

infoHolstein

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

ROYAL WINTER FAIR

2023 HIGHLIGHTS (p. 8)

EARLY ONSET MUSCLE WEAKNESS

A Genetic Defect Under Investigation (p. 16)

FARM PROFILES :

Holstein Canada's
Classification Pilot Project (p. 10)





THE 2023 MASTER BREEDER REVEAL

**CELEBRATING EXCELLENCE
JANUARY 13, 2024**

**LIVE FROM BRANTFORD
TUNE IN AT 8PM EST**

EDITOR

Melissa Marcoux, T.P.

CEO

Sartaj Sarkaria

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT

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

VICE PRESIDENT

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

3RD MEMBER TO THE EXECUTIVE

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sylvie Mahannah, QC
450-921-0661
SMahannah@holstein.ca

Gilles Côté, QC
418-487-4937
GCote@holstein.ca

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

Karen Versloot, Atlantic
506-461-3209
KVersloot@holstein.ca

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

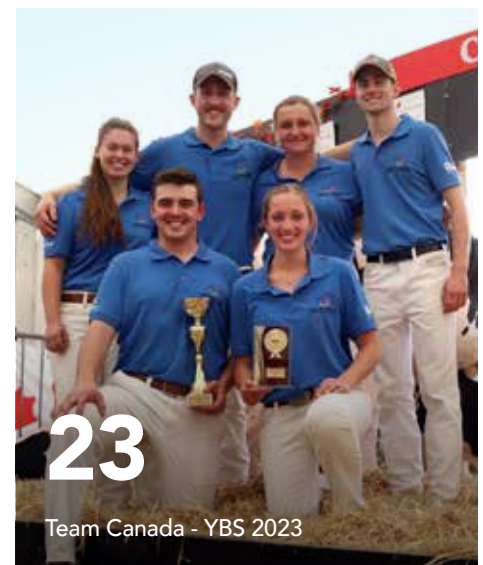
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Team Canada - YBS 2023

On the Cover : With winter approaching, Sheila Sundborg captured the final moments outside for this group of heifers. Thank you for this great shot!



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Western Canadian Classic



2024 NATIONAL HOLSTEIN CONVENTION

April 24 – 27, 2024 | Hamilton, Ontario

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

APRIL 24

Ontario Spring Discovery Show (Heifers)
Ancaster Fairgrounds

APRIL 25

Ontario Spring Discovery Show (Cows)
Moo'vers & Shakers Speaker Sessions
Toss & Taste – The Ultimate Cornhole BBQ Bash
Ancaster Fairgrounds

APRIL 26

Farm Tours
Visit events.holstein.ca to see the full list of farm tours in South Western Ontario

Alternative Tour
Locations of interest in Hamilton and Brant

Canvas & Cocktails Soirée
Hamilton Art Gallery

APRIL 27

Holstein Canada AGM
Sheraton Hotel Hamilton

Master Breeder Gala
Canadian Warplane Heritage Museum

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President's Message

BY: BEN CUTHBERT
PRESIDENT, HOLSTEIN CANADA

→ Success is in the Genes

Genomic Testing became available to Dairy Producers in 2009. Over the years, this technology has become more cost-effective and consistently more useful to Producers. Today, it is recognized as one of the most valuable management tools and steadily contributes to the success of dairy herds everywhere.

Looking back, Genomic Testing has come a long way. It provides numerous benefits for Dairy Producers no matter what the overall goal may be at the farm level. At the very least, testing can confirm parentage when questions arise between possible sires or dams of offspring; but when used effectively, Genomic Testing can set a herd up for success for many years to come. Genomic Testing allows one to create a more defined breeding strategy whereby the best cows can be selected with greater accuracy, and in turn, assist with building the future of a herd. Further to this, it improves the overall reliability of breeding values and allows Producers to expand on breeding goals in order to improve traits within a herd on a more individualized basis. Combined, this contributes to faster genetic progress in a herd which in turn results in greater efficiencies and increased return on investment.

Additionally, Genomic Testing can contribute to the financial success of a herd even when resources are limited. Genomic Testing allows one to make informed mating decisions that will result in genetic progress. This contributes to the bottom line and allows one to see an increase in their return on investment.

