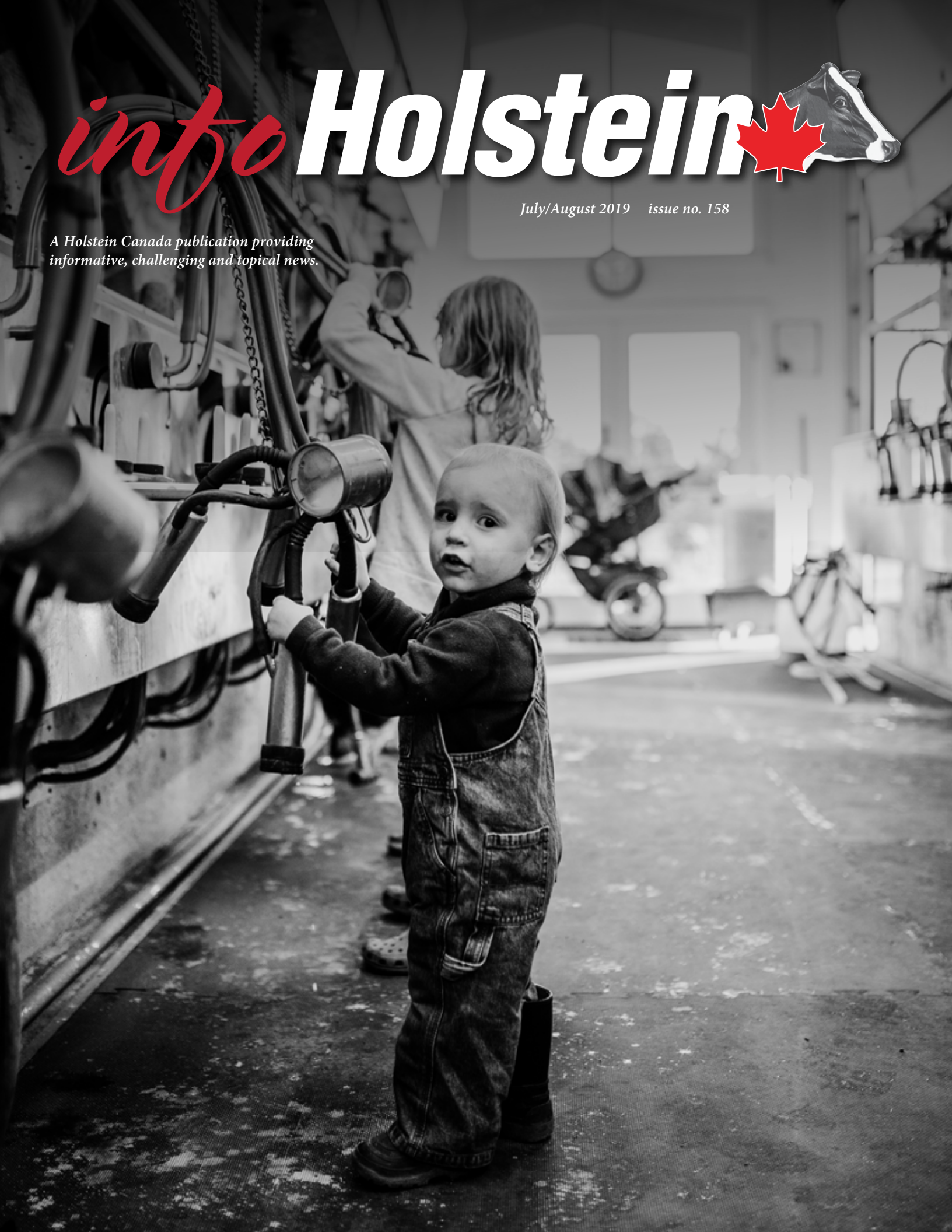


info Holstein

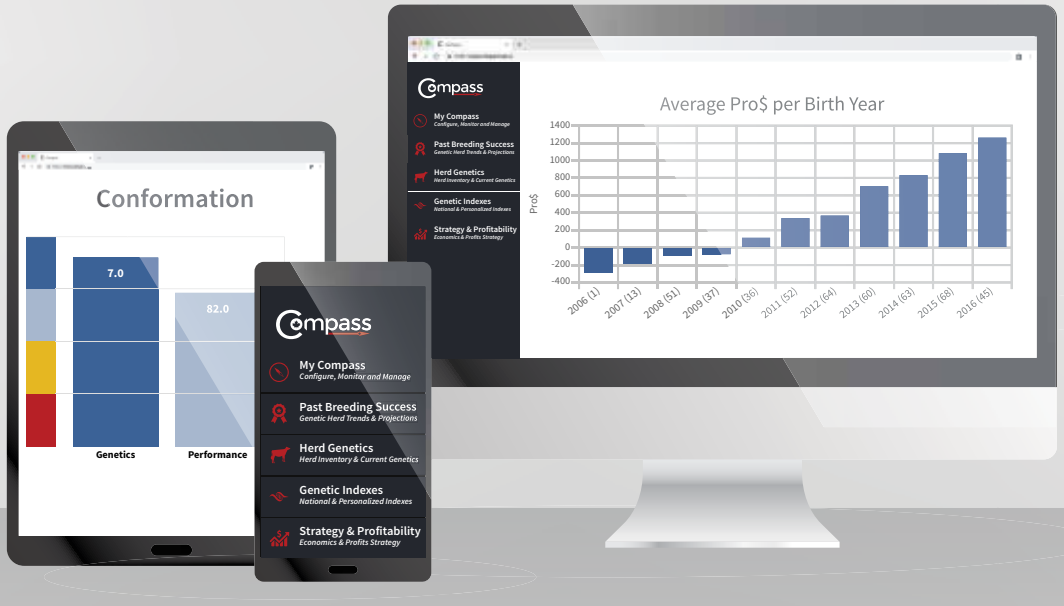
July/August 2019 issue no. 158

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

Take your operation's profit to **the next level** with

Compass

Navigate Your Herd's **Success**



Take the guesswork out of breeding decisions with Compass, the new software from CDN and Holstein Canada.

Compass is a free genetic software that gives producers exclusive access to the most up-to-date genetic information.

Compass shows you your herd's breeding trends, makes projections into the future, and gives you an in-depth look at your current herd's genetics.

The program will suggest actions for each animal, such as genotyping or the use of sexed semen.

Get a higher return on your investment, optimize your genetic strategy, and reach your goals faster with Compass.

A Joint Venture by Réseau laitier canadien Canadian Dairy Network with support from zoetis

info Holstein

July/August 2019
No. 158

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ABOVE: Read all about the Young Leader experience at Convention on page 5; we tell you more about the Master Breeder families on pages 10 - 13; and Janice tells you about all your payment options in the latest Dear Customer Service on page 22!
ON THE COVER: Photo credit: Days Like This Photography

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The pride of membership

ANN LOUISE CARSON | CEO, HOLSTEIN CANADA

SINCE YOU ARE reading this issue of *Info*Holstein, chances are you're a proud Holstein Canada member. However, thanks to technology, our membership communication vehicle is on the Web, making it accessible to non-members. So why be a member?

Because you know we are stronger together. Because being a member gives you access to a prefix – an identity system that makes us who we are. Because you have a sense of belonging. Because Canadian dairy farmers, of all ages, are engaged in their community. Because having a voice matters to you - at the club, provincial and national levels. Because you get member registration rates. Because you can call upon Field Service staff in all provinces. Because our world-recognized logo is YOUR logo, whether on a cap, a mailbox, or a barn.

Your Board of Directors recognizes and celebrates member loyalty. In our current Strategic Plan (see our website), which has a definite business tangent to keep evolving in this changing world, the Board was very clear that the first of the six pillars be "Member Engagement". You are the heart of this association and after all, it is the heart that keeps everything else going!

A special note to our Junior members – some may say your generation is less collective, more individual. From where I stand, I see you proudly working together, whether in 4-H or other agricultural activities. You are inspiring. Check out our web page at www.holstein.ca to learn about the advantages of becoming a Junior member (ages 12-21). Mom and Dad pay very little for theirs – while your membership is free!

I look forward to seeing you at Member activities this summer!

Top Classifying Herds in Canada

Holstein Canada will be publishing the Top 20 Classifying herds based on number of registrations in 2018. Here is a sneak peek at the lists with the Top 5!

Prefix	Farm Name	Class. # - 2018	Avgerage Final Score - 2018	Province	Rank
7-14 REGISTRATIONS PER YEAR:					
ASPIRATION	LYNDON STEWART & ASSOCIATES INC.	6	85.83	ON	1
STERLINGPARK	STERLINGPARK HOLSTEINS	5	85.20	AB	2
CEDARPATCH	CEDARPATCH HOLSTEINS	16	85.19	ON	3
HC05559161	LOGGANLANE HOLSTEINS	7	85.17	ON	4
FRANKHAVEN	FRANKHAVEN HOLSTEINS	7	84.86	ON	5
15-19 REGISTRATIONS PER YEAR:					
ROYAL LYNN	ROYAL LYNN HOLSTEINS	6	85.67	ON	1
DUPASQUIER	OSCAR DUPASQUIER	11	84.82	ON	2
KAWARTHA	KAWARTHA HOLSTEINS	16	84.81	ON	3
DAMESTAR	DAMESTAR HOLSTEIN	14	84.57	QC	4
DUBOSSON	FERME DUBOSSON INC	27	84.52	QC	5
20-24 REGISTRATIONS PER YEAR:					
TRENT VALLEY	TRENT VALLEY HOLSTEINS	12	85.58	ON	1
GLENVUE	GLENVUE HOLSTEINS	13	85.54	ON	2
HC12547691	COLIN & KAREN LEACH	9	85.11	ON	3
RIVER DALE	RIVER DALE HOLSTEINS	14	84.86	ON	4
DENLEE	DENNIS KUEPFER	6	84.83	ON	5
25-29 REGISTRATIONS PER YEAR:					
CLARKVALLEY	CLARKVALLEY HOLSTEINS	17	85.35	ON	1
RALSTON	FERME RALSTON S.E.N.C	12	85.17	QC	2
DELCREEK	PETER RYLAARSDAM	27	85.11	ON	3
FARISVIEW	DALTON J. FARIS	29	85.00	ON	4
MABEL	FERME MAGUY NORMANDIN INC	10	84.80	QC	5
30-39 REGISTRATIONS PER YEAR:					
LOVSHIN	LOVSHIN FARMS LTD	6	85.83	ON	1
LOOKOUT	LOOKOUT HOLSTEINS	13	85.77	QC	2
ROTALY	ROCK HEBERT & NATHALIE DUMAIS	12	85.25	QC	3
KAROLSTEIN	FERME KAVEN GRANDMONT INC	10	85.10	QC	4
MILIBRO	FERME MILIBRO INC	29	84.83	QC	5
40-59 REGISTRATIONS PER YEAR:					
GARAY	GASPAR FILLION	18	85.17	QC	1
MILLBROOKE	ED MEULENDYK	15	85.13	ON	2
ALEAH	ALEAH FARMS LTD	28	84.89	ON	3
SICY	FERME YVON SICARD	37	84.86	QC	4
SKYCREST	SKYCREST HOLSTEINS LTD	34	84.71	AB	5
60+ REGISTRATIONS PER YEAR:					
QUALITY	QUALITY HOLSTEINS	43	86.14	ON	1
BECKRIDGE	BECKRIDGE HOLSTEINS	24	85.50	ON	2
CROVALLEY	CROVALLEY HOLSTEINS	34	85.15	ON	3
WENDON	WENDON HOLSTEINS	34	85.03	AB	4
VOGUE	VOGUE CATTLE CO.	16	84.75	ON	5

