info Holstein

November/December 2019 issue no. 160

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

PULSE OF THE PRAIRIES / AU CŒUR DES PRAIRIES

CONGRÈS NATIONAL HOLSTEIN CONVENTION 2020

SASKATCHEWAN 2020

#SK2020

FEEL THE PULSE OF THE PRAIRIES

APRIL 15-18, 2020

SASKATOON

Wednesday, April 15

- Fly in to Saskatoon
- Social Evening at the Saskatoon Inn & Conference Centre

REGINA

Thursday, April 16

- Board the bus for Farm Tours/Alternate Tour ending-up in Regina at the Holstein and Jersey Show and Tag Sale

Friday, April 17

- Holstein Show
- Taste of SK & Tailgate Party

Saturday, April 18

- Annual General Meeting
- Master Breeder Gala

Don't miss a beat! Book your hotels for both Saskatoon and Regina today!

- **Booking deadline: March 14, 2020**
- Registration opens **on January 7, 2020**

events.holstein.ca

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No. 160

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ABOVE: Young Leader Bryan Hoeppner tells us how showing benefits his farm on page 5; we talk with producers who have kept their farms in the family starting on page 7; and Pauline Martel shows how you can tell an American animal has been transferred to your name on page 18!
ON THE COVER: Olivia Doctor helps out the family farm at Redview Holsteins in Kensington, P.E.I.

contents

What does VALUE mean to you?

ANN LOUISE CARSON | CEO, Holstein Canada

AS DAIRY FARMERS, you deal with many challenging conditions that are almost always outside your control. Weather, animal health, trade negotiations, labour issues and changing market conditions are just a few. The results of these external conditions are very "internal": tighter financial margins.

At Holstein Canada, we get that your herd decisions are financially motivated. So when we hear *"Why should I register?"* or *"If I classify her, she won't give more milk the next day"*, we understand where you are coming from, because you are right: she won't give you more milk or more money the day after classification. An unbiased set of eyes and helpful herd management tools, on the other hand, can certainly help ensure that her progeny will be more productive!

We accept not all dairy producers are convinced about the value of our services. It is up to us to do a better job of highlighting some facts in terms of dollars and cents. This is why Holstein Canada recently teamed up with the much-respected Canadian ag economics group AGÉCO. They did a third-party deep dive into the economic impact of registration and classification, thanks to our extremely complete database (we have so much data!).

The results are encouraging! They reported classification as "a low-cost investment with a high return," with an 8-12% return on an annualized basis over 10 years. As well, by decreasing

Ann Louise Carson with the Presidents of Holstein Brazil and Holstein Canada at the 2019 Conference of the Americas

inbreeding by 1%, registration can return $60 per cow over six years. These are just some of the initial facts and figures. Watch for upcoming *Info*Holstein articles and other sources of information for more details.

Money talks, and we heard you. Our team is always pleased to discuss money and stats, in-person or through our various herd reports. That is part of the value we bring to the long game called dairy farming. The bonus, of course, is maybe a recent classification score validated your mating decision, made you smile, and gave you a much-needed pat on the back, something farmers so rarely get. This, I'm sure we can all agree, is priceless!

Call for National Director Nominations

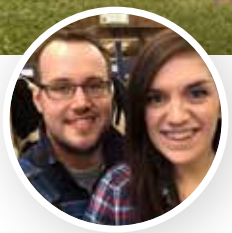
THERE IS AN OPEN CALL for nominations for National Directors in the Electoral Districts listed to the right. Clubs located in these districts received official notification of the call in September, and nominations will close December 6, 2019. Ballots will be mailed out to all voting members in the districts with more than one candidate by January 6, 2020 and voting closes on February 6, 2020. The criteria for the National Director Eligibility can be found in the Association's By-laws found on **www.holstein.ca** and nomination forms can be obtained from your local Holstein Club, Provincial Branch or by contacting Suzanne Jalbert at sjalbert@holstein.ca or 1-855-756-8300 ext. 241.

Electoral Districts 2020

- Atlantic Canada
- Saskatchewan & Manitoba
- Western Ontario
- Eastern Québec

young LEADER PROGRAM

BY CHRISTINE TOLHURST, BILINGUAL PROGRAMS COORDINATOR



Young Leader finding the benefits of showing

BRYAN AND BREANNA HOEPPNER | SOUTHVIEW DAIRY FARM, MANITOBA

As show season ends and the trailers that travel across provinces and borders return to winter storage, many breeders like to sit back and reflect. Showing is in the genes of many dairy enthusiasts, with some having participated since they could walk in the peewee classes. Others discover it through trial and error, over time turning into extraordinary showpeople.

In today's industry, some producers turn to the show circuit to discover new bulls or to view different animals that represent the true type model. Others compare themselves to their fellow breeders. But for many, shows present an opportunity to market their genetics. Bryan Hoeppner is one of the latter!

Bryan is the herd manager on his family farm Southview Dairy. His parents have been farming here in southern Manitoba since 1985. Along with his parents, he farms with his wife Breanna, his younger brother, and his sister-in-law. In 2004, they started registering and classifying with Holstein Canada to add value to their Holstein herd. Currently, they milk 100 cows with a classification of 2EX, 2ME, 43VG, 56GP in a tie-stall facility. They also farm 2,200 acres of corn, wheat, barley, canola, soybeans and alfalfa.

When did you start participating in shows? Was it with your animals or were you helping someone else? Was there someone or something that made you want to show? I started showing in 4-H when I was eight but did not get active in it until a friend encouraged me to try out with him for the Manitoba Western Canadian Classic team. At the time, we just started registering and classifying, so a 4-H leader helped me find work for Rainyridge Holsteins at the show for tryouts. They had to teach me a lot about what needs to be done at a show and how to properly prepare for it beforehand. After the first show, it was all I thought about doing for a long time, and it helped develop my passion for Holsteins.

Since then, has your perspective changed when working with animals on a day-to-day basis? Do you notice any changes in your breeding strategies? We used to breed for type to catch up to those who had been showing longer than us, but now we're taking a balanced approach to our breeding strategy. We still love milking pretty cows, but it's even better if they can be high milk testing cows that last multiple lactations. We focus on and flush cows from families that have proven themselves through classification and milk testing. Since we can't get to as many shows as we'd like, we really emphasize classification.