The future and profitability of our industry will continue to be shaped by technologies such as Genomic Testing. We should embrace these technologies and consider them to be an important step in the advancement of our industry.

In closing, I would like to congratulate all of the Staff and Volunteers on another successful Royal Agricultural Winter Fair! Your hard work and dedication is appreciated. And, as another great year for our industry and Association is coming to an end, I would like to wish you all a happy and safe holiday season and a prosperous New Year! 🐄

THERE IS AN OPEN CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

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 November, and nominations will close December 8, 2023. Ballots will be mailed out to all voting members in the districts with more than one candidate by January 8, 2024 and voting closes on February 8, 2024. The criteria for the National Director Eligibility can be found in the Association's By-laws at www.holstein.ca; nomination forms can be obtained from your local Holstein Club, Provincial Branch or by contacting Jodi Zettler at jzettler@holstein.ca or 1-855-756-8300 ext. 229. 🐄

Electoral Districts 2024

DISTRICT	DIRECTOR
Quebec at Large	ANGUS MACKINNON
British Columbia	BEN CUTHBERT
Eastern Ontario	NANCY BEERWORT
Western Ontario	BRIAN SLAUGHTER

CLARIFIDE at Holstein Canada Celebrates Two Years!

December 2021 marked the launch of CLARIFIDE at Holstein Canada and a renewed partnership between Holstein Canada and Zoetis Animal Health.

CLARIFIDE at Holstein Canada has brought a comprehensive and valuable genomic test offering to Holstein Canada’s membership. Innovative pricing combinations like our **\$40.00 Registration and Genomic Testing** bundle have proven to be popular with producers who leverage genomic testing at birth. For new herds to genomic testing, our Field Service Representatives and Genomics Customer Service team are equipped to offer our Genomics Catch-Up Program to encourage members to work with groups of animals to facilitate effective genetic planning.

Genomic testing is in its 14th year of commercial availability in Canada and is being utilized by more herds each year. CLARIFIDE at

Holstein Canada enables producers to validate parentage, protect against haplotypes and lethal recessives while also receiving valuable genomic enhanced breeding values.

The habits of Holstein Canada’s membership have changed since the launch of this new program. Each year, greater and greater numbers of herds are committing to genomic testing their female replacements at birth. We can validate this trend with the increase in adoption of matched DairyTrace Tag & Tissue Sampling Unit (TSU) combination sets. Increasingly, more herds are purchasing these tag sets indicating that all females will be genomic tested at birth. Holstein Canada’s ConneXXion application facilitates the simplest sampling workflow with these tag sets, and the **new Genomic Registration** pathway eliminates the need for producers to report insemination dates at time of Registration saving valuable time.

GENOMIC TESTING OPTIONS

zoetis CLARIFIDE at Holstein Canada

\$33 - High Density Standard Panel

Complete Canadian genomic evaluation with parentage verification

Test once, and get up to date genetic evaluations for your animal's lifetime

zoetis CLARIFIDE at Holstein Canada

Bundle and Save! \$40 combined Registration and Genomics

The most cost effective way to register and genomic test your calves before 3 months of age

Applies to members submitting electronic registrations for non-ET Holstein Female calves at 50% or higher purity, outside of other enrollment programs

Additional test fees:

USA Evaluation (TPI)	\$12
Polled	\$35
CVM	\$35
Brachyspina	\$55

New to Genomic Testing?
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zoetis CLARIFIDE at Holstein Canada automatically includes*:

- Beta Casein (A2A2), Kappa Casein (BB)
- Alpha S-1 Casein, Beta Lactoglobulin
- Recessive and Variant Red Coat Colour
- Holstein Cholesterol Deficiency (HCD)
- BLAD, DUMPS, Citrullinemia, Chondrodysplasia

