques had their first Excellent cow, Labrise Leduc Lisie. The family entered the herd when Ruis Senator Anne was purchased by Guy's father, in 1981.

Marketing the farm's genetics is also one of the family's objectives, and they regularly invest in improving their herd's diversity. In addition, selling some of their animals not only allows them to offer very good animals to other producers, but also to work with new cow families with the goal of improving the herd.

The farm was once again included in Lactanet's Herd Performance Index (HPI 99) ranking for the eighth year running. Indicators that make up the HPI are Milk Value, Udder Health, Age at First Calving, Calving Interval, Longevity and Herd Efficiency. This acknowledgement reflects the farm's ongoing efforts to maintain and improve the quality of its herd.

Graph: Milk yield trends in the Labrise herd.

Milk production at 305 days (phenotype)







THERE IS AN OPEN CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

Call for National Directors Nominations

There is an open call for nominations for National Directors in the Electoral Districts listed to the right. Nominations will close September 1, 2024. Ballots will be mailed out to all voting members in the districts with more than one candidate by September 15, 2024 and voting closes on October 1, 2024. The criteria for the National Director Eligibility can be found in the Association's By-laws at www.holstein.ca; nomination forms can be obtained from your local Holstein Club, Provincial Branch or by contacting Jodi Zettler at jzettler@holstein.ca or 1-855-756-8300 ext. 229.

Electoral Districts 2024

Quebec at Large

Eastern Ontario



Feeding to Enhance Calf Immunity

By Shannon Cartwright, Holstein Canada Extension and Education Technical Specialist

Calves face a lot of challenges early in life which increases their stress level and their exposure to pathogens. These factors tend to result in greater disease incidence, which leads to increased treatment costs, increased use of antibiotics, and reduced animal welfare. Additionally, more severe disease can result in lasting effects that include permanent tissue damage, reductions in production parameters and reduced feed efficiency.

Therefore, it would be ideal to be able to enhance the immune response to pathogens

in order to clear them quickly from the calf to limit the disease incidence and the pathology associated with pathogens.

Colostrum

One of the key ways to guarantee calves have sufficient immunity at a young age is to ensure they receive an adequate volume of good-quality colostrum at birth. Calves are born with little to no immunity and therefore rely on maternal antibodies and other components in the colostrum to respond effectively to any pathogen they may encounter early in life.

Ensuring calves receive at least 3 to 4 liters of colostrum within the first few hours after birth is extremely important for calf immunity. The gut of calves will start to close about 4 hours after birth, limiting the amount of immunoglobulins every hour that a calf can absorb.



By 12 hours calves have very little absorption, and experience complete gut closure 24 hours after birth. Additionally, the quality of colostrum is also important, as higher quality colostrum will contain higher antibody concentrations. The quality of colostrum can be measured easily on farm using a refractometer. Good quality colostrum will have more than 50 g/L of antibodies which equates to a value of between 18 – 23 on the refractometer. Therefore, feeding enough high-quality colostrum at the appropriate time after birth is a key way of ensuring your calves' overall health. There are however other nutritional strategies that have also been suggested as options to enhance immunity in calves.

Trace Minerals

Another potential strategy to enhance immunity in calves is to supplement with or inject trace minerals, of which the most common in cattle include selenium, copper, zinc, and magnesium. Although trace minerals are only required in small amounts, they play an essential role in immunity. In particular, trace minerals are involved in cell protection, the migration of immune cells to the site of infection, enhancing the killing ability of various immune cells, enhancing antibody response, and reducing inflammation.

Additionally, it has been suggested that calves supplemented with injectable trace minerals have a lower incidence of some of the common health issues observed in calves and can have an enhanced response to vaccinations.

Supplementing with trace minerals has also been indicated as a management strategy to reduce the negative effects associated with stressful events like weaning and mixing with other calves. It has been pointed out that supplementing and/or injecting trace minerals around times of known stress minimizes the negative effects associated with stress.

Vitamins

Fat-soluble vitamins, like vitamins A, D, and E also play a role in enhancing immunity. Calves are typically born deficient in these fat-soluble vitamins and therefore rely on colostrum and milk replacer to supply adequate amounts. It has been indicated vitamins may play a role in enhancing pathogen recognition, recruiting immune cells to the site of infection, communication between immune cells and pathogen killing. Additionally, supplementing with vitamins may also improve overall performance, which is likely a function of the enhanced immunity that is associated with vitamin supplementation.

Probiotics

Supplementation with probiotics has been another nutritional strategy that has been put forward to improve immunity. Probiotics improve gut health, which is associated with enhanced immune function. Supplementing with probiotics may enhance antibody response as well as increases the number of cells that produce antibodies. Specifically, when fed probiotics early in life calves have been shown to have lower incidence of illness and improved weight gain.