Living in a Western province, do you see a declining trend in the show circuit? Do you cross into other provinces and the United States to participate in shows? In western Canada, the number of shows has gone down, but I believe the quality has gone up. Living in Manitoba, we currently do not have any provincial cow shows other than the Summer Heifer Show for WCC tryouts. Our closest Canadian show would be in Red Deer, Alberta, which is a 14-hour drive. We have gone to the B.C. Spring Show and Minnesota for the Midwest Fall National. Some of our best results have come from attending that show; we had Reserve Grand Holstein with Rainyridge Journalist Babe EX94 3E in 2010, and a homebred cow Larest Destry Havanna EX 92 placed fourth for four-year-olds in 2015.

When you participate in shows, do you use this time to market some of your genetics? If not, do you see potential in the future to start marketing them? It costs a lot of money to go to a show, so I try to have a price in mind for every animal that I take. I always take time to talk with people that come through the show string; even if they don't buy an animal in the string, they might be interested in embryos. Also, as animals get ready I try to keep our farm Facebook page up to date and try to market our farm that way.

Would you like to see more Breeder's Cup competitions? Is it something that is already happening in your province? Our Holstein club has done a Breeder's Cup competition the last two years. I personally like them - they bring people to your farm that like looking at cattle, even if they're not the ones in the competition. Right now we have a first lactation group and a second lactation group in our competition. I'd like to see more groups so you can enter more cows into competition, but Breeder's Cups are great to have, especially for farms that can't get to a show that is far away.

What is your ideal version of the true type cow? How do you see it influence the breeding trends for the future? My ideal version of the true type cow is a cow that is high scoring and has high milk production. She needs to have a good set of feet and legs, as well as a low rump. For me, the two go hand-in-hand for mobility and reproduction. I want them to breed back every year as easily as possible. It is also important for them to have a good udder so they can easily produce milk in any facility.

HOW MANY GENERATIONS HAVE WORKED ON YOUR FARM? Four generations.

WHAT CHALLENGES HAVE YOU FACED KEEPING THE FARM IN THE FAMILY? Haven't really come across many challenges. Due to the cost of land increasing, we moved from Fraser Valley up to the Okanagan to expand their operation and provide a more balanced life between the farm and family. We have plans to start up a second farm next spring!

HOW HAS MILKING CHANGED OVER THE YEARS? We're able to get more production out of the cows.

HOW HAS COW CARE CHANGED OVER THE YEARS? We used to bed with sawdust, and now have started bedding with sand. The heifers used to be housed in free-stalls in the valley, and now they are in paddocks. They have adapted well to the changes and are showing positive results from this for growth.

WHAT TACTICS FROM THE "OLD SCHOOL" HAVE STUCK AROUND? Still breed for type, pay more attention to the milk number a little bit more now, do not breed with any negative milk bulls, and pay attention to rump angle. Not much has changed as far as day-to-day management practices go.

WHAT HAVE THE GENERATIONS TAUGHT EACH OTHER THROUGH THE YEARS? We have always worked closely together, and have never had full-time hired help. A strong work ethic goes a long way.

DO YOU HAVE A SUCCESSION PLAN FOR THE NEXT GENERATION? Yes, we have a plan for the next generation to take over the farm.

FARM PROFILE

Keeping It In The Family

Hamming Holsteins

Vernon, British Columbia

By Morgan Sangster, Holstein Canada Field Service Business Partner

PREFIX: HAMMING

PEOPLE INVOLVED: Brian, Dave, Cayden, and Walter Hamming

 # OF YEARS AS A HOLSTEIN CANADA MEMBER: 35 years

 # OF COWS MILKED: 180

 # OF ACRES FARMED: 500

FACILITY TYPE: Free-stall with double-10 herringbone parlor

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

HERD CLASSIFICATION: 20 ME, 15 EX , 107 VG, 40 GP

WHAT IS YOUR FEEDING SYSTEM? One-group TMR

ARE THERE OTHER BREEDS IN YOUR HERD? No

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

FARM PROFILE

Keeping It In The Family

Ferme Agriguay Inc.

St. Isidore, Ontario

By Jenna Hedden, Field Representative, Holstein Ontario

PREFIX: AGRIGUAY

PEOPLE INVOLVED AT THE FARM: Four owners and four employees

 # OF YEARS AS HOLSTEIN CANADA MEMBER: 38 years

 # OF COWS MILKED: 214 milking cows

 # OF ACRES FARMED: 550

FACILITY TYPE: Free-stall

HERD PRODUCTION AVERAGE: 33.3 kg/cow

HERD CLASSIFICATION: Our herd average is 80.7

WHAT IS YOUR FEEDING SYSTEM? TMR

ARE THERE OTHER BREEDS IN YOUR HERD? No

HOLSTEIN CANADA SERVICES USED (OTHER THAN REGISTRATION): Classification

HOW MANY GENERATIONS HAVE WORKED ON YOUR FARM? Five generations.

WHAT CHALLENGES HAVE YOU FACED KEEPING THE FARM IN THE FAMILY? We did not encounter any big hurdles over the years to keep the farm in the family; however, transferring the farm from one generation to another has been, at times, a complex and very expensive process.

HOW HAS MILKING CHANGED OVER THE YEARS? Milking has evolved greatly over the years. There is a big difference between milking cows with a bucket, as my grandfather did, to us milking cows in a double-12 milking parlour! Milking times and duration have also changed. When I was young, it took us four hours to milk the cows – mornings and evenings – so we used to finish working at 8:30 p.m. It is completely different today. Milking now lasts five hours daily and we are at home at 6:30 p.m. where we can enjoy spending quality time with our family.

HOW HAS COW CARE CHANGED OVER THE YEARS? Nothing has really changed over the years regarding cow care. We have always put animal welfare and comfort first. Our income is directly linked to the good care we give to our animals so we treat our cows with the greatest care.

WHAT TACTICS FROM THE "OLD SCHOOL" HAVE STUCK AROUND? None. We are constantly trying to be up to date in our practices and we are constantly questioning our methods in order to always keep improving over the years.

WHAT HAVE THE GENERATIONS TAUGHT EACH OTHER THROUGH THE YEARS? Never stay still. One must always keep moving forward and renew oneself. What is good today may not be good tomorrow. Therefore, you have to keep learning and evolving to be the best in a field that is constantly evolving.