**Tests available for Holstein animals. For other breeds, please contact Holstein Canada*

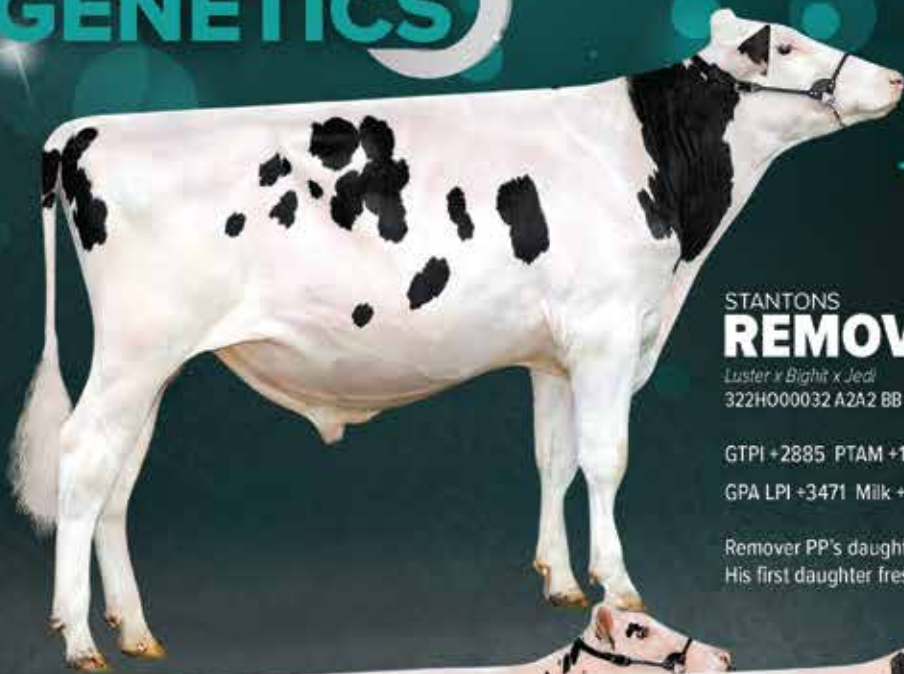
Additional test fees:

USA Evaluation (TPI)	\$12
Polled	\$35
CVM	\$35
Brachyspina	\$55

Bundle and Save! \$40 Combined Registration and Genomics

The most cost effective way to register and genomic test your calves before 3 months of age.

STANTON GENETICS



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For Success!

STANTONS REMOVER PP

Luster x Bighit x Jedi
322H000032 A2A2 BB

GTPI +2885 PTAM +1878 PTAF% +0.10 PTAP% +0.02 PTAT +2.06 NM\$ 816

GPA LPI +3471 Milk +1598 Fat% +0.36 Protein% +0.11

Remover PP's daughters look great, and they are starting to calve now. His first daughter fresh classified VG-ly at just 18 months old.



STANTONS SHORTCUT P

Remover PP x Bundle x Bighit
322H000070 A2A2 BB

GTPI +2886 PTAM +1270 PTAF% +0.18
PTAP% +0.04 PTAT +1.83 NM\$ +850

GPA LPI +3715 Milk +1480 Fat% +0.53
Protein% +0.14

STANTONS REVAMP P

Remover PP x Cockpit x Topnotch
322H000069 A2A2 BB

GTPI +2966 PTAM +1242 PTAF% +0.23
PTAP% +0.02 PTAT +1.99 NM\$ 930

GPA LPI +3680 Milk +1241 Fat% +0.65
Protein% +0.09

STANTONS TARGET PP

Remover PP x Bundle x Bighit
322H000073 A2A2 BB

GTPI +2865 PTAM +1361 PTAF% +0.09
PTAP% +0.06 PTAT +1.59 NM\$ 850

GPA LPI +3614 Milk +1513 Fat% +0.28
Protein% +0.22

Remover PP and his sons, Shortcut P, Revamp P and Target PP are ranked among the Top Polled bulls in the world. They are the complete package for Polled with the combination of performance, pedigree, proven cow families and more.


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The Royal REVIEW

2023

It was another fantastic performance for the Holsteins at the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair in Toronto! Over 400 head of cattle were shown in the Holstein show, including an impressive Sixteen Junior Breeder's Herds and 8 Senior Breeder's Herds.