A Successful Week in the East!

Written by: Christine Tolhurst, Bilingual Programs Coordinator

THEY SAY THAT APRIL SHOWERS BRING MAY FLOWERS. For rainy Charlottetown, P.E.I., the month also brought 34 Young Leader delegates from across the country for the National Young Leader Convention. Participants came together to hear a variety of speakers, network with fellow breeders and Board members, visit dairy farms across the Island, actively take part in the Annual General Meeting, and experience the magic of the Master Breeder Gala!

The National Young Leader Convention is held in conjunction with Holstein Canada's National Convention, and the group flew in throughout the Tuesday prior to the beginning of the official program. They congregated that evening for the welcome festivities, and this allowed for some casual ice breaking and lots of laughs. A good time was had by all!

The Young Leader program kicked off Wednesday morning with an in-class workshop. The group welcomed speakers Dr. Jodi Wallace DVM, MSC from Ormstown Veterinary Hospital; Chad Mann, CEO of P.E.I. dairy company ADL; Michelle Linington from Holstein Canada's E & E division; and Corey Geiger of *Hoard's Dairyman*. The topics of the day included calf management care, milk processing in niche markets, the upcoming Compass program, and a motivational talk about how every step in your life will help shape your future. Following this intense day of learning, the group had time to visit downtown Charlottetown before our energizing evening activity with the Holstein Canada Board members. Another welcome evening gave the Young Leaders an opportunity to network with other convention participants and industry partners.

The Farm Tours began bright and early Thursday morning, with the Young Leaders visiting four dairy herds and the tulip-and-potato operation Vanco Farms Ltd. Each farm offered unique insights on Island agriculture and dairy production. After viewing the cows, potatoes, and tulips, the Young Leaders headed towards the Eastlink Centre for the chance to visit with producers, experience the National Convention Sale, and make some purchases themselves. To cap off the day, the delegates heard the insightful and knowledgeable Master Breeders from Fleury, Weeberlac and Marsfield discuss the different patterns that lead them to their achievements.

The following morning was a bit more relaxed, giving the Young Leader delegates a chance to sit back and take in the National Convention Show. Throughout the show, the delegates were split into groups, and were guided through the thought process of an official judge when he judges a class. It gave the delegates a chance to ask questions and get up close to the animals. That evening's festivities were much anticipated by the Young Leaders, as the Prohibition Ball required a Thirties-era style that brought out their creative sides!

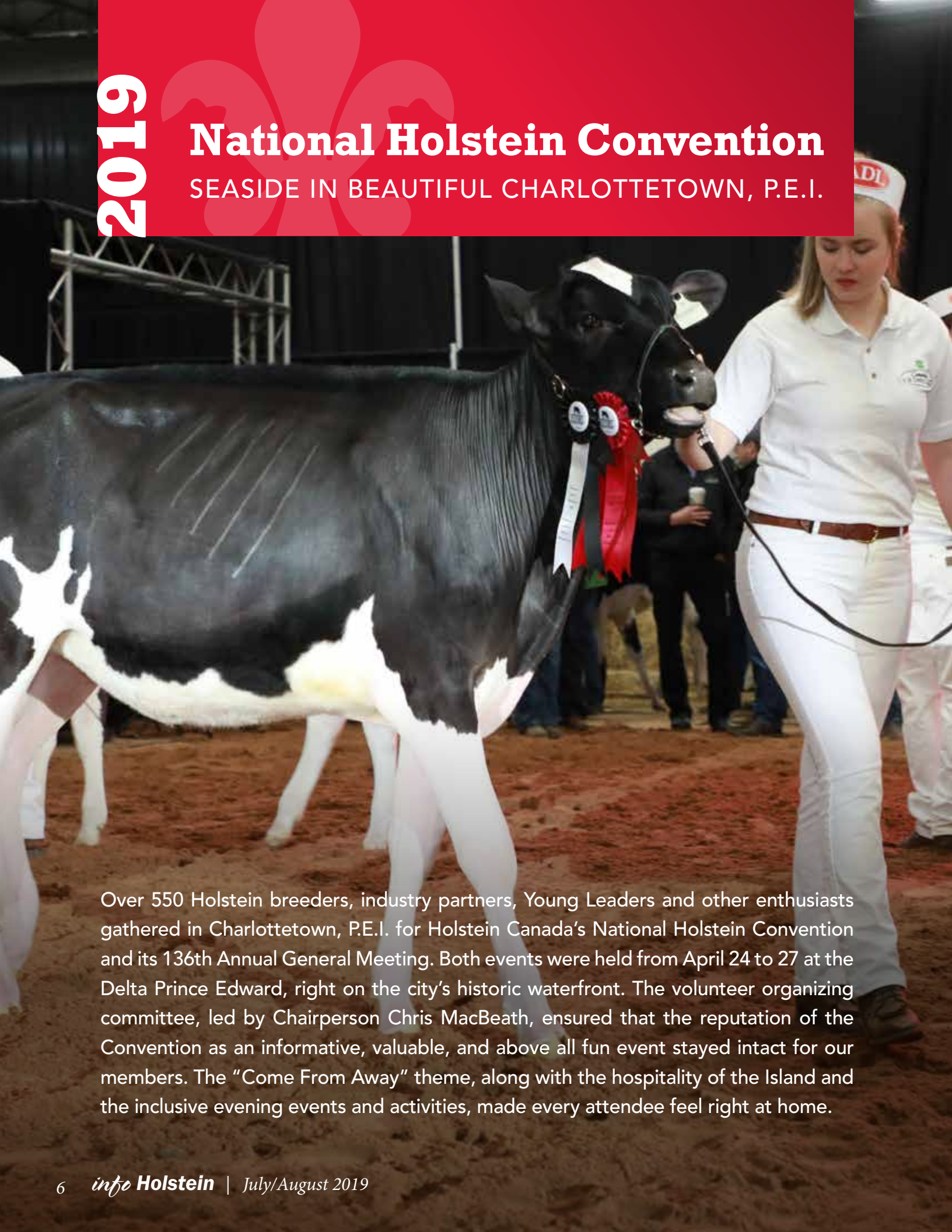
The Annual General Meeting on Saturday, April 27 gave the Young Leaders an opportunity to not just hear topics and discussions relevant to their industry, but to have a say in them, too. New this year, the Young Leaders received the right to vote on Holstein Canada resolutions. Following the meeting, they sat and listened to the Show & Judging panel discuss the topic of show class structure. The group ended the weekend in style with the celebration of the 2018 Master Breeder herds at the Master Breeder Gala.

We would like to give a shout-out to the Branches across the country for selecting and supporting the young dairy enthusiasts who attended this year's Young Leader Convention. The Young Leader Convention program would not be possible without your support, willingness, and abundant enthusiasm. As an indication of the success of the week, more than one Young Leader said it was ''the time of their life''! Thank you!

2019

National Holstein Convention

SEASIDE IN BEAUTIFUL CHARLOTTETOWN, P.E.I.



Over 550 Holstein breeders, industry partners, Young Leaders and other enthusiasts gathered in Charlottetown, P.E.I. for Holstein Canada's National Holstein Convention and its 136th Annual General Meeting. Both events were held from April 24 to 27 at the Delta Prince Edward, right on the city's historic waterfront. The volunteer organizing committee, led by Chairperson Chris MacBeath, ensured that the reputation of the Convention as an informative, valuable, and above all fun event stayed intact for our members. The "Come From Away" theme, along with the hospitality of the Island and the inclusive evening events and activities, made every attendee feel right at home.

Farm Tours, Sale, Show and Festivities

Most attendees arrived on Wednesday; that evening, the Convention organizing committee hosted a Welcome Reception at the Delta, for attendees from all over the country to meet their fellow producers and network. The formal events began on Thursday with the beloved Farm Tours. Convention-goers appreciated the warm welcome from the 12 P.E.I. farms that opened their doors for the day. An alternate trip took attendees to some of P.E.I.'s best attractions, including the coastal fishing village of North Rustico and the P.E.I. National Park, home of Cavendish and Anne of Green Gables. Following the farm tours, most of the attendees headed to the Eastlink Centre in Charlottetown for the National Convention Sale.

Friday's Atlantic Spring Show was the biggest attraction of the day for most of the attendees. Judge Esteban Posada rose to the occasion and did a superb job of placing 131 animals of exceptional quality. The busy day ended with a rebellious spirit, as attendees pulled out their best Jazz Age looks and enjoyed some local brews at the Prohibition Ball, sponsored by EastGen and hosted by the P.E.I. Brewing Company!