DO YOU HAVE A SUCCESSION PLAN FOR THE NEXT GENERATION? We recently successfully completed a transfer to the next generation. We still have several years ahead of us before the next generation takes over.

FARM PROFILE

Keeping It In The Family

Ferme Giard

Saint-Simon-de-Bagot, Quebec

By Mylène Fournier, Advisor, Holstein Québec

PREFIX: GIARD

PEOPLE INVOLVED AT THE FARM: Simon, Bruno, Samuel, Valérie Giard & Frédérique Ménard

 # OF YEARS AS HOLSTEIN CANADA MEMBER: Since 1925

 # OF COWS MILKED: 125

HERD CLASSIFICATION: 21 EX, 72 VG, 32 GP

 # OF ACRES FARMED: 1300

FACILITY TYPE: Tie-stall, two Leo milking robots

WHAT IS YOUR FEEDING SYSTEM? Automated TMR

ARE THERE OTHER BREEDS IN YOUR HERD? No

HOLSTEIN CANADA SERVICES USED (OTHER THAN REGISTRATION): Classification and genomic testing

HOW MANY GENERATIONS HAVE WORKED ON YOUR FARM? Four generations.

WHAT CHALLENGES HAVE YOU FACED KEEPING THE FARM IN THE FAMILY? Successfully transferring the farm to the next generation has been one of our challenges. In addition, the involvement of family members and the development of each other's strengths according to their interest on the farm requires some adjustments. Finally, finding a good balance between our professional and personal lives is a constant challenge.

HOW HAS MILKING CHANGED OVER THE YEARS? We started with manual milking, then milking with a bucket, then with a pipeline system and we currently have two milking robots for our tie-stall barn.

HOW HAS COW CARE CHANGED OVER THE YEARS? In terms of feeding, we produce better quality food and the quality of our suppliers' products has improved over the years. Our current feeding programs meet the needs of our cows better. As for comfort, we have improved the animals' environment, giving them more ventilation and more space. We also invested in stall mattresses. Moreover, our preventive medicine is much more optimal; we have a better-suited vaccination program in place and we have introduced preventive treatments for our dry cows. Today, our calves are fed with a robotic calf feeder.

WHAT TACTICS FROM THE "OLD SCHOOL" HAVE STUCK AROUND? Although we have access to suggested matings, we still rely on our cow sense as breeders, which has allowed us to earn the Master Breeder title twice.

WHAT HAVE THE GENERATIONS TAUGHT EACH OTHER THROUGH THE YEARS? Several values are passed on from one generation to the next, such as communication, thoroughness and a job well done, as well as the importance of good corporate management and social involvement.

DO YOU HAVE A SUCCESSION PLAN FOR THE NEXT GENERATION? We do. The fourth generation is already moving in. Frédérique takes care of field work and accounting while Samuel and Valérie take care of herd management and mechanical supervision (robots, silo, manure evacuation system, etc.). Simon and Bruno are always on site to ensure a smooth transfer.

FARM PROFILE

Keeping It In The Family

Fraser Valley Farm

Hardwood Lands, Nova Scotia

By Natasha Mckillop, Holstein Canada Field Service Business Partner

PREFIX: BETHLYN

PEOPLE INVOLVED: Corey and Darlene Fraser, son Ryan, and grandchildren Lauren and Cole

 # OF YEARS AS A HOLSTEIN CANADA MEMBER: 35 years

 # OF COWS MILKED: 60

 # OF ACRES FARMED: 250 cultivated

FACILITY TYPE: Tie-stall

HERD PRODUCTION AVERAGE: 10,000 kg

HERD CLASSIFICATION: 1 EX, 16 VG, 29 GP, 2 G

WHAT IS YOUR FEEDING SYSTEM? Grass, with computer-fed dairy feed, cracked corn, and mineral. Combined with pasture in the summer months.

ARE THERE OTHER BREEDS IN YOUR HERD? Jerseys

HOLSTEIN CANADA SERVICES USED (OTHER THAN REGISTRATION): Classification

HOW MANY GENERATIONS HAVE WORKED ON YOUR FARM? Six generations have worked on the farm. The original land our farm is located on was granted to William Fraser in the mid-1800s. His son Herbert and daughter-in-law Sarah then began a mixed farm. In 1950, Doug and his wife Vera Fraser switched over to principally dairy farming in 1950. Doug traveled to Ontario to purchase cattle, and came home on the train with the farm's Holstein herd. Some of the original buildings remain, and Corey and Darlene currently live in the original homestead.

WHAT CHALLENGES HAVE YOU FACED KEEPING THE FARM IN THE FAMILY? It has not been a challenge to keep the farm in the family, as our family has been extremely passionate about the farm. When Doug passed away in 1967, it left Vera and their son Corey (14 at the time), to care for and grow the farm. Vera and Corey's love for the farm allowed the farm to prosper, and Vera's passion, activity, and interest in the farm continued even after Corey and Darlene purchased the farm in 1974. She expected daily farm reports even in her 90s so she could keep up with the happenings on the farm!

One of the challenges our farm faces though is finding good labour. Right now, our farm staff consists entirely of family members.

HOW HAS MILKING CHANGED OVER THE YEARS? From originally milking in cans, and taking them to the roadside for pick-up, to moving to bucket milkers, to adding a pipeline to the barn in 1976, and then adding automatic take offs: it has changed a lot!

HOW HAS COW CARE CHANGED OVER THE YEARS? We've upgraded our barn several times over the years. While the original buildings were constructed in the mid-1800s, we have been able to preserve them while keeping them functional. Our current heifer barn foundation was raised to accommodate our heifers comfortably. Our cow comfort has also improved. Head rails and neck chains replaced the stanchions first installed in the barn. We also expanded the barn to accommodate our larger herd and added stall mats. The way we feed our animals has also changed. While hay may have been the feed of choice back in the day, we now have a block cutter to feed our custom-made silage. We also have a computerized feeder that feeds six times daily in the winter and four times daily in the summer.

Our breeding strategies have also improved. We began classifying in 1984 to improve our herd and now, of course, we have access to computer mating as well to advance our herd genetics.