In the Red and White Holstein show, a record breaking 150 head paraded through the Ring of Excellence. The two National Holstein Shows are always Royal highlights, and this year's shows were certainly no exception. In the National Red and White Holstein Show, judged by Jeff Stephens of Troy, ON, Premium Apple Crisp Lilly took home the roses as Grand Champion. The next day, Judge Adam Liddle of Argyle, New York, gave top honours among the Black and White Holstein show to Erbacres Snapple Shakira-ET, who went on to be named Supreme Champion. Shakira was also one of three animals on the fairgrounds who have been granted a score of 97 points by Holstein Canada Classifiers. The other 97-point cattle included Loyalyn Goldwyn June and the bull Melarry Fuel-ET. The full results from both shows can be found on the Holstein Canada website. The success of the two National Holstein Shows would not have been possible without the generous support of a large number of sponsors who help make these shows such unmissable events, as well as our breeders and exhibitors.



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PEDIGREE ANALYSIS

A pedigree analysis was completed following the conclusion of this year's National Holstein Shows. The analysis was completed on only those animals that appear in the Holstein Canada database. The following charts summarize the results of various data from animals exhibited at the shows.

LEADING SIRES OF ANIMALS EXHIBITED AT 2023 NATIONAL BLACK & WHITE HOLSTEIN SHOW			LEADING SIRES OF ANIMALS EXHIBITED AT 2023 NATIONAL RED & WHITE HOLSTEIN SHOW			LEADING SIRE STACKS OF ANIMALS EXHIBITED AT 2023 NATIONAL BLACK & WHITE HOLSTEIN SHOW		
Rank	Name	# of Daughters	Rank	Name	# of Daughters	Rank	Sire x MGS	# of Daughters
1	FARNEAR DELTA-LAMBDA-ET	47	1	MR BLONDIN WARRIOR-RED-ET	37	1	DELTA-LAMBDA X DOORMAN	10
2	GOLDEN-OAKS MASTER-ET	31	2	FARNEAR ALTITUDE-RED-ET	27	2	DELTA-LAMBDA X SOLOMON	7
3	WALNUTLAWN SIDEKICK	30	3	RIVERDOWN UNSTOPABULL	18	3	DELTA-LAMBDA X UNIX	5
4	CROTEAU LESPERRON UNIX	22	4	MR AFFECTION ANALYST-RED-ET	7	4	CHIEF X DOORMAN	4
5	STANTONS CHIEF-ET	21	5	CYCLE MCGUCCI JORDY-RED	6	4	ALLIGATOR X DOORMAN	4
6	STANTONS ALLIGATOR-ET	18	6	COOMBOONA ZIPIT MIRAND-PP	5	4	DOORMAN X GOLD CHIP	4
7	OH-RIVER-SYC CRUSHABULL-ET	14	6	RIVERDOWN UNSTOPABULL-RED	5	4	UNIX X GOLD CHIP	4
7	VAL-BISSON DOORMAN	14	8	DYMENTHOLM MR APPLES AVALANCHE	4	8	SIDEKICK X GOLDWYN	3
9	WOODCREST KING DOC	11	9	BLONDIN ALPHA	3	8	UNIX X WINDBROOK	3
10	RIVERDOWN UNSTOPABULL	10	9	SIEMERS OCT APPLE-CRISP-ET	3	8	DOORMAN X WINDBROOK	3
11	BLONDIN THUNDER STORM	9	9	VOGUE ILLUSTRATOR-P	3	8	MASTER X DEMPSEY	3
11	FARNEAR ALTITUDE-RED-ET	9				8	MASTER X G W ATWOOD	3
11	MR BLONDIN WARRIOR-RED-ET	9				8	SIDEKICK X DOORMAN	3
						8	ALLIGATOR X UNIX	3