Master Breeders Celebrated

The 2019 National Holstein Convention ended with a flourish during the Master Breeder Gala. Glamourous lights and dazzling decorations made this celebration special for the 20 breeders and their families who came to Charlottetown to receive their 2018 Master Breeder shields. Each breeder and their farm was introduced in videos at the Gala, and there was not a dry eye in the house. Congratulations again to the families and breeders who were awarded a 2018 Master Breeder Shield!

Convention Heads West: Pulse of the Prairies 2020

The 2020 Convention Committee warmly invited all Holstein enthusiasts to hear the Pulse of the Prairies and join them next April for the National Holstein Convention in Saskatchewan. Events will be split between Saskatoon and Regina, and more details and the Convention Schedule will be launched on the Holstein Canada website in the fall of 2019!

Resolutions

P = Passed

D = Defeated

The following resolutions were brought forward for consideration at the 2019 AGM. Resolutions 2, 3, 4, 5 a, 5 b, 6, 8, and 9 were passed; resolutions 1 and 7 were defeated.

1. **(D) AWARDS** - Holstein Canada set higher classification criteria so that only VG-85+ animals contribute points towards the Master Breeder Award.

2. **(P) SERVICE FEES** - Holstein Canada review the late registration fee formula so it is fair to all and awards retain their credibility.

3. **(P) SERVICE FEES** - Holstein Canada make the price per extended pedigree discounted for bulk orders for Holstein Canada members, with a bulk order of 30 pedigrees or more reducing the price from $10 per pedigree to $5 per pedigree.

4. **(P) TAGS** - Holstein Canada find an acceptable solution to the problem of ear tags breaking and/or falling out.

5. **(P) A) INDUSTRY DISCUSSIONS** - Holstein Québec and Holstein Canada put pressure on Valacta to reduce their costs related to using milk recording services over the next year.

   (P) B) INDUSTRY DISCUSSIONS - Milk recording find quick and achievable solutions to deliver a service adapted to clients using daily data collection systems in order to collectively retain members and to keep the importance of being able to compare themselves to others.

6. **(P) INDUSTRY DISCUSSIONS** - Holstein Canada work with the various relevant organizations to update and modernize data collection from robotic systems with the goal of promptly providing an official milk recording option that is publishable.

7. **(D) INDUSTRY DISCUSSIONS** - Holstein Québec and Holstein Canada put pressure on Ciaq and Semex Alliance to stop the gene editing project to create polled animals.

8. **(P) INDUSTRY DISCUSSIONS** - Holstein Québec and Holstein Canada make the necessary recommendations to CDN to keep the DGV Index available, as dairy producers never asked for it to be removed.

9. **(P) TECHNOLOGY** - Holstein Canada develop an app to allow easier registration of animals.

The complete proposed resolutions are available on the Holstein Canada website.

MASTER BREEDERS CELEBRATED

To put the cherry on top of Convention week, more than 500 people came out to celebrate the 2018 Master Breeder recipients with a flourish at the Gala! As in past years, the evening was dedicated to recognizing those breeders who have achieved the high honour of Master Breeder of the Holstein breed. Congratulations again to the families and individuals who received their Shields in 2018!

Why we're proud to have received this shield:

In the past two years, instead of reading bios at the Gala, we visited each of the winning farms and created videos; these videos are available for viewing on Holstein Canada's YouTube channel. For this issue, we have made available some fast facts on each of the 2018 Master Breeder recipients and what the Master Breeder award means to them.

BENCO

We always did what was best for the cows. Sometimes that's not what you want to do when you just want that extra hour of sleep, but it's something that we love and don't really look at it as work. For our own kids, they'll always have that, that their dad and grandpa loved what they did for work and were rewarded for it from the industry.

Of the 983 females born between 1999 and 2014 …

CLASSIFICATION	
GP 83-84	87
VG	336
EX or Multiple EX	87
LIFETIME PRODUCTION	
60,000 to 79,999	48
80,000 to 99,999	7
100,000+ kg	2

STAR BROOD		
1*: 16	2*or 3*: 17	4*+: 1
CURRENT CLASSIFICATION		
EX 27	VG 92	GP 44
HERD AVERAGE (140)		
11,498 kg M	448 kg 3.9 F%	
374 kg 3.3 P%		
BCAs		
254	268	260

BRABANTDALE

To win the Master Breeder award means everything. It just goes to show what hard work can do. We know we have been doing things the right way for the longest time and we've been working hard at it, but just to have this award goes to show that it's all worth it in the end.

Of the 512 females born between 2001 and 2014 …

CLASSIFICATION	
GP 83-84	53
VG	207
EX or Multiple EX	31
LIFETIME PRODUCTION	
60,000 to 79,999	32
80,000 to 99,999	10
100,000+ kg	3

STAR BROOD		
1*: 12	2* or 3*: 10	4*+: 8
CURRENT CLASSIFICATION		
EX 4	VG 46	GP 97
HERD AVERAGE (223)		
10,669 kg M	426 kg 4.1 F%	
334 kg 3.2 P%		
BCAs		
245	264	241

BROOKVILLA

I'm very proud to win. It makes all the hard work and dedication you put into farming every day worth it. It's a lot easier to wake up at five o'clock in the morning and milk cows like these.

Of the 645 females born between 1999 and 2014 …

CLASSIFICATION	
GP 83-84	64
VG	217
EX or Multiple EX	82
LIFETIME PRODUCTION	
60,000 to 79,999	35
80,000 to 99,999	12
100,000+ kg	3

STAR BROOD		
1*: 10	2*or 3*: 15	4*+:
CURRENT CLASSIFICATION		
EX 20	VG 61	GP 26
HERD AVERAGE (83)		
11,139 kg M	467 kg 4.2 F%	
360 kg 3.2 P%		
BCAs		
244	275	247

CALBRETT

Albert looked for the perfect, well-balanced, modern kind of cow. He was always staying up to date with the modern kind of breeding. To get the Master Breeder is quite an accomplishment. Especially with him moving cattle like he did.

Of the 336 females born between 1999 and 2014 …

CLASSIFICATION	
GP 83-84	26
VG	109
EX or Multiple EX	20
LIFETIME PRODUCTION	
60,000 to 79,999	7
80,000 to 99,999	6
100,000+ kg	

STAR BROOD		
1*: 14	2*or 3*: 7	4*+: 12

1 Superior Production Sire, 2 Superior Type Sire and 1 Class Extra Sire

CARROLLVIEW

To me, the Shield signifies a lifetime of hard work and dedication and I'm honoured to get it. What's next at Carrollview Holsteins? I guess it's business as usual. We still haven't got a Royal winner.

Of the 365 females born between 1999 and 2014 …

CLASSIFICATION	
GP 83-84	53
VG	131
EX or Multiple EX	23
LIFETIME PRODUCTION	
60,000 to 79,999	27
80,000 to 99,999	8
100,000+ kg	

STAR BROOD		
1*: 5	2*or 3*: 8	4*+: 1
CURRENT CLASSIFICATION		
EX 9	VG 42	GP 22
HERD AVERAGE (43)		
9552 kg M	387 kg 4.1 F%	
309 kg 3.2 P%		
BCAs		
196	215	200

DARIDELITE

We feel that the Lord has truly blessed us. Being the third herd, it's just been incredible. It is a life goal that I've met.

Of the 655 females born between 1999 and 2014 …

CLASSIFICATION	
GP 83-84	85
VG	241
EX or Multiple EX	57
LIFETIME PRODUCTION	
60,000 to 79,999	29
80,000 to 99,999	8
100,000+ kg	5

STAR BROOD		
1*: 13	2* or 3*: 11	4*+: 1
CURRENT CLASSIFICATION		
EX 14	VG 89	GP 68
HERD AVERAGE (157)		
10,782 kg M	438 kg 4.1 F%	
344 kg 3.2 P%		
BCAs		
239	262	240

FLEURY

One thing I am very proud of is that 35% of the points for this Shield came from animals that we sold to other producers in the region, or even elsewhere in Canada… This is why having the honour of being Master Breeder makes us twice as happy, because our animals continue to perform beyond our farm.

Of the 678 females born between 2001 and 2014 …

CLASSIFICATION	
GP 83-84	75
VG	222
EX or Multiple EX	42
LIFETIME PRODUCTION	
60,000 to 79,999	47
80,000 to 99,999	16
100,000+ kg	8

STAR BROOD		
1*: 12	2*or 3*: 13	4*+: 11
CURRENT CLASSIFICATION		
EX 20	VG 59	GP 33
HERD AVERAGE (81)		
11,511 kg M	464 kg 4.0 F%	
387 kg 3.4 P%		
BCAs		
256	278	270

2 Superior Production Sire, 4 Superior Type Sire, 1 Class Extra Sire

FRONT VIEW

Being a Master Breeder today has always been one of my dreams. For me, being a Master Breeder is like winning the Stanley Cup.

Of the 783 females born between 1999 and 2014 …

CLASSIFICATION	
GP 83-84	65
VG	185
EX or Multiple EX	28
LIFETIME PRODUCTION	
60,000 to 79,999	85
80,000 to 99,999	30
100,000+ kg	16

STAR BROOD		
1*: 18	2*or 3*: 16	4*+: 1
CURRENT CLASSIFICATION		
EX 24	VG 140	GP 66
HERD AVERAGE (180)		
14,058 kg M	564 kg 4.0 F%	
447 kg 3.2 P%		
BCAs		
305	330	306

GERANN

We are thrilled to get the award and I think it means a lot. It carries a lot of weight with producers and with the farmers and so that makes it extra meaningful.

Of the 1261 females born between 1999 and 2014 …

CLASSIFICATION	
GP 83-84	122
VG	370
EX or Multiple EX	57
LIFETIME PRODUCTION	
60,000 to 79,999	59
80,000 to 99,999	10
100,000+ kg	6

STAR BROOD		
1*: 32	2*or 3*: 28	4*+: 1
CURRENT CLASSIFICATION		
EX 27	VG 127	GP 119
HERD AVERAGE (249)		
11,919 kg M	484 kg 4.1 F%	
386 kg 3.2 P%		
BCAs		
264	289	269

HAMMING

To win our Master Breeder was really rewarding. It was kind of like all the really hard work the boys put in finally has paid off after all these years. And as we are moving on to the next chapter of our new farm, it was really a great feeling.