It is clear nutrition plays a key role in immunity of calves and therefore it is essential calves receive adequate nutrition, however:

- Since nutrition does play such a key role, this allows for various nutritional strategies to be exploited in order to enhance immunity
- Implementing these nutritional strategies could provide producers with viable options for reducing the negative impacts associated with the various challenges faced early in life
- You should always consult your veterinarian and nutritionist before making any changes to your feeding program.





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

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 20, 2024

Nominations Announcement: December 19, 2024 Results Announcement: December 27, 2024

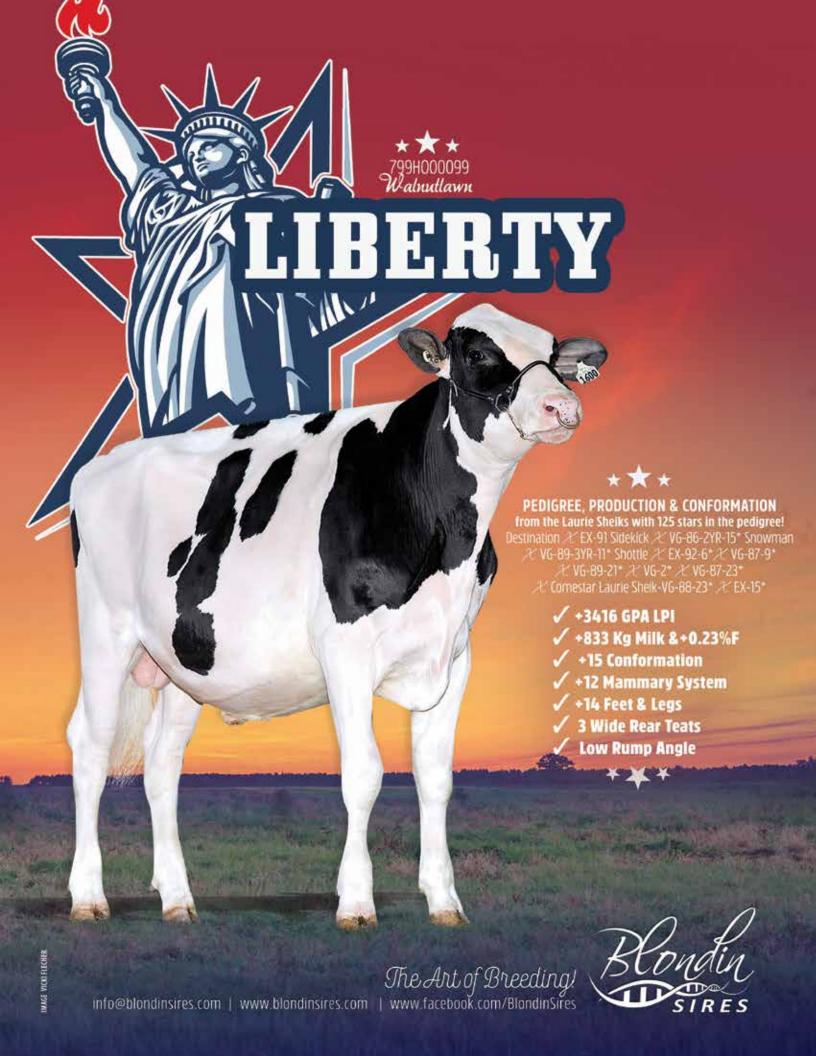
Complete Rules:

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

For more information:

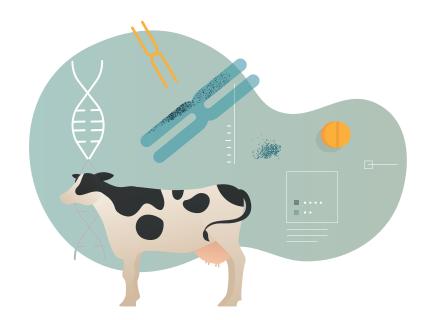
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Genetics of Calf Health

By Shannon Cartwright, Holstein Canada **Education and Extension Technical Specialist**



Your calves play a key role in the success of your dairy herd's future. Top genetic calves are ideally the ones that will enter your milking herd to ensure performance and productivity are maintained on your farm. Therefore, the survival and longevity of these animals is critical. Calves with health problems early in life are at an increased risk of having subsequent health issues and are known to have reduced lifetime milk production.