LEADING SIRE STACKS OF ANIMALS EXHIBITED AT 2023 NATIONAL RED & WHITE HOLSTEIN SHOW			AVERAGE CLASSIFICATION SCORE (IN CANADA) OF ANIMALS EXHIBITED AT THE BLACK & WHITE CLASSES - 2023			AVERAGE CLASSIFICATION SCORE (IN CANADA) OF ANIMALS EXHIBITED AT THE RED & WHITE CLASSES - 2023		
Rank	Sire x MGS	# of Daughters	Class	Number of Cows	Average Score	Class	Number of Cows	Average Score
1	WARRIOR-RED X JORDY-RED	7	Class 10 - Winter Yearling in Milk	4	86.75	Class 12 - Summer 2 Year Old	4	86.25
2	WARRIOR-RED X ALTITUDE-RED	5	Class 11 - Fall Yearling in Milk	8	86.63	Class 13 - Spring 2 Year Old	5	85.60
2	UNSTOPABULL X DIAMONDBACK	5	Class 12 - Summer 2 Year Old	13	86.54	Class 14 - Winter 2 Year Old	1	86.00
2	ALTITUDE-RED X UNSTOPABULL	5	Class 13 - Spring 2 Year Old	14	86.79	Class 15 - Fall 2 Year Old	4	87.00
5	ALTITUDE-RED X WARRIOR-RED	4	Class 14 - Winter 2 Year Old	9	85.44	Class 16 - Junior 3 Year Old	6	87.00
6	ALTITUDE-RED X JORDY-RED	3	Class 15 - Fall 2 Year Old	13	86.46	Class 17 - Senior 3 Year Old	2	87.00
6	WARRIOR-RED X ARMANI	3	Class 16 - Junior 3 Year Old	18	87.44	Class 19 - 4 Year Old	3	91.67
6	WARRIOR-RED X AWESOME-RED	3	Class 17 - Senior 3 Year Old	15	87.73	Class 20 - 5 Year Old	3	91.33
9	WARRIOR-RED X DEFIANT	2	Class 19 - 4 Year Old	19	91.63	Class 21 - Mature Cow	2	92.50
9	WARRIOR-RED X COLT P-RED	2	Class 20 - 5 Year Old	10	91.70	Class 22 - Longtime Production: 70,000+ Kg	2	93.50
9	WARRIOR-RED X CROWN P-RED	2	Class 21 - Mature Cow	7	94.43			
9	WARRIOR-RED X UNSTOPABULL	2	Class 22 - Longtime Production: 70,000+ Kg	8	94.75			
9	UNSTOPABULL X ARCHIVAL	2						
9	UNSTOPABULL X ARMANI	2						
9	UNSTOPABULL X DEFIANT	2						
9	AVALANCHE X LADD P-RED	2						
9	ALTITUDE-RED X AVALANCHE	2						

FARM PROFILES

Quebec



By: Melissa Marcoux, T.P.,
Bilingual Extension and Education Specialist

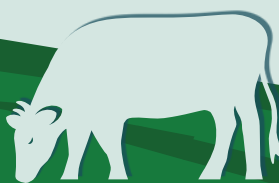


Aston Farm

The story of Aston Farm in Saint-Léonard-d'Aston, Quebec, began in 1974, when Gilles Gauthier and two friends, one of whom was the previous owner's son, purchased the farm's current site. In 1969, Mr. Gauthier obtained a college diploma in animal technology from the Institut de technologie agroalimentaire du Québec (ITAQ), La Pocatière campus. He then worked for 2 1/2 years as a Representative for the Dairy Herd Analysis Service (DHAS), forerunner of the Programme d'analyse des troupeaux laitiers du Québec (PATLQ), and another 2 1/2 years as a Cooperative Advisor for Agropur. Over the years, he and his spouse bought out the other shareholders, eventually becoming sole owners of the farm, where their children, Dany and Nancy, quickly found their place. As for Marie-Claude Fiset, Dany's partner of 24 years, she first did a summer internship there during her studies at the ITAQ in La Pocatière. We met with her to discuss the Classification Pilot Project that the farm joined 3 years ago.

Given the size of the farm, Marie-Claude stresses the importance of using all the tools that breeders have at their disposal to help them in the day-to-day management of their farms: the DSA Dairy-Veterinary software for health monitoring, the Smart Dairy system for production monitoring in the milking parlour, the Heatime tool for monitoring movements, reproduction and health, and of course, milk recording and classification.

The Aston herd has always been classified, and used to stick to pre-established rounds and mid-rounds. This traditional format meant that the Classifier had to visit the herd 2 or 3 times a year, examining up to 165 animals per visit, which disrupted the farm routine, especially with 3 milkings a day. Young cows were often confirmed pregnant even before being classified for the first time. In 2020, Holstein Canada invited the Gauthiers to take part in the pilot project, and the family accepted.