Of the 975 females born between 1999 and 2014 …

CLASSIFICATION	
GP 83-84	91
VG	250
EX or Multiple EX	72
LIFETIME PRODUCTION	
60,000 to 79,999	82
80,000 to 99,999	23
100,000+ kg	8

STAR BROOD		
1*: 7	2*or 3*: 15	4*+: 5
CURRENT CLASSIFICATION		
EX 37	VG 102	GP 30
HERD AVERAGE (146)		
11,699 kg M	507 kg 4.3 F%	
386 kg 3.3 P%		
BCAs		
254	296	265

JOLIBOIS

For me, the Master Breeder title is the ultimate reward as a breeder. It took us many years of work to achieve it. We have been able to do so by developing good cow families with wise breeding choices. It is like being inducted into the Canadian Breeders Hall of Fame.

Of the 609 females born between 1999 and 2014 …

CLASSIFICATION	
GP 83-84	56
VG	176
EX or Multiple EX	87
LIFETIME PRODUCTION	
60,000 to 79,999	39
80,000 to 99,999	15
100,000+ kg	1

STAR BROOD		
1*: 10	2*or 3*: 13	4*+: 14
CURRENT CLASSIFICATION		
EX 45	VG 38	GP 0
HERD AVERAGE (61)		
10,049 kg M	402 kg 4.0 F%	
322 kg 3.2 P%		
BCAs		
215	233	218

KENNETCOOK

We (Dallas and Murray) don't plan to slack off and we hope to keep modernizing our farm and work with the good base we have. Who knows, someday maybe there'll be another Shield for our family.

Of the 251 females born between 1999 and 2014 …

CLASSIFICATION	
GP 83-84	22
VG	72
EX or Multiple EX	17
LIFETIME PRODUCTION	
60,000 to 79,999	21
80,000 to 99,999	7
100,000+ kg	1

STAR BROOD		
1*: 2	2*or 3*: 6	4*+: 2
CURRENT CLASSIFICATION		
EX 6	VG 29	GP 16
HERD AVERAGE (35)		
13,929 kg M	566 kg 4.1 F%	
448 kg 3.2 P%		
BCAs		
296	324	299

MARFLOACRES

Of the 443 females born between 1999 and 2014 …

CLASSIFICATION	
GP 83-84	39
VG	141
EX or Multiple EX	58
LIFETIME PRODUCTION	
60,000 to 79,999	19
80,000 to 99,999	6
100,000+ kg	0

STAR BROOD		
1*: 4	2*or 3*: 10	4*+:
CURRENT CLASSIFICATION		
EX 19	VG 38	GP 21
HERD AVERAGE (57)		
11,856 kg M	445 kg 3.8 F%	
385 kg 3.2 P%		
BCAs		
267	269	272

MARSFIELD

When I first knew, I was excited, but then I read it in the newspaper and was like, "Oh my gosh! This is a big thing!" I think it's pretty cool to win the award your first year.

Of the 1748 females born between 1999 and 2014 …

CLASSIFICATION	
GP 83-84	168
VG	326
EX or Multiple EX	44
LIFETIME PRODUCTION	
60,000 to 79,999	118
80,000 to 99,999	41
100,000+ kg	16

STAR BROOD		
1*: 19	2*or 3*: 23	4*+: 3
CURRENT CLASSIFICATION		
EX 21	VG 127	GP 126
HERD AVERAGE (232)		
14,503 kg M	606 kg 4.2 F%	
457 kg 3.2 P%		
BCAs		
321	362	318

MISTY SPRINGS

I think it's something that we didn't think would happen, especially since we sold the cows in 2017. To get that call was pretty amazing for me, as I was not expecting it!

Of the 260 females born between 2001 and 2014 …

CLASSIFICATION	
GP 83-84	29
VG	121
EX or Multiple EX	12
LIFETIME PRODUCTION	
60,000 to 79,999	4
80,000 to 99,999	2
100,000+ kg	

STAR BROOD		
1*: 5	2*or 3*: 19	4*+: 17

2 Superior Production Sire, 4 Superior Type Sire, 1 Class Extra Sire

OKADALE

The second shield, fourteen years later, is mainly the result of continuity in our herd. We are pleased that our cow families are standing out enough to receive this honour a second time. We saw good results in production, conformation and milk quality, which makes us very proud of our herd.

Of the 295 females born between 2001 and 2014 …

CLASSIFICATION	
GP 83-84	54
VG	72
EX or Multiple EX	17
LIFETIME PRODUCTION	
60,000 to 79,999	23
80,000 to 99,999	13
100,000+ kg	3

1 Superior Production Sire

STAR BROOD		
1*: 7	2*or 3*: 5	4*+: 3
CURRENT CLASSIFICATION		
EX 7	VG 17	GP 23
HERD AVERAGE (37)		
12,512 kg M	525 kg 4.2 F%	
407 kg 3.3 P%		
BCAs		
279	316	286

RED OAK

It's an honour to receive an award that is based on the things that we have been focused on: good classifying cows with good production, good health, and longevity. It was never our top priority; the fact that we are being recognized with the Master Breeder Shield for having done things the way we wanted to do them is an honour.

Of the 291 females born between 1999 and 2014 …

CLASSIFICATION	
GP 83-84	32
VG	126
EX or Multiple EX	16
LIFETIME PRODUCTION	
60,000 to 79,999	17
80,000 to 99,999	6
100,000+ kg	1

STAR BROOD		
1*: 9	2*or 3*: 6	4*+: 1
CURRENT CLASSIFICATION		
EX 8	VG 33	GP 27
HERD AVERAGE (60)		
11,004 kg	431 kg 3.9 F%	
344 kg 3.1 P%		
BCAs		
256	270	251

RODVEIL

Receiving the Master Breeder title is a great source of pride; it is the culmination of several years of hard work from our entire family. I think it is every farmer's dream to become a Master Breeder. It was Dany's dream. Thank you, Dany, for continuing the work we started. We are proud of you.

Of the 518 females born between 1999 and 2014 …

CLASSIFICATION	
GP 83-84	56
VG	167
EX or Multiple EX	26
LIFETIME PRODUCTION	
60,000 to 79,999	24
80,000 to 99,999	1
100,000+ kg	

STAR BROOD		
1*: 7	2*or 3*: 10	4*+: 3
CURRENT CLASSIFICATION		
EX 12	VG 48	GP 30
HERD AVERAGE (69)		
13,007 kg M	518 kg 4.0 F%	
425 kg 3.3 P%		
BCAs		
283	304	291

SPRUCECHO

I think it's more exciting than the first time. It's not getting any easier to win these things; everybody has good herds and we are really proud we have done it again. It makes me honoured that our farm and our family, with our small herd, has been able to win four of these things. Now that the cows have moved on, I hope that some of those cows help some other families do the same thing

Of the 436 females born between 1999 and 2014 …

CLASSIFICATION	
GP 83-84	45
VG	115
EX or Multiple EX	63
LIFETIME PRODUCTION	
60,000 to 79,999	33
80,000 to 99,999	4
100,000+ kg	4

STAR BROOD		
1*: 4	2* or 3*: 14	4*+: 3
HERD AVERAGE (55)		
9,627 kg M	378 kg 3.9 F%	
318 kg 3.3 P%		
BCAs		
223	243	231

WEEBERLAC

People that are aiming to get a Master Breeder Shield, it's theirs for the taking. If you've got the passion for the cows and the love of agriculture, you can do whatever you put your mind to. We did it as a team effort; everyone had their part. If you do a good job, you'll be rewarded down the road and this is like the Stanley Cup.

Of the 187 females born between 1999 and 2014 …

CLASSIFICATION	
GP 83-84	23
VG	56
EX or Multiple EX	15
LIFETIME PRODUCTION	
60,000 to 79,999	8
80,000 to 99,999	
100,000+ kg	

STAR BROOD		
1*: 2	2*or 3*: 4	4*+:
CURRENT CLASSIFICATION		
EX 7	VG 25	GP 5
HERD AVERAGE (31)		
13,862 kg M	510 kg 3.7 F%	
458 kg 3.3 P%		
BCAs		
313	310	324

WOODBRIDGE

It was pretty exciting. I knew we were close but, at the same time, you're not waiting beside the phone. You don't know where everybody else is so it felt good to know that we made it to where we've been aiming the last few years.

Of the 159 females born between 1999 and 2014 …

CLASSIFICATION	
GP 83-84	9
VG	66
EX or Multiple EX	18
LIFETIME PRODUCTION	
60,000 to 79,999	11
80,000 to 99,999	2
100,000+ kg	

STAR BROOD		
1*: 2	2*or 3*: 3	4*+: 2
CURRENT CLASSIFICATION		
EX 9	VG 32	GP 10
HERD AVERAGE (40)		
10,546 kg M	385 kg 3.7 F%	
332 kg 3.2 P%		
BCAs		
225	222	223

WHAT WAS YOUR LOWEST SCC? The lowest I could find was 62, but we usually average between 80-115.

HOW DID YOU ACHIEVE YOUR LOW SCC? We focus on keeping our stalls full of clean, dry bedding as well as making sure everyone is trained properly in our pre- and post-milking routines which make sure cows are cleaned properly prior to milking and fully dipped after. We created a protocol for dealing with high count animals and we make sure to follow this diligently so we do not get behind on managing them.

DID YOU MAKE A LOW SCC A PRIORITY? Low SCC has always been a priority for cow health and milk quality and will always be something we focus on.

WHAT KIND OF HEALTH MEASURES DID YOU PUT IN PLACE? Using a mastitis vaccine as well as culturing clinical mastitis cows on-farm and subclinical cows through the lab to ensure proper treatments are being giving.

WHAT CHALLENGES DID YOU FACE ACHIEVING THIS? The timing for vaccinations was something we had to work into our schedule to make sure they were getting them at the correct days prior to calving. Also making sure we culture cows ASAP to get them treated sooner rather than later.

WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE A FARMER TRYING TO ACHIEVE A LOW SCC? While cleanliness is a huge

factor in keeping SCC low for the overall herd, staying on top of those high count animals and creating a protocol to manage them is important.

DO YOU HAVE ANY PLANS FOR EXPANSION OR MODIFICATION IN YOUR HERD IN THE FUTURE? Within the last seven years we've expanded our barn, put in an automated feeding system and a carrier rail for our milkers, and upgraded our milking units. Currently we are focused on continuing to be an efficient herd with no immediate plans for any changes.

WHAT DO YOU LIKE AND DISLIKE ABOUT YOUR CURRENT OPERATION AND WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO CHANGE IF YOU COULD? Being a tie-stall, we like being able to closely monitor individual cow health on a daily basis; however, having the ability to automate more aspects in the barn would be beneficial and is something we may consider in the future.

FARM PROFILE

Low SCC Levels

Kessel Family Farm

Balgonie, Saskatchewan

By Morgan Sangster, Holstein Canada Field Service Business Partner

PREFIX: KESSEL

PEOPLE INVOLVED: Ray & Cecilia Kessel with their adult children Amanda, Brendan and Shaun

 # OF YEARS AS A HOLSTEIN CANADA MEMBER: Since 1983

 # OF COWS MILKED: 120

 # OF ACRES FARMED: 3000 acres of grains, forages and custom

FACILITY TYPE: Tie-stall

HERD PRODUCTION AVERAGE (L/cow): 40L/cow

HERD CLASSIFICATION: 1ME, 3EX, 65VG, 70GP, 12G

WHAT IS YOUR FEEDING SYSTEM? We use a Rovibec automated feeding system to mix the TMR ration and a Rovibec robot feeds the TMR to the milking herd.

ARE THERE OTHER BREEDS IN YOUR HERD? No

HOLSTEIN CANADA SERVICES USED (OTHER THAN REGISTRATION): Classification

FARM PROFILE

Low SCC Levels

Heidi Farms Inc.

Bainsville, Ontario

By Merina Johnston, General Manager Ontario Holsteins

PREFIX: HEIDI FARM

PEOPLE INVOLVED: Paul Sr., Paul Jr., Walter, Benjamin, David **and Michael Oeggerli**

 # OF YEARS AS A HOLSTEIN CANADA MEMBER: 34 years

 # OF COWS MILKED: 320

 # OF ACRES FARMED: 1000

FACILITY TYPE: Free-stall

HERD PRODUCTION AVERAGE (L/cow): 39

HERD CLASSIFICATION: 1 ME, 3 EX, 63 VG, 156 GP

WHAT IS YOUR FEEDING SYSTEM? TMR

ARE THERE OTHER BREEDS IN YOUR HERD? No

HOLSTEIN CANADA SERVICES USED (OTHER THAN REGISTRATION): Classifying

WHAT WAS YOUR LOWEST SCC? Annual average under 100,000 since 2014.

HOW DID YOU ACHIEVE YOUR LOW SCC? Unfortunately, there's no secret formula. Just doing a lot of little things right. We focus on two areas: the milking parlour and cow environment. In the parlour, we make sure our settings are all where they're supposed to be and that the udders are as clean as possible before the units go on. Out in the barn we try to keep our stalls as clean and dry as possible. We clean them every milking (three times a day) and dust them with lime three times a week. Our alley scrapers run 24 hours a day to keep the cows from splashing manure on their udders. Quiet cow handling also goes a long way in keeping the cows clean and making milking a stress-free experience for them.

DID YOU MAKE A LOW SCC A PRIORITY? Our priority is to produce high volumes of quality milk from healthy cows. So our priority is to minimize clinical cases of mastitis which leads to low SCC. We strive to have 50% of our herd at third lactation and greater, so reducing mastitis cases goes a long way in helping us keep our older cows in production.

WHAT KIND OF HEALTH MEASURES DID YOU PUT IN PLACE? We have noticed our udder health improved when we switched to the GEA IQ units. We have soapy water in the parlour so the milkers can frequently wash their hands. At dry off, we use a dry-cow treatment and a teat sealant. SCC and mastitis resistance are important traits that we consider when selecting bulls; we look for high kgs of combined fat and protein balanced with strong health traits like high herd life, strong daughter fertility, and, as mentioned, low SCC and high mastitis resistance. We just look for a decent udder and low stature. One trait we would like to continue working on is stature. We would like to see our cows come in with a consistent medium frame. Larger cows are less feed efficient and have longevity issues in our older facility.

WHAT CHALLENGES DID YOU FACE ACHIEVING THIS? Supplies of teat sealant were low recently and we noticed an increase in mastitis with fresh cows calving in without teat sealant. It reinforced our belief that it is an important protocol for achieving great udder health. Udder health is also always more of a challenge in summer when the cows are dealing with heat stress.

WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE A FARMER TRYING TO ACHIEVE A LOW SCC? Don't overthink it. Keep your protocols and milking procedure simple enough that it will actually get carried out on a daily basis.

DO YOU HAVE ANY PLANS FOR EXPANSION OR MODIFICATION IN YOUR HERD IN THE FUTURE? If quota is available, we would like to expand our herd.

WHAT DO YOU LIKE AND DISLIKE ABOUT YOUR CURRENT OPERATION AND WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO CHANGE IF YOU COULD? Our barn is 15% overcrowded and 30 years old. Not all aspects measure up to today's modern dairy facilities in terms of cow comfort. It would be nice to spoil our fresh cows and mature cows in a new barn that is less crowded and more spacious.

WHAT WAS YOUR LOWEST SCC? Our lowest SCC levels are 38,000/ml per month and 46,000/ml per year.

HOW DID YOU REACH YOUR LOW SCC? Our philosophy has always been that in order to achieve low SCC levels, the cows must have a good conformation and be functional. In other words, they must have good feet and legs to reduce the risk of teat injuries, a good udder texture and ideal teat positioning to ensure proper milking. Our mammary systems average 85.7 points, which proves that we rely heavily on this aspect of conformation. It is important to keep an eye on the SCC genetic index, but the functionality of the cows has a huge impact. Giving our cows properly-sized stalls helps them stay clean. We therefore have stalls of different sizes to be able to adapt to the animal's size. The key is to provide a clean and dry litter as well as a comfortable environment.

DID YOU MAKE A LOW SCC A PRIORITY? We decided to focus more on SCC a few years ago because of the attractive premiums offered by the Federation. Our objective has always been to have good longevity in our herd. By having low SCC levels, we never cull for mastitis, a major cause of culling in Quebec. In addition, mastitis cases cause you to lose money and time to treat the cows. Furthermore, the reputation of the quality of our milk allows us to sell a few animals each year.

WHAT KIND OF HEALTH MEASURES DID YOU PUT IN PLACE? In order to always have a good SCC average, we milk our cows in a certain order. We milk our first-calf heifers first. Cows we suspect having high SCC levels or who are displaying mastitis symptoms are automatically milked last. Each year, we carry out a full inspection of the milking system, which allows us to identify any issues we may have. As the saying goes, "an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure." The people in charge of milking always wear gloves. We spray and wash the teats with wet wipes before the milking machine is installed. To reduce the risk of transmission, we use a sprayable post-milking teat dip. Finally, we give them dry and ample litter twice a day.

WHAT CHALLENGES HAVE YOU FACED? Having low SCC levels has always been one of our priorities. Our daily efforts are a part of our daily challenges to meet our goals. After calving, we test each of our cows with the California Mastitis Test (CMT) to ensure that the quality of their milk is optimal. One tool that is very useful for us is our extranet on the Producteurs de lait du Québec website. We know the SCC composition for each delivery and as a result, we can detect any abnormal increases and where the problem is located, to be able to resolve it as quickly as possible.

WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE A FARMER TRYING TO ACHIEVE A LOW SCC?

The easiest is to provide a list of advice:

1. Milk recording is a tool that allows us to know the SCC status of each cow. This allows us to better establish the order in which we milk our cows.

2. Providing a comfortable and dry environment to our animals.

3. Inspecting the milking system on a regular basis can help detect problems that could affect achieving low SCC levels.

4. Forestripping using a strip cup is a good visual technique to assess the status of each cow.

5. Wearing milking gloves.

6. Using a post-milking teat dip to avoid spreading pathogens.

DO YOU HAVE ANY PLANS FOR EXPANSION OR MODIFICATION IN YOUR HERD IN THE FUTURE? Due to lack of space, all our replacement animals between 10 and 24 months of age are currently boarded from November to May. We plan to expand the existing barn to accommodate the next generation on our farm. The animals are very well cared for, but it comes down to logistics efficiency.

WHAT DO YOU LIKE AND DISLIKE ABOUT YOUR CURRENT OPERATION AND WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO CHANGE IF YOU COULD? Having a tie-stall environment works for us given the size of our herd. The tie-stall set up is ideal for feet health, longevity and milk quality. The expansion will allow us to provide a free-stall environment to the heifers, but with stalls to get them used to it as soon as possible. The dry cows and the cows being prepared for calving will however be housed in a bedding pack area to give them maximum comfort. We aim for volume and quality. We try to provide the best housing conditions to our animals so they remain in the barn for a long time and are profitable.

FARM PROFILE

Low SCC Levels

Ferme Jolipré Holstein Inc.

Saint-Moïse, Quebec

By Valérie Bolduc, East Territory Advisor, Holstein Québec

PREFIX: JOLIPRÉ

PEOPLE INVOLVED: Marie-Josée, Régis and their four sons: Alex, Joé, Xavier & Ely

 # OF YEARS AS A HOLSTEIN CANADA MEMBER: 30 years

 # OF COWS MILKED: 45

 # OF ACRES FARMED: 320 acres

FACILITY TYPE: Tie-stall

HERD PRODUCTION AVERAGE: 10 500 kg

HERD CLASSIFICATION: 5 ME, 3 EX, 23 VG, 16 GP with an average of 85 points

WHAT IS YOUR FEEDING SYSTEM? Round wet bales along with an automated concentrate feeder; corn and supplements

ARE THERE OTHER BREEDS IN YOUR HERD? No

HOLSTEIN CANADA SERVICES USED: Registration and Classification

FARM PROFILE

Low SCC Levels

Fort Lands Farm

Fort Ellis, Nova Scotia

By Natasha McKillop, Holstein Canada Field Service Business Partner

PREFIX: FORT LANDS

PEOPLE INVOLVED: Remo and Heather Luten; their sons Jayden, Daan, and Jackson: one full-time milker; and the former owners Keith and Joanne Fulton.