Today, common management practices include removing calves from dams shortly after birth and housing calves individually to limit exposure to pathogens. However, future changes to the Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Dairy Cattle emphasize group housing for calves early in life, increasing their potential exposure to pathogens. Stressing the importance of calf health in your herd will be essential to contributing to its overall sustainability. Key factors in determining the overall health of your calves include management practices like colostrum management, nutrition, and environmental management, however, genetics can also play a role. In this article, we will focus on how genetics can impact the overall health of your calves and some tools you can use to maintain the health of your replacement animals.

RECESSIVES AND HAPLOTYPES

There are several recessives and haplotypes that affect the survival rate and health of your calves. Recessive disorders such as Brachyspina (BY) and Complex Vertebral Malformation (CVM) result in reduced survival of calves through increased abortion rates, stillbirths, and early embryonic loss. Additionally, several other recessive disorders result in various health conditions that also typically lead to mortality in calves. Cholesterol Deficiency (CD) causes calves to experience chronic diarrhea and severe weight loss, typically eventually leading to death. Citrullinemia (CIT) is a disorder that causes ammonia and other toxins to accumulate in the calves' blood, eventually causing mortality. Most recently Early Onset Muscle Weakness (MW) was identified in the

Holstein population resulting in calves being born that are too weak to stand or walk and eventually succumb to other health issues usually resulting in death. All these described genetic recessive disorders can impact the viability of your replacements and lead to economic losses within your herd.

There are, however, tools available to dairy producers that limit the chance of these recessives and haplotypes showing up in your herd's future offspring. First and foremost, registration and genomic testing are an ideal way to track recessives and haplotypes within your herd and the Holstein population. Genomic testing allows you to identify if your calves are homozygous, carriers, or free of the various recessive disorders and therefore whether

16

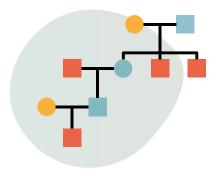
they would have a chance of passing these genes onto future offspring. Registration allows your animals to be linked to the other animals within their pedigree and provides you with the probability that your offspring is a carrier of various haplotypes including cholesterol deficiency and muscle weakness. Additionally, registration allows the haplotype information and recessive information, from genomic testing, to be carried through to future generations providing producers with the tools to manage and limit the rate at which these recessive and haplotypes occur within their herd. Using registration and genomic information in conjunction with mating programs from genetics companies provides an easy and efficient way for producers to avoid matings between carriers. Another tool producers can use to ensure these haplotypes and recessives are not affecting the overall health of their calves is the genetic conditions (GC) column on Lactanet's newly improved inbreeding calculator. Producers can use this tool to determine if the mating of a certain sire and dam is likely to result in an offspring with one of the previously mentioned recessive disorders. In the genetics condition column, of the potential mate, symbols including a stop sign or warning sign will be present if there is a high chance (stop sign) or a possibility (warning sign) of producing an offspring with a genetic condition due to this mating. If the mating has little chance of creating an affected offspring the genetic conditions column will be blank.

SELECTION FOR IMPROVED CALF HEALTH

Thus far we have discussed how to manage known genetic conditions that affect calf health and survival, but can we also improve overall disease incidence in calves genetically? To date, our Canadian genetic evaluations do not include calf health

traits. However, recent research from the University of Guelph has demonstrated the potential for selecting for reduced incidence of respiratory issues and diarrhea in calves (Lynch et al., 2024). Heritability estimates for these calf health traits are similar to heritability estimates for other disease traits currently part of Canadian genetic evaluations and have shown genetic gain over the years when selected for. Additionally, variation in incidence rate, of these calf health traits, is observed within the Canadian female calf population and within the sire population when sires were ranked based on their estimated breeding values for daughter incidence rate. Since this work has shown promise in improving calf health traits through genetic selection, Lactanet recently announced at the Open Industry Session in June that they hope to start including calf health traits in Canadian genetic evaluations in 2025.

Maintaining optimal calf health within your herd is key to long-term sustainability. Management practices play a key role in ensuring optimum calf health, but



as discussed genetics can also play an important role. Genomic testing and registering your animals are an ideal way to minimize and manage the negative impact of recessive disorders in your herd. Additionally, selection for calf health traits in breeding programs could also be an ideal solution for dairy producers in the near future. Ultimately ensuring your calves and replacements are healthy and thriving will ensure continued success within your herd for many years to come!.



Reference: Lynch, C., Schenkel, F. S., van Staaveren, N., Miglior, F., Kelton, D. and C. F. Baes. 2024. Investigating the potential for genetic selection of dairy calf disease traits using management data. J. Dairy. Sci. 107(2):1022-1034.