Quick Stats

PREFIX: Astonic

OWNERS: Gilles Gauthier and Nicole Girard

People involved: Gilles and Nicole's children, Nancy and Dany Gauthier, as well as Dany's spouse, Marie-Claude Fiset, and their 4 children, Antoine, Laurence, Léanne and Anabelle. In all, the farm employs some forty people, including 24 foreign workers.

OF COWS: The Aston Group owns more than 3,500 head at 4 production sites.

FACILITY TYPE: The main site is comprised of 2 free-stall barns housing 900 cows, which are milked 3 times a day in a parallel BouMatic double-18 parlour. There is also

an 80-stall tie-stall barn with a number of compost bedded-pack pens for calving and cows requiring special care.

The Aston Group includes a second production site, where 285 cows are milked 3 times a day in the parlour and housed in a free-stall facility.

Calves are reared in a nursery. In addition, some buildings are reserved for replacement animals and the production of certified grain-fed beef calves.

A third site belonging to Nancy is located at Notre-Dame-du-Bon-Conseil, where 250 cows are milked 3 times a day both in tie-

stall and free-stall barns, representing a total of 310 kg of quota.

FEEDING SYSTEM: TMR

OF ACRES FARMED: 4000 acres of corn silage, dry and high-moisture grain corn, soybeans, cereals, and legume and grass prairies. Forage is stored in bunker silos or in stacks.

OTHER BREEDS IN THE HERD: One of the sites belongs to Marie-Claude and includes a herd of some 50 lactating Jerseys producing 56 kg of quota.

HOLSTEIN CANADA SERVICES USED: Registration and classification

Since then, Classifier Richard Villeneuve has visited the main farm after every milk recording. He concentrates on the 50 or so new heifers who just had their first calves, but time permitting, he also classifies older cows. These more regular visits now make it possible to really take advantage of the conformation data for each individual cow in the breeding plan, following each visit CIAQ updates the mating program with new classification and milk recording data. What is more, as they review each of the cow pens, Marie-Claude and Richard decide together which cows will be systematically bred with beef semen, either because of crampiness or poor development.

The use of classification data has also enabled the family to manage the farm's breeding strategy more aggressively. Today, beef semen is used much more than in the past, as this is the preferred method with any cow that fails to meet pre-established production and/or conformation standards.

Marie-Claude confirms their beef operation will produce more grain-fed calves in 2023, which is not a bad thing, considering the current market value of these calves!

As far as Holstein semen is concerned, they use around 25% proven bulls and 75% genomic bulls, mainly for conventional, but also for sexed breeding, especially with heifers and first calvers. In terms of selection criteria, Marie-Claude is looking

for a well-balanced bull. Since Aston Farm uses around 10 bulls at a time, at a rate of around 100 straws, and since they can expect around 50 heifers from the same sire to be born in the same period, to calve and be in production in the same time frame, they cannot afford any extremes. More frequent classification has made it possible to better diversify the use of sires by reducing the number of samples from the same sire in the farm's semen tank, even if it means buying more semen later, once the daughters are in production and have proved themselves.

Since the cows are in loose housing all their lives and must walk quite a distance to get to the milking parlour, for example, Richard and Marie-Claude agreed to focus on Rear Legs Rear View, Heel Depth and Locomotion. Aston Farm aims for longevity, so any cow that cannot move properly and with ease will not feed, will not produce milk, and therefore will not stay in the herd for long.

Holstein Canada's Classifier has become a partner in the farm's success, and now offers his services in the same way as the nutritionist from the feed mill or the AI technician. He is no longer just an occasional



contributor, and more frequent visits from the same Classifier mean that Holstein Canada is now part of the team! Richard and Marie-Claude have developed a trusting relationship. The expertise of everyone involved is recognized by the Gauthier family, and they all work hand in hand for the good of the farm.

There is no shortage of projects for the Gauthiers either! Given the interest shown in the farm by the next generation, the future looks bright. Certainly, registration, classification and milk recording remain priorities for Aston Farm, as they continue to improve their genetics, increase profitability, and participate in data collection for bull proofs. 🐄

FARM PROFILES

Ontario



By: Jenna Hedden,
Ontario Bilingual Field Service Representative



Donnandale Farms Inc.