 # OF YEARS AS A HOLSTEIN CANADA MEMBER: Remo and Heather took over the membership in 2013, however the membership and prefix for the farm have existed for over 70 years

 # OF COWS MILKED: 66

 # OF ACRES FARMED: 140 acres

FACILITY TYPE: Three row free-stall, with deep bedded with straw water and lime mixture, double 5 parlour

HERD PRODUCTION AVERAGE : 10,902 kg, BCA 250, 249, 236

HERD CLASSIFICATION: 2 EX, 18 VG, 32 G+, 12 G

WHAT IS YOUR FEEDING SYSTEM? TMR

ARE THERE OTHER BREEDS IN YOUR HERD? Yes, Jerseys

HOLSTEIN CANADA SERVICES USED (OTHER THAN REGISTRATION): Classification, NLID

WHAT WAS YOUR LOWEST SCC? Our lowest SCC to date is 3900 cells/mL

HOW DID YOU ACHIEVE YOUR LOW SCC? We feel that our regular management routines have allowed us to achieve low SCC. We keep our stalls clean, well-bedded and dry. To help keep the cows clean, we keep their tails clipped and regularly singe the hair on their udders. We use pre-dip and post dip, as well as microfiber cloths for wiping their udders and teats. We have found that the microfiber cloths have made a huge difference when wiping; they're very absorbent and do an excellent job of cleaning the teats/udder. We also make sure to keep the parlour clean and make sure maintenance is up to date, like making sure the inflations are changed regularly (and on time!). For us it's all about good management practices to make sure everything is clean and in good working order.

DID YOU MAKE A LOW SCC A PRIORITY? Somatic cell count is certainly one of our priorities; we feel it is a component of good management. We strive to keep our cows as clean as possible; in addition to our protocols, we have also installed two new automatic brushes in our barn. We also look for sires with low SCC and high scoring mammary systems. We also will not breed back cows with chronically high SCC.

WHAT KIND OF HEALTH MEASURES DID YOU PUT IN PLACE? We want to set up our cows for good health during their lactation. For us this begins with having a clean, dry, well-bedded area for calving. As soon as they calve, we check each cow for mastitis. We also feel that good dry-off protocol is important. We make sure their udders are in good health at the time of dry off, and seal the teats with Orbeseal. If a cow has incurable mastitis, we will not keep her in the herd, as we feel the potential is high for it to spread to other animals.

WHAT CHALLENGES DID YOU FACE ACHIEVING THIS? As you can imagine, sometimes when things get busy it can be a challenge to find the time to implement all of our protocols, but even then, we find it necessary to take the time and make them a priority. We feel even though it may take us extra time at that moment, it will save us more time in the long run

by keeping our animals healthy and comfortable.

WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE A FARMER TRYING TO ACHIEVE A LOW SCC? Cleanliness is key! Having a good protocol and sticking to it is also important, not only for milking but for drying off as well. Bed your animals well, and keep them clean and dry. Breed for and only keep animals with good udder health. Another important part of low SCC success is having well-trained, attentive labour.

DO YOU HAVE ANY PLANS FOR EXPANSION OR MODIFICATION IN YOUR HERD IN THE FUTURE? We do, we just recently built our new facility and right now, we are looking to increase our herd size. In the future, we would like to renovate or build a new parlour.

WHAT DO YOU LIKE AND DISLIKE ABOUT YOUR CURRENT OPERATION AND WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO CHANGE IF YOU COULD? We recently switched from mattress with recycled bedding to stalls deep bedded with a straw, lime and water mixture. While we were able to keep the cows clean on the mattresses, we love the improvement in cow comfort that the deep-bedded stalls provide. Our laying time has increased and our hock scores are continuously improving. We also like the addition of our automated feed pusher. We find when there is fresh feed constantly pushed up for our cows they are more relaxed and there is less competition at the bunk. We feel that this has also contributed to our improved laying time.

A First Look at Compass

NAVIGATE YOUR HERD'S SUCCESS!

With the release of Compass coming up in August, Holstein Canada wanted to give our members a sneak preview of what this new genetic management software will look like. In this article, we'll walk you through a few of the key features of Compass and how to apply them in your daily life on the farm.

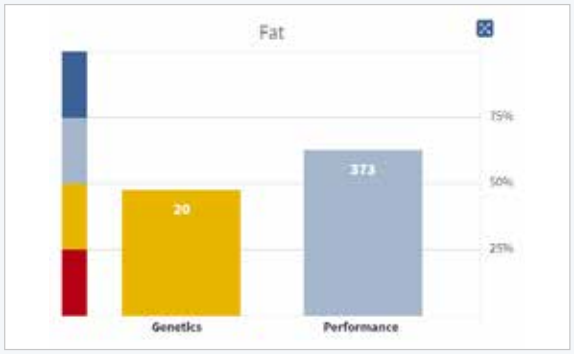
IDENTIFY YOUR GENETIC STRENGTHS AND OPPORTUNITIES

The Past Breeding Success section is all about helping users understand where their herd stood in the past, to help them make decisions about their future.

Past Breeding Success shows your herd's progress over time in various ways. Here we see the genetic gain between 2012 and 2017 in the user's herd (in blue) and in the Canadian Holstein breed as a whole (in red). Measuring and comparing your herd's genetic gain allows you to see where you have made strong improvements, and where there are further opportunities to invest.

COMPARING GENETICS AND PERFORMANCE

Genetics is a great tool, but it's only one part of the picture that creates the cows you see in your barn. These graphs from the Herd Genetics section of Compass shows users the difference between the genetics of their first lactation cows, and their actual production performance.



This user's cows have genetics in the bottom 25% for fat production, but they clearly have good management because they are still able to get above average fat production out of those cows. However, we can deduce that if this user was to invest a bit more in high production genetics, their production would likely increase significantly. These types of graphs are available for production and conformation traits, if you subscribe to milk recording and classification.

CHOOSING YOUR PREFERRED INDEX

The Genetic Indexes section of Compass helps users decide which of the national indices suits their needs and goals better. The option to personalize one of these indexes will be available on Compass shortly.

This screenshot shows the first step in the index selection process. The user chooses up to five traits that are important to their operation. Compass then will suggest which index will lead the herd to make more genetic Gains for these traits of importance. The colourful bars on the right allow users to compare the projected genetic progress made for each trait using LPI (yellow) and Pro$ (blue).

These are just a few of the interesting features that will be available on Compass. Others will include access to the most up-to-date genetic information available in the industry, national herd rankings for all traits, and the ability to filter a bull list by users' traits of interest. All this and more will be available for free when Compass launches this summer.

Stay tuned to Holstein Canada's social media and website for more information as Compass becomes available.

HERD HEALTH: Fertility and Reproduction

DAIRY PRODUCERS STRIVE to manage healthy, productive herds by breeding and managing for longevity, and profitability is an outcome of these decisions. Over the next three issues, herd health will be highlighted in a variety of areas. We will cover topics such as reproductive health, functionality and disease resistance to help you understand their importance in both new and existing health traits.

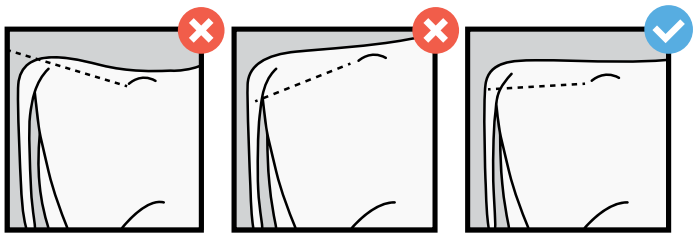
Selecting for Reproduction and Fertility traits, partnered with good management, is a great way to help increase the reproductive success of your herd. Reproductive health is something that is close to all dairy farmers' hearts, because central to our success is the fact that we need to get cows pregnant!

Genetically, female fertility is correlated highly and positively with both Herd Life (48%) and Daughter Calving Ability (38%). This leads to a positive, indirect correlation with other traits such as Body Condition Score, Metabolic Disease Resistance, and Mastitis Resistance.

PARAMETER	TRAIT	Ayrshire	Brown Swiss	Canadienne	Guernsey	Holstein	Jeresey	Milking Shorthorn
Relative Weights Within the Health & Fertility Component	Daughter Fertility	5.0	4.0	4.0	6.7	6.7	6.7	2.0
	Mastitis Resistance	3.0				3.3	3.3	
	Somatic Cell Score		3.0	3.0	2.0			4.8
	Udder Depth		1.0	2.0	1.0			2.4
	Milking Speed	1.0	2.0	1.0	0.3			0.8
	Lactation Persistency	1.0						

When making breeding selections through LPI and Pro$, you are selecting for a positive fertility response. 20% of the LPI score consists of Health and Fertility. Collectively, Daughter Fertility and Mastitis Resistance complete the Health and Fertility component of LPI at 67% and 33% respectively. Daughter Fertility is positively correlated to LPI and Pro$ at 25% and 20%.