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The Value of Registration: Benefits of Registering Cattle with Holstein Canada

By Molly McMillan, Holstein Canada Education and Extension Specialist



Holstein Canada stands out in an era of excessive data by providing services that empower farmers to make informed decisions to enhance their herds. Central to these services is registration, which continues to prove to be a valuable tool for farmers. Registration with Holstein Canada offers numerous benefits, including increased marketability, faster genetic progress, controlling inbreeding, effective haplotype management, and improved traceability. These benefits collectively save producers time and money while aiding them in making more informed decisions.

Marketability

One of the foremost benefits of cattle registration is the enhanced marketability of the animals. Registered cattle come with verified parentage and production information, significantly boosting buyer confidence. The integrity of the Herdbook associated with registered animals adds substantial value to their genetics, increasing their overall market value. Buyers are more inclined to invest in animals with documented lineage and performance, ensuring that their purchases are sound and backed by reliable data.

Genetic Progress

In today's competitive dairy market, genetic progress is essential for sustainability and profitability. Continued registration provides full pedigree data allowing this information to feed into genomic breeding values, known birthdates, and herd genetic reports, aiding in strategic management and breeding decisions. This helps producers achieve faster genetic improvements by focusing on selection intensity, accuracy, and variation. By selectively breeding top-performing animals and leveraging comprehensive genetic information, producers can accelerate genetic progress, creating healthier, more productive cows in a shorter time.

Inbreeding Management

Managing inbreeding is an effective way to maintain the health and productivity of a

herd. Even a 1% increase in inbreeding can adversely affect fertility and milk production. Registration provides a detailed lineage of each animal, offering accurate records that are essential for determining inbreeding levels. By understanding these levels, producers can make informed breeding decisions that minimize the risk of inbreeding, and maintain the herd's health and productivity. Accurate inbreeding data allows for strategic breeding practices that enhance the overall genetic quality of the herd.

Managing Haplotypes and Recessives

Haplotypes and genetic recessives can pose significant challenges to cattle producers, leading to issues such as pregnancy losses, stillbirths, and weak calves. Registration is an effective way to track these genetic factors. Registration allows potential carriers of haplotypes to be identified, so producers can avoid mating carriers of the same haplotypes, reducing the incidence of genetic problems. With up-to-date information on haplotypes and recessives, producers can make breeding decisions that enhance the health and viability of their calves. As new haplotypes are continuously added to pedigrees, the value of this information will only increase over time.

Traceability

Traceability is another crucial advantage of cattle registration, particularly in light of compliance with proAction requirements.

Registered cattle have their age verification data automatically submitted to DairyTrace on behalf of the producer. This streamlines the process of meeting regulatory requirements and ensures that traceability data is accurate and readily available. Enhanced traceability not only aids in regulatory compliance but also strengthens biosecurity and disease management efforts within the herd.

Overall Value

Registering cattle is a long-term investment that yields lasting benefits. By effectively managing inbreeding and haplotypes, producers can make decisions that reduce the risk of health issues, saving money in the long run. The verified pedigree of a registered animal provides a wealth of information that enables faster genetic improvements within the herd. Ultimately, registration empowers producers with data and insights that are needed to enhance the genetic quality, marketability, and overall productivity of their cattle.

How to Register

You can register using your web account, the ConneXXion app, on farm software or via hardcopy submitted by fax or mail. If you have any questions or need assistance registering, Holstein Canada's customer service team is always happy to help!



From Ear to App

Efficient Genomic Testing with ConneXXion



Holstein Canada members can now enjoy a more efficient process for registering animals and submitting genomic test samples by using the ConneXXion app in conjunction with a Tissue Sampling Unit (TSU). The TSU collects tissue samples directly from the animal's ear, ensuring reliable and consistent results.

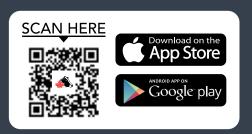
ORDERING AND LINKING TSUS

After ordering TSUs, producers can easily link each sample unit number to the corresponding calf number in the ConneXXion app. This integration simplifies on-farm processing and collection, while also reducing the chances of sample failure compared to hair samples. For herds that purchase ear tags from DairyTrace and wish to test their entire herd, there is an option to order TSUs ear tag combo sets, where the National Lifetime Number on the tag is matched to the serial number on the TSU. In such cases, the TSU numbers will already be pre-loaded into the ConneXXion app, matching the ear tags, and further streamlining the process.

USING THE CONNEXXION APP

To use the ConneXXion app you can download from the app store using your mobile device (phone or tablet)

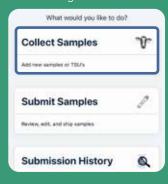
Google Play Store (Android devices) or Apple App Store (Apple devices) or by scanning the QR Code to download ConneXXion app.