Donnandale Farms, located in Stirling, Ontario, is a family-owned and operated dairy farm boasting a herd of 450 cows. The dynamic trio behind this operation consists of Mark, Tyler, and Eric Donnan. When asked about their breeding philosophy, Tyler emphasized their seven-year pursuit of cultivating a complete A2A2 herd in anticipation of future opportunities. This approach, though challenging at first, simplifies the selection process by aligning it with their overarching goal.

Donnandale's current herd strategy is mainly focused on getting progeny from their best animals. They've been utilizing the technology of sexed semen for a number of years, and their current breakdown consists of the following: top 30% of animals get sexed semen and the bottom 70% get beef. They are also predominantly using genomic sires. This is made possible by utilizing tools such as classification and genomic testing to ensure reliability is as high as possible on

the female side of a mating. This strategy has allowed them to increase their LPI by 200-300 points year over year.

In terms of sire selection, the Donnan family concentrates on two pivotal aspects: conformation and production. For production, their criteria are stringent, requiring sires to contribute over 500 kilograms of milk and approximately 100 kilograms of fat. On the conformation front, they have

Quick Stats

FARM NAME: Donnandale Farms Inc.

PREFIX: Donnandale

CURRENT OWNERS: Mark, Tyler and Eric Donnan

LOCATION (TOWN): Stirling, Ontario

NUMBER OF COWS: 450 Cows, including animals from a shared facility agreement.

TOTAL NUMBER OF HEADS: 1000, including Wagyu with a shared facility agreement.

FACILITY TYPE/MILKING SYSTEM: Madero 50 stall rotary with a Green Source preparation arm and a Teatwand post dip.

OF ACRES FARMED: We currently crop a total of 1900 acres of land.

450 acres of alfalfa, 100 acres of wheat, 350 acres of soybeans and 1000 acres of corn.

HERD PRODUCTION AVERAGE (MILK, FAT, PROTEIN): 40 L of milk, 4.3% Fat, 3.3% Protein

12,215 L BCA (278M) (314F) (288P)

Averaging 1.72 kg of quota filled per cow per day.

transitioned away from composite traits, opting for a more detailed approach to address specific issues within their herd. Presently, their focus revolves around Chest Width, Rib Structure, Body Depth, Feet & Legs, and well-attached udders. Recent years have seen them pay attention to Body Condition Score and Hoof Health, recognizing the value these traits bring in nurturing animals conducive to their farm. Additionally, they always scrutinize a sire's CDN (Canadian Dairy Network) page to ensure it exhibits no extreme faults within their linear scores.

When asked about classification, Tyler stressed its significance for Donnandale Farms. As a Canadian dairy farmer, he believes in the importance of contributing their data to the system to enhance reliability.

This participation ensures that their farm's specific facility and management practices are integrated into the industry's database. Their belief is that genomics is a collective effort, and proving the worth of their females improves not only the reliability of their herd but also furthers the progress of the entire industry.

Classification acts as a report card, offering insights into how their genetics and environment work together. Without this information, it would be substantially harder to make informed mating choices tailored to their unique facility and management.

When asked about the Pilot Project and why it piqued their interest, Tyler recounted a taxing experience when, post-COVID-19, they had to classify 80 two-year-olds in a single day. It was an arduous undertaking that none of the people involved enjoyed. At that point, classifier Paul

Tree introduced them to Holstein Canada's Pilot Project. They've been benefitting from Carolin Turner's bi-monthly visits for two years now, and the classification experience for everyone involved has improved significantly.

The notable enhancements to their business stemming from the Pilot Project include the following:

- 1. As the consistency within the herd improves they find it quicker to notice the strengths and weaknesses of their herd.** That allows them to put selection intensity on specific traits much sooner, resulting in improved mating choices. When scoring young cows on the 2-month interval, they can start to see positive or negative trends within certain bloodlines. With that, it allows them to make decisions on younger animals with similar bloodlines within their replacement inventory.
- 2. Objectivity and Expertise:** Having a second set of eyes like the classifiers to examine their herd from an objective standpoint has proven invaluable. The classifiers also see a multitude of animals in similar facilities, making them well-versed in which types of animals are best suited for various environments. The strong relationship they've cultivated with Carolin has been a rewarding experience, as she understands the genetic goals of the Donnan's family business.
- 3. Future Mating Decisions:** The two-month interval allows for a comprehensive analysis of the young cows in their herd, guiding future mating decisions. Cows must score 83 points or higher to qualify for sexed Holstein semen, ensuring the best genetic matches.