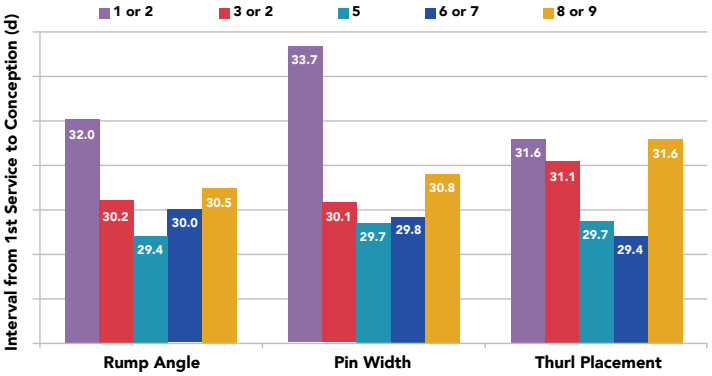
Aside from selecting for Health and Fertility traits, there are several other physical traits which can affect the reproductive performance of your herd. The rump structure of an animal can effect both calving and post-calving complications. Wide, correctly sloped rumps are important for calving ease and proper drainage of post-calving fluids. Difficult calvings or retained fluids/RPs can lead to reproductive infections and other fertility issues. Higher pin bones cause the vaginal canal to lie on an inwards slope, which is not optimal for reproductive health. To reduce the likelihood of calving and post-calving problems, the vaginal canal should lay flat, allowing for proper drainage post calving. This is equivalent to a rump angle linear score of 5-6.



The position of the thurls can also have an impact on calving. Thurls that are placed too far back (linear score of 1 or 2) have been associated with nearly 3% more difficult calvings compared to other linear scores. In addition to thurl placement, the strength of the loin has a relationship with calf survival. Calf survival is 5% higher for animals with a strong loin (linear score 8 or 9), when compared to a weak loin (linear score 1 or 2).

In an article from CDN in July 2016, a graph showed the association between several rump traits and the cow's fertility when measured as an interval from first service to conception. It should be noted that there is little relationship between rump structure and the interval from calving to first service, as CDN only accounts for first lactation information. From this graph, we can see that a wide, horizontal birth canal, and properly placed thurls can shorten the interval from first service to conception. This means fewer inseminations and fewer days open.

Figure 1: Relationship Between Linear Score (1 to 9) for Rump Traits and Fertility in First Lactation



When selecting sires for use in your herd, it is important to consider the correlations between Rump and key fertility traits. Not all fertility traits correlate positively to rump (see table). Selecting sires with a good proof for rump can produce calves that have a greater difficulty being born. If selecting for rump, ensure to balance with other traits, which have a positive relationship with calving ability.

Table 1: Proof Correlations Between Rump & Selected Key Traits	
TRAIT	**CORRELATION**
Calving Ability	-0.15
Daughter Calving Ability	0.08
Daughter Fertility	-0.03
Herd Life	0.13
Pro$	0.17
LPI	0.17

There are many important aspects to consider to ensure the reproductive health of your herd. Health and Fertility traits and rump structure can affect the reproductive health of your herd. Whether you are looking at improving rump structure or health and fertility scores, it is always important to remember that management and the environment that an animal is in can greatly affect the reproductive performance of your herd.

Canada's Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Dairy Cattle to be Updated

Canadian dairy farmers have always been committed to providing excellent care for their cattle. For this reason, Dairy Farmers of Canada initiated, in January of 2019, a regular update to the 2009 Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Dairy Cattle. The update will be guided by the National Farm Animal Care Council (NFACC).

Canada's Codes of Practice are valuable mechanisms within the industry because they set the guidelines for the care and handling of farm animals. They reflect our national understanding of animal care requirements, current science, and recommended practices, and serve as educational tools, as reference materials for regulations, and as the foundation for farm animal care assessment programs.
The update process includes both a Scientific Committee and a Code Development Committee. The Scientific Committee reviews current science on priority animal welfare issues and the resulting report provides valuable information to the Code Development Committee. As the Scientific Committee's report will be made public, the transparency and credibility of the Code process and the recommendations within are enhanced.

In April 2019, a survey was conducted as part of the Code development process. The survey attempted to capture top-of-mind welfare topics from all stakeholders, including farmers. The input received will help the Code Development Committee understand the top elements of animal welfare people wish to see considered in the update. The development process can take two to three years from start to finish.

Once the Code Development Committee has a draft, it is posted for a 60-day public comment period. The Code Development Committee considers the feedback and works on the final version of the Code. This final version will be submitted to NFACC, published by DFC and NFACC, and the dairy sector will take on the implementation process. This is anticipated for the fall of 2021.

"We are looking forward to updating our Code of Practice to reflect the most recent science and best farm practices. Farmers continue to demonstrate their commitment for animal care through proAction®, our quality assurance program," says Pierre Lampron, President of Dairy Farmers of Canada.

Please visit the following link to learn more about the process: https://www.nfacc.ca/codes-of-practice/dairy-cattle

DFC initiative revision process	**January 2019**
NFACC surveys stakeholders	**April 2019**
Scientific committee and Code Development Committee are named	**April 2019**
Development of Code	**2019-2021**
Public consultation on the new draft Code	**Oct 2020 - Jan 2021**
Publication of the Code	**Fall 2021**

CURRENT STATUS ON HAPLOTYPES AND GENETIC RECESSIVES

By Brian Van Doormaal, General Manager, CDN & Lynsay Beavers, Industry Liaison, CDN

ONE BENEFIT FROM genotyping females that has a growing interest to dairy producers is the information that becomes available relative to genetic recessives and haplotypes. CDN last wrote on the topic in June 2016 (see "Managing Recessives & Haplotypes" article on CDN website) so it's time for a quick refresher and a current status update.

WHAT IS A HAPLOTYPE COMPARED TO A RECESSIVE TRAIT?

Each dairy breed has known genetic traits referred to as "recessives". Examples in the Holstein breed include Brachyspina, CVM, BLAD, etc. as well as the traditional gene for red coat colour. These recessive traits are defined by the official breed association, such as Holstein Canada, and therefore have specific codes assigned to label animals that are known to be free or known to be a carrier. For these genetic traits, the test results are known with a very high degree of certainty, essentially 100%, since the test is based on a known gene that controls the specific characteristic.

Haplotypes are short strands of DNA that make up an animal's genotype. By analysis of genotypes for a large number of animals in a given breed, scientists are able to identify haplotypes that appear to cause an undesirable genetic anomaly. Once identified, an analysis of data is conducted to validate the causal relationship and to quantify its importance. In North America, the Council for Dairy Cattle Breeding (CDCB) in United States has established routine procedures to identify such undesirable haplotypes and a standardized nomenclature for labelling them. In the Holstein breed, recent research results identified a new haplotype affecting fertility, which is labelled as HH6, meaning "Holstein Haplotype #6". As a consequence, CDN now publishes the Carrier Probability result for each animal on their Pedigree page displayed on the CDN website. The Advanced Query tool also allows users to filter sires known to be carriers or free. This information is added to results for the other five Holstein haplotypes (i.e.: 1 to 5), as well as the known haplotypes affecting fertility in the Ayrshire, Jersey and Brown Swiss breeds.

Unique to the Holstein breed is another haplotype, HCD, which is associated with a genetic anomaly referred to as Cholesterol Deficiency (see CDN web site article "HCD: Haplotype Associated with Cholesterol Deficiency" dated December 2015). Instead of affecting fertility, embryonic mortality and/or stillbirth rates, animals that carry two copies of the Cholesterol Deficiency gene are expected to die within the first six months after birth.

FREQUENCY TRENDS IN CANADIAN HOLSTEINS

On a routine basis, CDN publishes trends by year of birth associated with the frequency of the various genetic recessive traits and haplotypes in Canadian-born animals. Figure 1 shows the

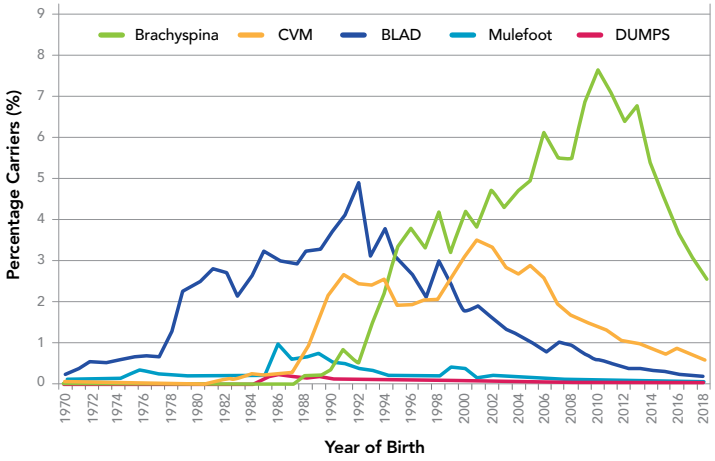


Figure 1: Trend in Percentage of Canadian Holsteins Estimated to be Carriers of Various Genetic Recessives

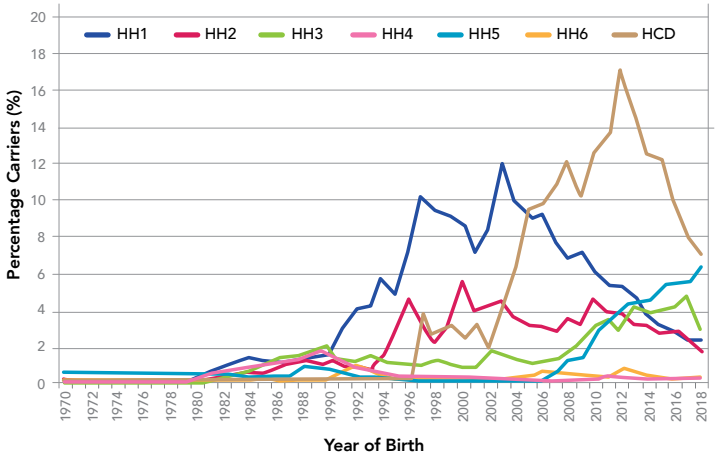


Figure 2: Trend in Percentage Carriers for Known Haplotypes in Canadian Holsteins

frequency trend for the various recessives recognized by Holstein Canada. This graph nicely demonstrates how the frequency of BLAD, CVM and more recently Brachyspina have been managed once they were discovered and bull purchasing strategies were modified by A.I. organizations.

Figure 2 presents similar trends by birth year for the various haplotypes known in the Holstein breed. As with the genetic recessives, most of the frequency trends have been steadily decreasing since genomics was introduced ten years ago. The main exception is the increasing trend for HH5, which reached an estimated frequency of 6% for Canadian Holsteins born in 2018. That said, the percentage of animals born in 2018 that are carriers of HCD is estimated at roughly 7%.