XX STEP 1

Once the app is downloaded, you can log into it using your Holstein Canada Web Account username and password and select "Collect Samples."

If you are using tags with TSUs, search tag, TSU, or herd management number.



XX STEP 2

Add a box of TSUs to your inventory by selecting "New Box" or you can also input TSUs individually.



XX STEP 3

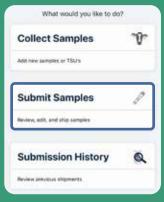
Once the TSUs are in your inventory, you can match each sample to a registered animal by searching for their herd management number.

You can also use Genomic Registration to register the animal and submit their genomic sample number through the app.



XX STEP 4

Submitting Samples: After collecting and entering the TSUs, submit the requests via the ConneXXion app "Submit Samples" tab and mail the samples to Holstein Canada's office for processing. This efficient system saves time and reduces the likelihood of errors, making genomic testing more accessible for producers.







MILESTONES DESERVE CELEBRATION

From humble beginnings in May 1974, Semex's 50-year history is a direct reflection of agriculture's evolution worldwide. Over five decades we have grown from a humble staff of six to over 1800 employees worldwide, proudly representing Semex in over 80 countries. And we have delivered. From the most Millionaire Sires in the industry to breed and trait leaders, and now supplying the real solutions our industry needs for long-term sustainability and profitability, we are stronger than ever. But we're far from done. We're investing, we're growing, we're expanding.

WE HAVE BEEN AND ALWAYS WILL BE GENETICS FOR LIFE.



www.semex.com



From August 28th to September 1st, six young leaders from Canada will represent Our Country at the 22nd edition of the **European Young Breeders' School**. Young enthusiasts from 18 countries are expected in Belgium to perfect their knowledge of the show and breeding world's respectively. This year, our young delegates will again be able to benefit from the support of **Semex** to offer them an enriching experience! You can expect to see news and photos from our delegates on our social media during the week of the competition!



Kyle Vaandrager | LAVENDER Abbotsford, BC



Jordan Hawthorne | BOBMUR Listowel, ON



Sydney Cain | ROVELON Paris, ON



Xavier Labbé | DUHIBOU St-Lambert-de-Lauzon, QC



Juliette Naud | GENO St-Marc-des-Carrières, QC



Sage Yuill | COBEQUID Murray Siding, NS







Holstein Canada's classification program is an important herd management tool for dairy producers.

The classification team, which is responsible for the comprehensive evaluation of an animal's physical structure (phenotype), provides invaluable information that allows producers to make more informed and profitable decisions. Identifying optimal females within herds, outlining emerging herd weaknesses or trends, establishing baselines to measure progress, or simply identifying problem cows, leads to improvements in a herd's overall functional conformation and contributes to an increase in lifetime milk production, longevity, and profit.

As a result, the role of a classifier is of utmost importance and their accuracy when assessing traits is crucial. The current scorecard has 27 traits evaluated on each animal; seven of these traits are measured. They are rump angle, pin width, udder depth, rear attachment height, rear attachment width, teat length, and stature. These measured traits are conducted from reference points that all classifiers use to ensure consistency across the team. Classifiers are equipped in the field with tape measures, rulers, and lasers that help to facilitate their data collection. The right foot and leg are used to collect linear codes for foot angle, heel depth, rear leg side view, and thurl placement. Conversely, the left side of the cow is viewed when assessing loin strength, body depth, and rib structure.

An individual classifier will evaluate close to 12,000 animals each year and their data is compared to that of their colleagues. Uniformity and consistency are key to the program's success, and as a result, all classifiers receive their stats 3-4 times per year. This essentially acts as the classifier's report card outlining areas where they need some

improvement to better align with their colleagues and the targets established by the Classification Advisory Committee.

A key part of the ongoing training process of a classifier is the onfarm workshops held 2-3 times each year.

In May, the entire field team across Canada comes together to spend two days on farm together. Working individually and then in small groups, cows will be evaluated with the results compared across the team to ensure uniformity in the linear traits and measurements. The field teams in Ontario and Quebec will meet two more times during the year repeating the process to ensure accuracy and consistency amongst all classifiers. The workshops also serve as the platform to introduce changes to the scorecard and teach classifiers how best to evaluate these new traits. The most recent changes were in December when locomotion and front leg view became weighted traits instead of just research traits.

On farm workshops are also a great opportunity for the classification team to come together and talk about what they're seeing in the field. From new bulls whose daughters are standing out, to new and innovative technology being utilized on farm, the classification team is well-versed in industry knowledge they've garnered visiting farms across the country.