WHAT TACTICS FROM THE "OLD SCHOOL" HAVE STUCK AROUND? Small square bales! We still make small squares of first cut for our heifers, and second cut to feed to our cows when they come in from pasture to be milked in the summer. We find them convenient to feed, and they love it!

WHAT HAVE THE GENERATIONS TAUGHT EACH OTHER THROUGH THE YEARS? They've taught us about hard work and perseverance. They also taught us not to ask anyone to do something you wouldn't do yourself.

DO YOU HAVE A SUCCESSION PLAN FOR THE NEXT GENERATION? Yes and it's already in motion. Corey and Darlene have formed a partnership with their son Ryan and are moving forward.

When Do Your Cows Pay Back Their Debt?

BY ALLISON FLEMING, GENETICIST, LACTANET
BRIAN VAN DOORMAAL, CHIEF SERVICES OFFICER, LACTANET

In April 2019, Canada's profit-based selection index, Pro$, was updated to reflect current economic values and consider additional expenses and traits. Pro$ is a tool to maximize genetic response for daughter lifetime profitability and is based on actual cow cumulative profit to six years of age or disposal. By adopting lifetime profitability as its definition, value is placed on longevity and a cow's ability to successfully survive multiple cycles of reproduction and production. However, there are additional metrics that can be explored when examining cow or herd economics, including the age at which a cow has generated sufficient revenue to pay back the debt accumulated due to the costs associated with her rearing. This point in a cow's lifetime can be referred to as her "breakeven age."

Breakeven Age

Rearing a heifer to the time she calves for the first time and starts producing milk, and therefore revenue, is a significant investment. For Holsteins, the cost of raising a heifer from birth to 24 months of age is approximately $2,650. Each extra day spent before the first calving adds incremental costs, increasing her debt to be recovered, and further delays the age where revenue can first be earned.

To determine the amount of variation in breakeven age in the Canadian dairy population, daily cumulative profit was calculated for Holstein cows born in 2012 through their life span, under current costs and prices. The breakeven age was determined as the age when their cumulative profit first exceeded zero. Figure 1 shows the distribution of breakeven ages in months for this group of cows. On average, the Holsteins studied had a breakeven age of 42 months, which typically occurred while in their second lactation. This average breakeven age is presumably lower for more recently born cows given the continuous improvements achieved for both production and reproduction.

Profit Curves

Every cow has a unique profit curve based on age at first calving, lactation curve, length of dry periods, and productive life. All of these factors can contribute to her breakeven age, especially age at first calving and first lactation production. Cows earn profit based on milk production above the cost of production, maintenance, and overhead. Every day dry also incurs costs, highlighting fertility and reproductive management in profitability. Figure 2 depicts typical profit curves, from first calving to the end

Figure 1: Distribution of Breakeven Age for Holsteins Born in 2012

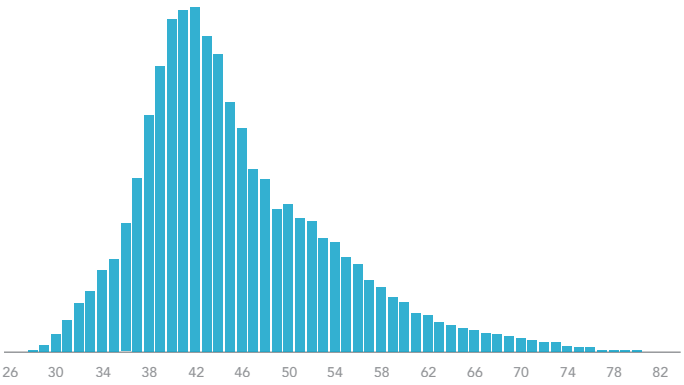
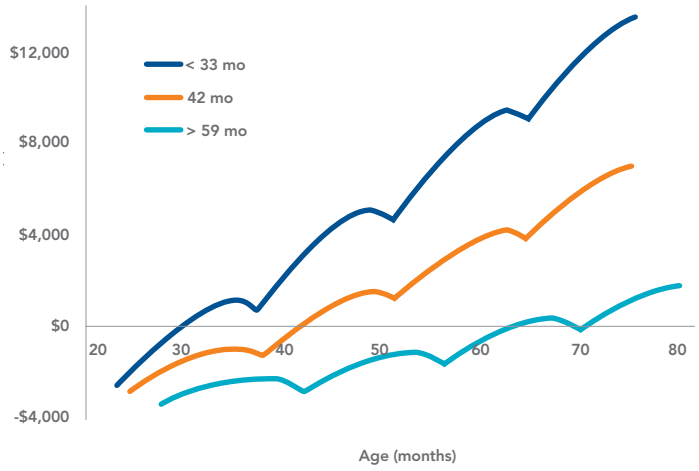


Figure 2: Average Profit Curve for Holsteins within Three Categories of Breakeven Age



of a fourth lactation, based on the average cow with a breakeven age within three categories, namely (a) less than 33 months, (b) equal to 42 months, and (c) greater than 59 months. Those cows with the earliest breakeven age combine an early first calving and high production while those at the far right of the Figure 1 distribution typically had a late first calving and low milk production.

Age at First Calving and Breakeven Age

Much debate has surrounded an optimal age at first calving and often these recommendations differ or can depend on herd management or circumstances. An early age at first calving decreases initial investments in rearing and animals begin to earn income at a younger age, but this must be balanced with future production and reproductive performance to maximize economic return.

Figure 3: Average Breakeven Age and Payback Period Length by Age at First Calving for Holsteins

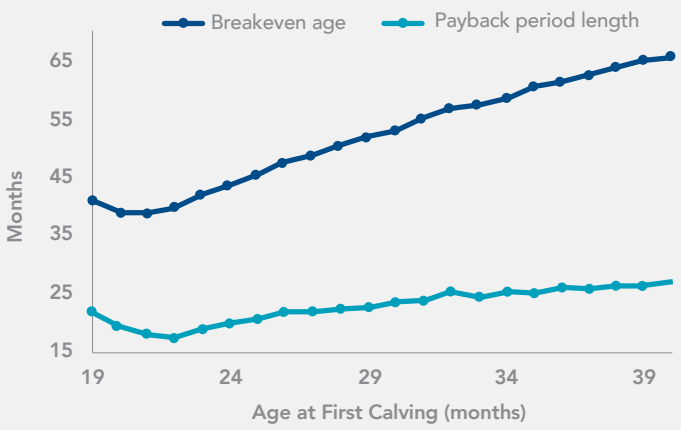


Figure 3 shows the average breakeven age and payback period length (i.e. the amount of time after first calving for a cow to pay back her rearing investment) by age at first calving. This data suggests that achieving an age at first calving of approximately 21 months results in the earliest breakeven age. Calving earlier than 21 months of age lowers rearing costs but requires, on average, a longer period to pay back this investment and therefore results in a higher breakeven age. This is attributable to reduced first lactation milk yields frequently observed for animals calving too early.