WITHIN HERD FREQUENCIES

While the trends on an overall breed basis show promise to reduce the negative impact of the recessive traits and haplotypes over time, CDN conducted an analysis to look at frequencies of these characteristics within each herd based on their DHI herd inventory. Therefore, instead of looking at trends by birth year, a closer examination could be made at the active female population of Holsteins in Canada as well as the variation of carrier frequencies across herds.

Table 1 provides the average within herd frequency, expressed as Carrier Probability, of each haplotype and recessive trait. Based on herds with at least 50 animals in their herd inventory, the maximum within herd frequency is also presented to identify the worst case situations. Since each herd owner selects specific sires to use for mating without much attention in the past to the haplotypes and recessive traits, there is significant variation in within herd frequencies. Even for characteristics with relatively low average breed frequencies, such as HH1, HH2, HH3, HH5 Brachyspina and CVM, there are specific herds in Canada that have frequencies exceeding 20% of their herd. For examples such as HH4, HH6 and BLAD within herd frequencies can still reach the 10% level.

As a breed, it is clearly HCD that requires the most attention by breeders. Not only does it have the highest average frequency within herd of 14.3%, there is a very wide variation across herds with the maximum herd frequency surpassing 40% of the heifers and cows. Figure 3 shows the distribution of herds based on the average HCD Carrier Probability. On an overall basis, while 20% of all Holstein herds have a frequency of 9% or less, there is also another 20% of herds for which 19% or more of their animals are expected to be HCD carriers. For these herds, genomic testing has an added value since this is the only way to separate carriers from those that are 99% likely to not have the gene associated with Cholesterol Deficiency.

Table 1: Average and Maximum Within Herd Carrier Probabilities for Haplotypes and Genetic Recessive Traits in Holstein Herds

	GENETIC TRAIT	AVERAGE HERD (%)	MAXIMUM HERD (%)
Haplotypes	HCD	14.3	44.4
	HH1	4.2	19.7
	HH2	3.5	28.9
	HH3	3.5	27.2
	HH4	0.3	8.8
	HH5	5.1	27.7
	HH6	0.4	10.1
Gene Tests	Brachyspina	5.8	25.4
	CVM	0.9	21.3
	BLAD	0.4	10.0
	Mule Foot	0.0	4.2
	DUMPS	0.0	0.8

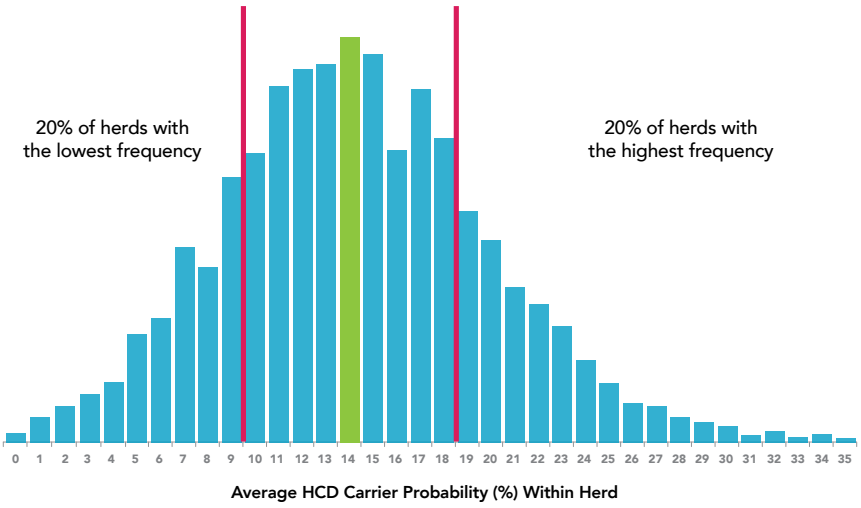


Figure 3: Distribution of Holstein Herds by the Average HCD Carrier Probability

IMPACT MANAGEMENT

For all of the genetic recessive traits and haplotypes mentioned here, the best way to avoid the associated problems is to not mate a carrier sire to a carrier dam. To do this best, one needs to know which animals are possible carriers and then genomic testing would separate those that are versus those that are free. It is not recommended to totally exclude carrier bulls from your sire selection decisions, but knowing that they are a carrier will help to ensure they are not mated to females that are known or possible carriers. Later this year, CDN and Holstein Canada will be launching its new genetic management software, Compass, which will help Holstein breeders do a better job monitoring and controlling the impact of these negative characteristics in their herds.

Dear Customer Service Team

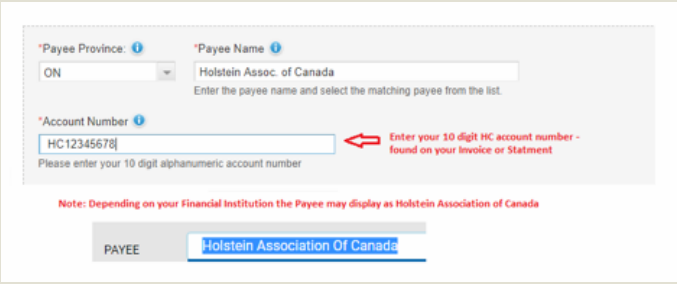
*Answering the question in this issue is **Janice Kyle**. She has many years of involvement in Brant County 4-H and the Women's Institute, from Board member to Leader and everything in between. Her family operates a Shorthorn, sheep, and cash crop farm. We recently celebrated a one-year work anniversary for Janice as a member of our customer service team.*

How can I make a payment to Holstein Canada?

Holstein Canada sends a statement of account monthly. The month-end balance on the statement is due upon receipt of statement. Balances not paid by the end of the month in which statement is received will be charged interest at 1.25% per month. To avoid these charges, making a payment on your account is easy. Holstein Canada has three (3) convenient payment options:

ONLINE BANKING

The online banking option is available through your financial institution. You simply need to set up Holstein Association of Canada as a "Payee". If Holstein Canada is not on as a payee, let us know and we will contact your financial institution to have us added as a payee. Here are some pictures with the required information to help you with your financial online banking payments.



CREDIT CARD

Credit card payments from Visa, MasterCard or Amex are accepted. You can submit your payments by credit card three (3) different ways:

1. Online through your Holstein Canada Account.

2. Call customer service at 1-855-756-8300 to place a payment over the phone.

3. Complete and submit the bottom portion of your statement with your credit card info. You can submit by mail or fax, although we recommend mailing to ensure privacy of your data.

You can request to set up automatic monthly payments with your credit card. Holstein Canada will only process the balance owing on your account at the end of the month on your credit card. Contact customer service to request automatic monthly credit card payment - 1-855-756-8300 or email **CustomerService@holstein.ca.**

CHEQUE

Holstein Canada continues to accept and process cheques. Please ensure the cheques are signed and made payable to Holstein Canada. Simply fill out the bottom portion of your statement and mail the cheque and statement slip to:

Holstein Canada
20 Corporate Place, C.P. 610,
Brantford, Ontario
N3T 5R4

If you have any questions regarding your account balance or payment options, call and ask to speak with Janice on our customer service team. While on the phone, ask her about her recent trip to India. You can also email CustomerService@holstein.ca or call 1-855-756-8300 to speak with the next available representative.

Field service is here for you!

Contact your local Field Service Representative today to help you with your on-farm needs:

- Provide herd catch up
- Answer Holstein Canada service inquiries
- Interpret reports
- Discuss management strategies
- Assist you with whatever else you require to manage your herd's success

Morgan Sangster, Western Canada:
msangster@holstein.ca

Ontario Holstein:
branch@ontario.holstein.ca

Holstein Québec:
info@holsteinquebec.com

Natasha McKillop, Eastern Canada:
nmckillop@holstein.ca

For more information contact us today at **fieldservice@holstein.ca**

TOP SIRES ACCORDING TO AVERAGE FINAL SCORE OF FIRST LACTATION DAUGHTERS

Based on First Lactation Classifications March/April 2019

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

Sire	Daughters Classified	Avg. Daus Score	Avg. Dam Score
SOLOMON	161	82.93	83.01
DEMPSEY	245	82.11	82.47
DOORMAN	384	81.98	82.67
GOLD CHIP	149	81.97	82.20
CONTROL	215	81.90	82.00
HIGH OCTANE	243	81.47	81.39
KINGPIN	125	80.98	80.55
MOGUL	127	80.98	81.34
WICKHAM	115	80.91	80.89
NUMERO UNO	425	80.79	81.20

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

Sire	Daughters Classified	Avg. Daus Score	Avg. Dam Score
AVALANCHE	57	82.89	83.14
SID	55	82.51	82.60
AFTERSHOCK	45	82.44	82.67
SEAVER	38	82.21	81.61
ALLIGATOR	31	82.06	80.94
JACOBY	80	82.05	82.36
EXPANDER	43	82.02	82.65
FITZ	61	81.72	81.54
ALONZO	62	81.66	82.39
ENVIOUS	34	81.59	81.03

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

CLASSIFICATION SCHEDULE

MID-ROUND MR

JULY

EARLY

ON Glengarry, Niagara, Wentworth
QC Dorchester, Levis
QC MR Deux-Montagnes, Terrebonne
AB South Central

MID

ON Brant, Haldimand, Norfolk
AB Northern
MB

LATE

ON Prescott
ON MR Perth, Lanark, Renfrew, Pontiac, Bruce, Halton, York, Peel, Simcoe, Dufferin
QC Bellechasse, Montmagny, L'Islet, Kamouraska

AUGUST

EARLY

ON MR Leeds, Grenville, Grey, Huron
SK MR

MID

ON Lambton
ON MR Ontario
P.E.I. MR
NS MR
NB MR
NL MR

LATE

QC MR North Shore Central

This schedule is subject to change within a 1-2 week period.
For the full Field Service schedule, see the Field Services section under Services on our website, holstein.ca.

Who will follow suit as the next

COW OF THE YEAR?

BUY-IN STARTS SEPTEMBER 2019

For full contest rules & selection criteria visit www.holstein.ca⇨Awards-Lists⇨Cow of the Year

infoHolstein

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