The classification team today consists of 27 classifiers whose experience ranges from new this year to veterans with 30 years' experience in the field. With a continued commitment to training and support for new colleagues, the classification program will continue to provide accurate, uniform, and consistent evaluations for dairy producers across Canada. 📣



Join us for an udderly exciting experience with

HOLSTEIN CANADA'S

DAIRY YOUTH INITIATIVE

Get ready for fun activities designed to celebrate and support our future dairy farmers. Here's what we have in store for you:



Film the Herd

Capture the beauty and



Dairy Knowledge Quiz



Dairy Youth Farm Profiles

But that's not all! By participating, you also have the chance to win some awesome Holstein Canada swag.

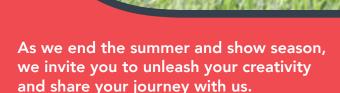














Here are some prompts to get you started:

What led you to choose your show season calf?

Tell us about your favorite Holstein in your barn and what makes her special.

What are some new skills you've acquired while working on the farm this summer?

What is the story behind your favourite cow name in your barn?

Express yourself through a simple text, photo collage, video, or any other creative medium you prefer.

Ready to showcase your project? Simply send it to us via DM on social media or email us at Juniormembers@holstein.ca.

> Make this summer a moo-ving experience to be featured on our social media channels!









Calf Care Conversation with the Young Leaders Advisory Committee

Profiles:

LYSANNE PELLETIER

Prefix: Pellerat

Location: Saint-Roch-des-Aulnaies, QC

Cows Milking: 430

Type of Milking Barn: Freestall with a

rotary milking parlour

KIRSTAN BENNETT

Prefix: Rideauside/Kirlea **Location:** Kemptville, ON **# Cows Milking:** 275

Type of Milking Barn: Freestall, double

12 parlour, 3x milking

MARK SWEETNAM

Prefix: Sweetridge

Location: Stanley, Manitoba

Cows Milking: 360

Type of Milking Barn: Freestall & Bedding Pack, double 12 parlour

What is the setup of your calf housing?

LYSANNE: We have 25 individual pens where heifers are kept for seven days, and the bulls stay until 10 days, then head to auction. After this the heifers are housed in a peat moss bedded nursery in groups (approx 12-15 head) with access to pasteurized whole milk via automatic feeders. The nursery ventilation is negative pressure and we heat it to keep it warm during the colder months, around 12 degrees Celsius.

KIRSTAN: We use a Coverall facility with fans to push and pull air. Single pens are used for newborns. After this they are moved to group pens where we have 10 calves per pen that utilize two Urban calf feeders with four drinking stations. We operate as an all-in all-out system.

MARK: On our operation we have 42 individual stalls in the calf barn and we also utilize hutches.

What is your newborn calf protocol?

LYSANNE: Every calf is vaccinated and the navel is dipped with iodine when they are born. We will use the mother's colostrum if it is over 25 Brix and leucosis negative. Every heifer will receive an intranasal vaccine before joining the bigger group.

KIRSTAN: Taking care of the next generation is always our top priority, so getting colostrum into the calves, with a minimum Brix value of 22%, within the first hour of life is always the goal. Calves are fed "transition" milk for eight feedings and then powdered milk for two feedings before entering their robot pen. Each calf has their own calf sheet where everything is recorded.

MARK: Getting colostrum into the calf is our first priority. We then use a toltrazuril tablet, iodine on the navel, ONCE PMH and Inforce 3. This protocol has proven to work quite well for

If there was one thing you would change about your housing what would that be?

LYSANNE: To have more square foot per head would be the biggest thing we would like to change at this time.

KIRSTAN: Adding in luxury items, such as weigh scales at the feed stations would be something we would like to have to ensure we are meeting our goals on the farm!

MARK: If we could change anything it would be to have a larger calf barn with more individual stalls and group pens for weaned calves. A change to positive pressure ventilation air tubes would also be something we would look to do in the future.

What is the biggest challenge you face on your farm with youngstock and how do you address that?

LYSANNE: During the months that we have increased calvings we find that because we do



not have enough space, we have a harder time keeping the calves 100% healthy. To mitigate this, we try to be proactive with treatment to help avoid these situations. We also focus on health traits within our breeding program to help us achieve better overall results with the calves.

KIRSTAN: The weather! Having a Coverall can have the challenge of the greenhouse effect. The cold sunny days in the winter months can prove to be the toughest. Ensuring the calves are properly bedded twice a week with ample amounts of straw has proven to be the most effective.

MARK: Our biggest challenge is not having enough space in the calf barn. Especially in the winter months, as hutches in Manitoba during that season are not a fun time.