When just looking at the post-calving payback period length, an age at first calving of 22 months required the shortest amount of time post-calving to produce enough revenue to reach breakeven, despite greater rearing costs than those calving earlier. However, these cows were still older at their breakeven age compared to the group calving at 21 months as their quick payback period, on average, was not enough to overcome their longer rearing time. A previous analysis at CDN showed that an age at first calving of 22 months was the optimal target in order to maximize profitability to six years of age for Holstein. These estimated ideal targets of age at first calving for breakeven age and profit are lower than the current national average age at first calving for Holsteins, which is approximately 25 to 26 months.

A first calving age beyond 22 months of age continued to have increasing payback period lengths. Accordingly, the breakeven age tends to increase at a rate greater than the extended time spent in the rearing phase. The longer the time before first calving, the greater the original investment or deficit the cow must repay before reaching the breakeven point without apparent benefits in production yields.

Summary

A dairy cow incurs costs every day she is alive but it is not until she calves that revenue from milk sales are realised. A large amount of variation exists in the Canadian Holstein population for the age at which they return their original investment. The breakeven age is an element of the early stage of a cow's profit curve, which is driven by age at first calving and milk production. Delaying age at first calving beyond 21 months increases rearing costs and ultimately cows spend more days with overall negative profit. An older breakeven age represents a greater time period of risk where a monetary loss would occur if a cow stops producing. The breakeven age, however, does not express the ultimate profitability of the cows.

Addressing Tag Retention Issues

HOLSTEIN CANADA and our partners have been investigating retention issues experienced by some users of the Ultraflex RFID XLarge Panel tag sets. We have received reports from producers telling us they are finding the tags remain intact, but are sliding through the ears on calves between the ages of five and nine months.

We are working closely with the tag manufacturer, Allflex, to investigate all concerns. We have visited many herds across Canada and had multiple discussions with dairy farm operators. In our visits, we have seen some heifers with large holes in their ears, some nearly the size of a quarter. Some ears have had slight inflammation and irritation to the ears around the tag stems.

Because of these investigations, Allflex has recommended a modification to the tag to improve its overall performance and address the new challenges we have encountered with the Ultraflex RFID XLarge Panel tag sets. The main areas that will be modified are the back of the male tag, making a larger tag surface on the top portion, increased thickness around the transition from panel to stem, and a slightly longer stem.

Modifications to the tag are in the testing phase through monitored animal trials. The results will be submitted to Canadian Food Inspection Agency for review and approval. The approval process is to ensure that we exceed the standards of conformance and performance of livestock indicators used in the Canadian traceability system. The testing and approval process could take up to six months. We are currently working with the Canadian Cattle Identification Agency (CCIA) and Agri-Traçabilité Québec Inc. (ATQ) on national field trials and expect to have some preliminary results by the end of the year.

In the meantime, we understand tag loss is a big frustration for farm operations. We have some suggestions that can help:

ENSURE THAT THE EAR ITSELF AND THAT ALL EQUIPMENT AND TAG SURFACES ARE CLEAN Upfront time in disinfecting the ear and tag, plus the application of healing ointment, promotes better healing around the stem of the tag. These steps should minimize the widening of the hole through which the tag slips.

DIP THE MALE TAG IN A DISINFECTANT OR HEALING CREAM AT THE TIME OF TAGGING Dipping the male tag in a disinfectant or healing cream at the time of tagging will foster stronger healing. Talk to your veterinarian about herd health protocols, appropriate disinfectants, and have them look at the calf's ears. Infections might be caused by an underlying immune problem or other health issue. A check-up of the ears a week or two after tagging is highly recommended. If this irritation is left untreated or unattended, the hole in the ear can become infected, and this will contribute to the larger-than-expected holes in ears that we see later in the heifer's life.

CHECK THAT YOU ARE USING THE RED ALLFLEX TOTAL TAGGER WITH THE GREEN PIN INSTALLED Using the incorrect tagger or pin could affect the release of the tag at the time of tagging, causing a small rip in the ear that has the tendency to grow over time. Please check that you are using the red total tagger and green pin.

LET THE EAR DRY 24 HOURS BEFORE TAGGING The XLarge RFID tag is a bit heavier than the button RFID tag. When the ear is wet and tender the tag may slip a bit during tagging, and additional weight can easily make the hole larger.

In some cases, producers have opted to go back to the previous tag design and material, referred to as legacy tags. Allflex introduced the new Ultraflex plastic material because of its flexibility and pliability, making the tags more durable and providing better resistance to drastic temperature changes from winter to summer. If you are experiencing retention issues with Ultraflex RFID XLarge Panel tag sets and had good retention with legacy tags, you can opt to order the legacy tag sets. You can let Customer Service know with your next order. We also recommend ordering half a year's worth of tags instead of large volumes so that you can take advantage of the new tag design when it becomes available.

Holstein Canada appreciates all your feedback and patience during our investigation of the RFID Ultraflex XLarge Panel tag loss issue. We have been working diligently with Allflex to understand and resolve this tag issue. Over the next few months, we will be testing and monitoring the tag trials. In the meantime, prompt disinfection of the ear and tags will help with the healing process. In addition, if you would like to opt for legacy tag material and style, call the NLID Customer Service team at 1-877-771-6543.