It is evident to see that across our country, space for calves seems to be one of the greatest challenges. With a rise in barn builds and conversions of spaces, it is an excellent time to ask yourself the question: Am I happy with my calf barn? Are there ways I can improve? What can I do to ensure the future of my herd has the best start possible? Sharing information, touring facilities, and asking questions will never go out of style.

Meet Canada's oldest milking registered Holstein

Contributor: Chantel Charette, Holstein Canada Classifier

Harvey Outside Narola EX-8E*5 at 19 years old and 13 lactations. Narola is the picture of longevity that breeders strive for. In her 13 lactations, she has produced over 150,000 kgs of milk. Classifier Chantel Charette discovered Narola on a recent visit to Harvey, located in Alma, Lac-St-Jean, Quebec.

"She has true Canadian dairy strength, chest width, angle, and sweep to her rib cage. Even at 19, she has a strong loin and amazing udder texture, all traits that help with her longevity."

Not only is Narola a prime example of longevity, but she also transmits these traits.



Narola has over 50% of her descendants in the herd, including six direct living descendants.

According to her breeders, René and Eric Harvey, "She loves the pasture and is still queen in the herd, always being the first one into the barn, Narola has never been sick and is currently pregnant for her 14th lactation."

Congratulations to Eric and René Harvey! 📣





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

Based on 1st Lactation Classifications March , April and May 2024

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

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

Sire	Daughters Classified	Avg Daus Score	Avg Dam Score	Sire	Daughters Classified	Avg Daus Score	Avg Dam Score
LEGEND	106	82.83	82.96	MASTER	50	82.96	83.48
VICTOR	118	81.97	82.11	BELIEVE P	46	82.61	83.15
BAROLO SG	160	81.84	82.00	LIMITED P	77	82.48	82.14
A2P2-PP	210	81.80	81.73	RESPECT	34	81.76	81.74
ALONGSIDE	174	81.75	82.11	CRUSH	67	81.76	82.19
HANLEY	122	81.67	81.78	CRUSHABULL	83	81.72	81.83
ILLUSTRATOR-P	204	81.65	81.92	PICASSO-PP	87	81.66	82.22
UNIX	253	81.61	82.21	MANHATTAN	46	81.41	81.70
LUSTER-P	103	81.40	81.20	KINGPIN	39	81.38	82.36
RANDALL	366	81.28	81.67	BRIDGESTONE	32	81.09	81.34

NOTE: Daughters are included in these 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 in a Six-Month Period

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

Sire Name	Daughters Classified	Avg Daus Score	Bull Proof for Conformation*	Sire Name	Daughters Classified	Sire Health & Fertility	Avg Daus Score
ADVANTAGE	50	82.88	5	ALMAMATER	155	677	79.5
PORTAMENTO	10	82.70	5	SPEEDUP-P	744	650	80.5
MAGNETIC	15	82.60	2	TOTEM	335	623	80.7
BLACK MARKET PP	12	82.42	8	ALTAFLASHBACK	168	604	80.1
MOORAND P	10	82.40	10	HEART	200	604	79.8
ALTAZEMINI	11	82.09	1	COCKPIT	293	578	80.6
AUGUSTUS P-RED	12	82.08	5	PORTER	119	578	80.5
BARBARIAN	11	82.00	10	DUMBLEDORE	122	577	79.4
COBRA-P	15	81.87	7	STAMKOS	328	559	79.5
RESET-PP	11	81.55	6	SWINGMAN-RED	265	558	80.3
ENCOURAGER	18	81.50	4				
ROBIN-RED	50	81.30	7				
SEON ALCOVE 1062	10	81.30	3				
WENDON UNPICKED	10	81.00	8				
FRADON Rocky	10	81.00	2				

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

Classification Schedule

Mid-round MR

AUGUST

ON Leeds, Grenville

QC	Yamaska, Drummond	Ĩ
ON QC NL NB NS PE	Lanark, Renfrew Pontiac MR MR MR MR	MID
ON QC	Grey, Bruce Bagot, St-Hyacinthe, Chambly, Richelieu, Vercheres, Rouville	LATE

SEPTEMBER

UN	nuron, Peet, nation, York, Ontario,	
	Peterborough	г
QC	Labelle, Argenteuil, Terrebonne, Deux	7
	Montagnes	ŕ
QC	MR Frontenac, Beauce, Levis,	_
	Dorchester	