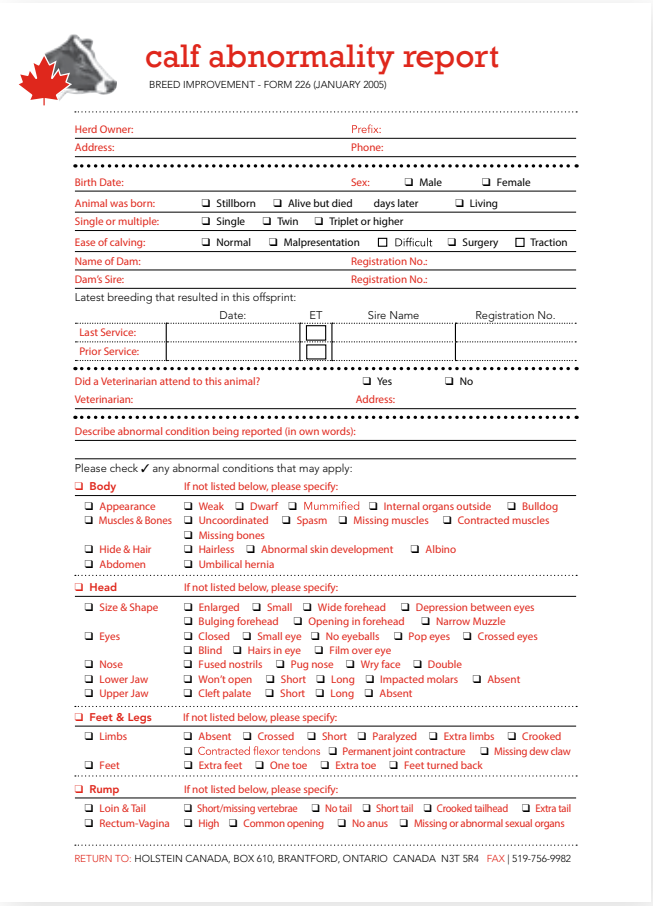
Holstein Canada/NLID and ATQ are continually working with Allflex to produce reliable identifiers that respond to the needs of Canadian dairy farmers. If you have questions or concerns about tag retention, please give us a call. Quebec farmers should contact ATQ at 1-866-270-4319; farmers in provinces outside of Quebec should contact NLID at 1-877 771-6543.

Reporting Calf Abnormalities to Holstein Canada

IT IS IMPORTANT that dairy producers report cases of abnormalities in Holstein calves. A role of the breed association is to accurately pursue and assess the frequency and degree of any negative gene that may exist in the Canadian population. In order to fulfill this function, the Association needs Holstein breeders to report calf abnormality cases meticulously and promptly.

A simple, easy-to-complete form is available on the Holstein Canada website. It is a series of questions related to breeding and calving. If possible, pull a hair sample, put it in an envelope, and send it in with the form. We compile this information to see if there is an underlying trend and may conduct further research through genotesting. All bloodlines offer both positive and negative genes of varying expressions, and reporting abnormalities is our first step in identifying these expressions.

Visit our website at **www.holstein.ca** and under Service tab, go to Resources to find the Calf Abnormality Report. Complete and send this report to Customer Service, or contact our team at 1-855-7456-8300.



calf abnormality report

BREED IMPROVEMENT - FORM 226 (JANUARY 2005)

Herd Owner: Prefix:
Address: Phone:

Birth Date: Sex: ❑ Male ❑ Female
Animal was born: ❑ Stillborn ❑ Alive but died days later ❑ Living
Single or multiple: ❑ Single ❑ Twin ❑ Triplet or higher
Ease of calving: ❑ Normal ❑ Malpresentation ❑ Difficult ❑ Surgery ❑ Traction
Name of Dam: Registration No.:
Dam's Sire: Registration No.:
Latest breeding that resulted in this offsprint:

	Date:	ET	Sire Name	Registration No.
Last Service:		❑		
Prior Service:		❑		

Did a Veterinarian attend to this animal? ❑ Yes ❑ No
Veterinarian: Address:

Describe abnormal condition being reported (in own words):

Please check ✓ any abnormal conditions that may apply:

❑ **Body** — If not listed below, please specify:
❑ Appearance ❑ Weak ❑ Dwarf ❑ Mummified ❑ Internal organs outside ❑ Bulldog
❑ Muscles & Bones ❑ Uncoordinated ❑ Spasm ❑ Missing muscles ❑ Contracted muscles
❑ Missing bones
❑ Hide & Hair ❑ Hairless ❑ Abnormal skin development ❑ Albino
❑ Abdomen ❑ Umbilical hernia

❑ **Head** — If not listed below, please specify:
❑ Size & Shape ❑ Enlarged ❑ Small ❑ Wide forehead ❑ Depression between eyes
❑ Bulging forehead ❑ Opening in forehead ❑ Narrow Muzzle
❑ Eyes ❑ Closed ❑ Small eye ❑ No eyeballs ❑ Pop eyes ❑ Crossed eyes
❑ Blind ❑ Hairs in eye ❑ Film over eye
❑ Nose ❑ Fused nostrils ❑ Pug nose ❑ Wry face ❑ Double
❑ Lower Jaw ❑ Won't open ❑ Short ❑ Long ❑ Impacted molars ❑ Absent
❑ Upper Jaw ❑ Cleft palate ❑ Short ❑ Long ❑ Absent

❑ **Feet & Legs** — If not listed below, please specify:
❑ Limbs ❑ Absent ❑ Crossed ❑ Short ❑ Paralyzed ❑ Extra limbs ❑ Crooked
❑ Contracted flexor tendons ❑ Permanent joint contracture ❑ Missing dew claw
❑ Feet ❑ Extra feet ❑ One toe ❑ Extra toe ❑ Feet turned back

❑ **Rump** — If not listed below, please specify:
❑ Loin & Tail ❑ Short/missing vertebrae ❑ No tail ❑ Short tail ❑ Crooked tailhead ❑ Extra tail
❑ Rectum-Vagina ❑ High ❑ Common opening ❑ No anus ❑ Missing or abnormal sexual organs

RETURN TO: HOLSTEIN CANADA, BOX 610, BRANTFORD, ONTARIO CANADA N3T 5R4 FAX | 519-756-9982

Herd Health: Health Traits

Healthy, functional and active animals within the herd is a primary objective of all dairy producers. Content, comfortable, healthy cows result in more milk in your tank, less input cost on herd health and a little more cash flow at the end of the month. When breeding for the next generation, looking at the health traits of an animal can help minimize future disease and lameness in your herd. In this article, we take a look at several health traits that provide information that can lower the occurrence of disease within a herd.

At the forefront of dairy operations management is somatic cell count. Milk samples collected at your milk test provide the somatic cell levels of your herd as well as individual animals, and these are converted into a **Somatic Cell Score (SCS)**. This score is a good, clear representation of udder health.

In December 2018, SCS was publicized through expression as a Relative Breeding Value (RBV) on a sire's proof sheet. Daughters of bulls that have a lower RBV value (less than 100) are more likely to develop issues with somatic cell counts and related issues like mastitis. Alternatively, animals with a higher SCS will see a lower SCC and frequency of issues like mastitis. In simpler terms, the higher the RBV, typically the lower the SCC an animal will have in her environment.

Mastitis Resistance, another udder health trait, correlates significantly to SCS at 87%. Mastitis Resistance is an index, which looks at the SCS and accounts for cases of clinical mastitis. For herds that are experiencing challenges with mastitis, this trait provides great insight when looking at sires for your herd, particularly considering its heritability of 12%, one of the more significant heritable health traits on the proof sheet. It is important to note that in 2019, Mastitis resistance replaced the SCS on the official Canadian pedigrees.

The two main functional type traits of any animal are her mammary as well as her feet and legs. It is no surprise then, that paying attention to the genetic health traits of these functional traits is vital to positive on-farm management.

Sore feet, a lack of mobility and digital dermatitis of dairy cattle are all-too-familiar challenges for producers. Without a doubt, our cow has improved greatly over the last several decades, but foot health continues to be a challenge on the farm. The **Hoof Health** index is a recent addition to the proof sheet, providing important information for corrective mating decisions. The hoof health index is significant, not only because of its genetic heritability, but also because of its correlation to several phenotypic foot traits. With a significant 47% correlation to Heel Depth and another significant correlation of 21% to Rear Leg Side View, it stands to reason that phenotypic data collection such as classification remains integral, not only as a reference population for indexes but also for good farm management. Similarly, Hoof Health is highly correlated to many hoof lesions (see Table 1) which has a positive correlation with Herd Life (48%) and the production component of LPI (42%). All of this information continues to prove that animals with improved hoof health last longer in the herd. Selection for Hoof Health will reduce the occurrence of eight key lesions: Digital Dermatitis, Interdigital Dermatitis, Heel Horn Erosion, Sole Ulcers, Toe Ulcers, White Line Lesion, Sole Hemorrhage and Interdigital Hyperplasia. For more information on the Hoof Health Index check out the Genetics 101 article in the November/December 2018 issue of *Info*Holstein.

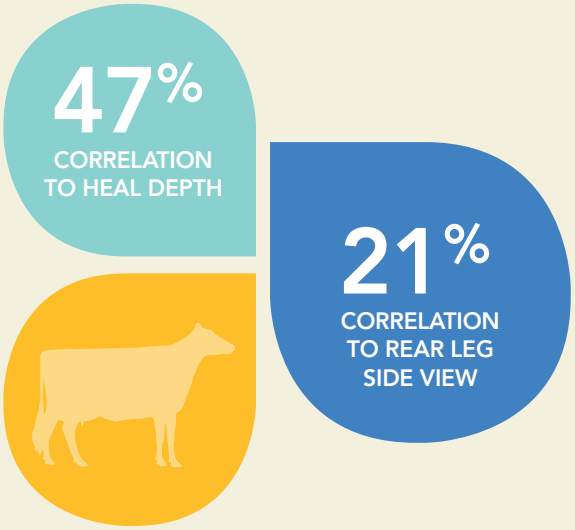
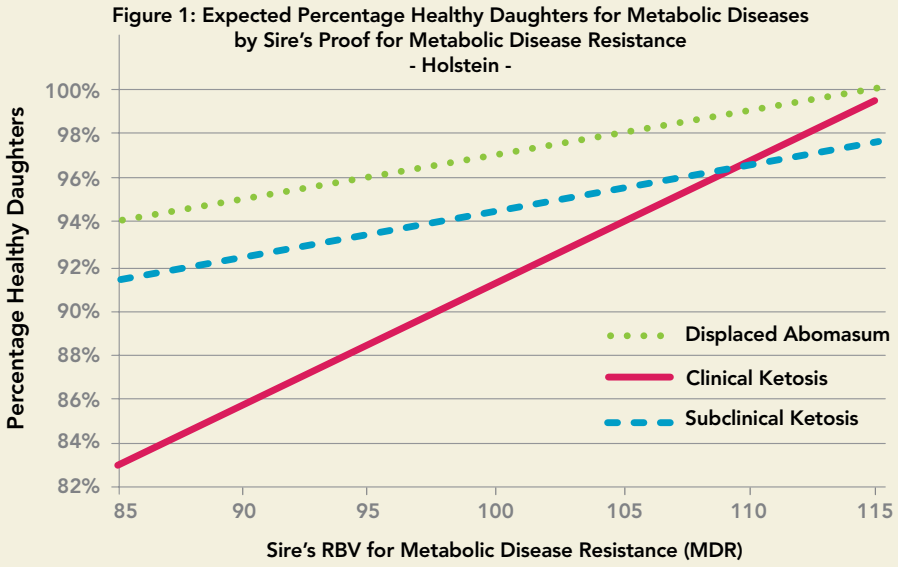


Table 1: Genetic Selection for Improved Hoof Health is Now Possible. November 2018. CDN

Table 1: Frequenceis, Heritabilities, Correlations and RBV Translation for the Eight Hoof Lesions Included in the Hoof Health index				
LESION	FREQUENCEY (%)	HERITABILITY (%)	CORRELATION WITH HOOF HEALTH INDEX (%)	EXPECTED % INCREASE IN HEALTH DAUGHTERS FOR EACH 5 POINT INCREASE IN HOOF HEALTH
Digital Dermatitis	16.9	8	85	4.6
Interdigital Dermatitis	2.6	5	70	0.9
Heel Horn Erosion	2.9	8	76	0.1
Sole Ulcer	8.5	5	74	3.0
Toe Ulcer	1.3	4	3	0.5
White Line Lesion	4.7	4	9	1.4
Sole Hemorrhage	7.4	3	63	0.9
Interdigital Hyperplasia	2.2	7	40	1.1

Metabolic Disease Resistance is a tool producers can use to reduce metabolic disease within the herd. Herd management, especially nutrition within the transition period, heavily influences metabolic disease. MDR looks at the evaluation for six traits: Subclinical Ketosis, Clinical Ketosis, Displaced Abomasum (DA), Fat-To-Protein Ratio, and Body Condition Score. MDR has a low heritability at 7% but is a great example of a high economic impact trait, meaning cases of metabolic disease can be quite costly. Increasing the RBV value for MDR will see an increase in the percentage of healthy daughters in the case of subclinical ketosis, clinical ketosis and DAs (Figure 1).