ON	Northumberland, Victoria, Simcoe,
	Dufferin

QC	Abitibi, Temiscamingue, Papineau,
	Gatineau, L'Assomption, Maskinonge

Bellechasse

ВС

SK

ON

MR Middlesex, Elgin, Lambton, Essex, Kent Montcalm, Joliette, Berthier, St-

OCTOBER

Maurice

ON	Hastings, Lennox & Addington, Frontenac, Prince Edward	EARLY
QC	Champlain, Laviolette, Portneuf	Ź
QC	MR Montmagny, L'Islet, Kamouraska	7
ON	Waterloo	
QC	Lac St-Jean, Roberval, Lapointe,	≤
	Dubuc, Charlevoix, Chicoutimi	M
QC	MR Kamouraska	
ON	Wellington, Nipissing & Algoma,	
	Timiskaming & Cochrane, Thunder Bay	F
QC	Vaudreuil & Soulanges, Huntingdon,	LATE
	Chateauguay, Beauharnois	

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
PARFECT	51	81.8	467.5	93.0
ALTAREAL MONEY	58	80.0	460.7	103.0
RANGER-RED	81	81.1	455.1	92.0
MANHATTAN	54	81.2	454.9	89.0
NIPIT-PP	58	80.6	451.9	66.0
RENEGADE	101	80.8	450.9	101.0
ALCOVE	297	80.1	449.4	128.0
HELIX	82	80.2	449.2	117.0
2020-P	65	80.9	448.0	57.0
RICOCHET	87	80.4	444.7	101.0

Note: Daughters are included in the statistics if they had their last milk test/lactation termination date beyond March. 1st, 2024.

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

Based on 1st Lactation Classifications March , April and May 2024

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

Sire Name	Daughters Classified	Average Final Score of Daughters	Sire Daugther Fertility
ALMAMATER	155	79.5	109
TOTEM	335	80.7	106
SPEEDUP-P	744	80.5	106
PORTER	119	80.5	106
COCKPIT	293	80.6	105
DELTA	131	80.6	105
HARVEST	192	80.5	105
CRUSH	116	82.2	104
RICOCHET	123	80.2	104
ALTAFLASHBACK	168	80.1	104
HEART	200	79.80	104
LAMBEAU	299	79.6	104
DUMBLEDORE	122	79.40	104

Top 10 Sires for Daughter Calving Ability with 100+ Daughters Classified in Three-Month Period

	8 ,	2 4 4 5 11 11 11 11 11 11 11 11 11 11 11 11 1		
Sire Name	Daughters Classified	Average Final Score of Daughters	Sire Daugther Calving Ability	
ALTAFLASHBACK	168	80.1	108	
CAPONE	183	80.6	107	
PORTER	119	80.5	107	
RICOCHET	123	80.2	107	
PARACHUTE	275	79.9	107	
ALMAMATER	155	79.5	107	
RANDALL	593	81.3	106	
ACTUALLY	142	80.5	106	
GALORE	137	80.4	106	
FERRARO	230	80.3	106	
RUBICON	173	80.1	106	
TROPIC	125	79.9	106	

ENDLESS POSSIBILITIES & ALL POLLED



SILVERCAP LUSTER STILLNESS PP *RC (VG-86) A2A2/AB 2-03 365d 12,867 689 5.4%F 478 3.7%P (274-387-310)

Luster x Bighit P x Loyola-P x former #1 GLPI Brewmaster Swan 15^{th} Gen. VG or EX with 127* back to the Splendors

 $Stillness\ has\ several\ high\ ranking\ PP\ sons\ (R\&W,*RC\ \&*VRC)\ headed\ to\ stud\ by\ Zircon-P\ *VRC,\ Shortcut\ P,\ Eveready-PP\ \&\ Right\ Stuff-PP.$



SILVERCAP AUGUST STELLA PP RED

A2A2/BB • by Augustus P Red #2 GPA LPI RED PP Heifer Red & RC PP sons heading to A.I. Owned by Hi-Bridge Holsteins

CASHCOW L GO ALL IN-PP *RC A1A2/BB • by Logic-PP

A1A2/BB • by Logic-PP #1 CONF. PP FEMALE +15

CASHCOW L BREAD & BUTTER-P A2A2/BB • by Lambda

#4 GPA LPI POLLED LAMBDA

CASHCOW HAS ALL THE MOOLAH-P

A2A2/AB • by Has it All #1 GTPI POLLED HAS IT ALL

CASHCOW HAS ALL THE FORTUNE-P *RC

A2A2/BB • by Has it All #2 GTPI POLLED HAS IT ALL

Her other breed leading daughters:

CASHCOW RS PROSPEROUS PP *RC A2A2/AB • by Right Stuff PP #2 GPA LPI HEIFER >= 1000 kg M & +12 CONF.

CASHCOW A SPENDING SPREE P *RC
A1A2/AB • by Ambrose
#1 CONF. POLLED AMBROSE (TIED)

Stillness' impact on the breed is just beginning to unfold! Contact us to get embryos by the sire of your choice!

CASHCOW GENETICS

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