Figure 1: Selection for Increased Resistance to Metabolic Diseases. Nov. 2016, CDN



Correlations of Hoof Health with Feet and Legs Traits	
FEET AND LEGS TRAIT	CORRELATION WITH HOOF HEALTH
Heel Depth	47%
Feet and Legs	35%
Rear Legs Rear View	21%

When it comes to looking at health traits, it is important to consider the economic impact. Though these traits have low heritability, a single case of any of the related issues can be very costly to the producer, both in vet bills and loss of production. By considering these traits, you are decreasing your herd's predisposition to several common issues. It is always important to remember that how an animal performs is based on two things: the animal's genetic potential and the environment in which the animal lives. These work together and should both be considered when looking at improving your herd's health status. For more information on health traits, talk to your local semen provider.

Compass

Navigate Your Herd's **Success**

Creating an account

Start navigating your herd's success with a Compass Account. Getting started is as easy as 1 – 2 – 3

Step 1

Sign up at **compasscan.ca** with an email and a password.

Step 2

Upload your herd information with either your **milk recording #** or your **Holstein Canada Account #.**

Step 3

Explore what Compass has to offer, view your past successes, see your herds **most up-to-date** data and create a **profitable breeding** strategy.

Have questions about Compass? We're here to point you in the right direction!

Give us a call:
1-855-756-8300 ext. 521 (EN) or 531 (FR);
or press 3 on the menu

Send us an email:
info@compasscan.ca

Dear Customer Service Team

__Pauline Martel__ is answering your question this issue. Pauline has been a bilingual receptionist at Holstein Canada for 14 years. Along with greeting customers, she updates Holstein Canada's records with animals imported to Canada from the United States.

How do I know if the registered animals I purchased from the United States have been transferred into my ownership?

To see if the animals you purchased are transferred into your name, check the Transfer Record on the bottom of the USA Certificate of Registration. If your name appears as the owner, the transfer is completed.

If your name appears, Holstein Canada will receive this information from Holstein Association USA and will add the information to the animal record in our Canadian database. If you do not have the Certificate of Registration and are unsure if transfer is completed, or you need assistance with submitting the transfer, let us know. Customer Service can check the ownership record and/or submit the transfer on your behalf.

If you have any questions, call Customer Service at 1-855-756-8300.


Holstein Association USA, Inc.

99% Registered Holstein Ancestry (RHA-NA)

TRANSFER RECORD

JOIN US!

Every four years, Holstein associations from around the world gather to discuss common goals and issues and hear the latest updates from diverse speakers. Social events, educational workshops, and EXPO Bulle, the Swiss National Holstein and Red Holstein Show, round out the program.

For more information visit:

www.whff2020.ch

TOP SIRES ACCORDING TO AVERAGE FINAL SCORE OF FIRST LACTATION DAUGHTERS

Based on First Lactation Classifications July/August 2019

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

Sire	Daughters Classified	Avg. Daus Score	Avg. Dam Score
LIGHT MY FIRE	121	82.05	81.91
HIGH OCTANE	106	81.78	81.45
DEMPSEY	225	81.78	82.38
EXPANDER	145	81.54	81.99
CONTROL	459	81.52	81.75
CINDERDOOR	130	81.11	81.88
KINGPIN	105	81.00	80.87
RAMBO	155	80.91	80.83
MOGUL	128	80.78	81.67
EPIC	172	80.77	80.51

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

Sire	Daughters Classified	Avg. Daus Score	Avg. Dam Score
AVALANCHE	54	83.11	83.78
G W ATWOOD	42	82.29	82.55
RANDALL	75	81.63	81.59
BRADNICK	56	81.61	81.61
ENDURE	84	81.49	81.36
DAY	45	81.42	81.51
NOVO	49	81.12	80.45
SANTANA	43	81.09	80.44
SILVER	79	80.94	81.18
INCREDIBULL-RED	39	80.90	81.59

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**

NOVEMBER

EARLY

Classifier Conference/Royal from Nov 4-8

MID

ON Bruce, Huron, Dufferin, Simcoe, Ontario, Peterborough, Victoria, Durham, Northumberland, Frontenac

ON **MR** Middlesex, Essex, Kent, Lambton
QC L'Assomption, Montcalm, Joliette, Berthier, Maskinonge, St-Maurice, Champlain, Laviolette, Portneuf, Lac St-Jean, Lapointe, Dubuc, Charlevoix
QC **MR** Bellechasse, Montmagny, L'Islet

LATE

ON Elgin, Hastings, Prince Edward, Lennox & Addington
QC Roberval, Chicoutimi, Vaudreuil, Soulanges, Huntongdon
QC **MR** Kamouraska

DECEMBER

EARLY

ON Waterloo
QC Chicoutimi, Chateauguay, St-Jean, Iberville, Brome, Shefford, Missisquoi, Compton
P.E.I., NB, NS, NL

MID

QC Beauharnois, Laprairie, Napierville, Richmond, Sherbrooke, Stanstead
QC **MR** Bellechasse, Montmagny, L'Islet

LATE

Holiday Calendar Dec 21, 2019- Jan 3, 2020

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.

Is your working girl the next centerfold?

Holstein Canada is looking for the next poster girl to represent the Canadian Kind.

We need the ideal animal to be the face of our new Classification posters. She must be:

- Registered
- Properly tagged
- Classified

If your animal has what it takes, please send a high-resolution shot taken at the following standards:

- It must be a clear stand-alone shot, without a human in the photo
- It can be in the barn or outside
- Include her full name, classification, and any photo credits

Send your photo submissions to
socialmedia@holstein.ca

Please note that all photo submissions could be used in future social media or other promotions with appropriate credits.

infoHolstein

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sspriensma@holstein.ca

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