When Holstein Canada inquired about the farm's biggest challenges, Tyler acknowledged that they share common struggles with other dairy farmers, chiefly in the areas of labour and work-life balance. Nevertheless, they've been fortunate to have had exceptional employees for the past year and a half.

Reflecting on the past decade, when Tyler and his brother transitioned to become the fifth generation on the farm, the family's overarching philosophy has always been forward-thinking.



They aim to ensure the business's sustainability for future generations. This vision prompted diversification, including the installation of a methane digester 15 years ago and the fortification of their land base to diversify income streams.

Looking ahead to the next 10 years, the Donnans believe that as long as Donnandale Farms continues to innovate and diversify, their business will enjoy continued success. Their steadfast commitment to the welfare of their herd, advancements in breeding strategies, and dedication to improving their operation ensures a bright future for this family-owned dairy farm. 🐄



Netherlands

*Bons-Holsteins, Ottoland
Province of South Holland, Netherlands*



Bons-Holsteins

Owner (s): Nico (47) and Lianne (44) Bons

People involved on the farm: The Bons children, Anouk (18), Tessa (15) and Ruben (10)

City/region: Ottoland, province of South Holland, Netherlands

Number of cows: 65 cows in lactation, and 85 heifers and calves

Facility type: Calves are housed individually until 5 weeks of age, after which they move to group housing on straw, then are transferred to the deep bedded (straw) free-stall facility at 6 months. Cows in milk are also housed in a free-stall barn with deep straw bedding and are milked in a double-6 herringbone parlour.

of acres: The Bons work 52 hectares of land, 40 of which belong to them. They grow 6 hectares of corn silage, and the other 46 hectares are grass used to make hay. They are able to do 5 cuts of hay per year.

Herd production average: During 305 days, 11,153 kg at 4.53% butterfat and 3.66% protein

Other breeds: They are 100% Holstein

Services used comparable to those of Holstein Canada: Registration and classification

Bons-Holsteins, a dairy farm with a legacy dating back to 1945,

adheres to a steadfast breeding philosophy that has remained unaltered since its inception. Their primary goal is clear and unwavering: to breed and own the European Champion cow. This vision has been the driving force behind the farm's consistent pursuit of excellence.

Nico, the visionary behind Bons-Holsteins, shared a glimpse into his remarkable journey. His early years hardly hinted at a future in farming. It wasn't until his second year of high school that life took an unexpected turn. Asked to seek an alternative educational path, he enrolled in a farming college in his small town. This choice ignited his passion for agriculture and set him on a road he could never have foreseen.

In 1994, Nico embarked on a transformative three-month internship at Bosdale Farms in Cambridge, Ontario. This experience proved to be a revelation, imparting invaluable knowledge about breeding cows and effective herd management. Inspired



by this stint, Nico's sole ambition became clear – to return to Canada, work with show cows, and ultimately establish his own herd.

However, life had different plans in store. In 1999, when Nico was only 21, his father passed away, leaving the family farm at a crossroads. That same year, Nico's brother, who had been slated to take over the family farm, had an accident. Although he survived, he was told that he could no longer pursue a career in farming. Nico faced a momentous decision – to continue managing the family farm or to return to Canada.

By that point, Nico had also met Lianne, who was 17 at the time, and not prepared to relocate to Canada. Together, they opted to stay and

commit themselves to the family farm. Nico's father had maintained an average classification score of 80.3 for the herd, and was never particularly interested in shows. In stark contrast, Nico's aspiration was to make his mark on the show circuit through his own breeding efforts, rather than purchasing cows.

At Bons-Holsteins, every cow is visited by the classifier. At present, their average classification score, including first-lactation animals, stands at an impressive 89.6. Remarkably, the herd boasts an average age of 5 years and 11 months. In 2002, they reached a significant milestone with their first Excellent cow. Since then, they have attained an impressive total of 126 Excellent cows, 34 of them still residing in the barn. Among these, five cows have achieved the coveted EX-94 score, which is currently the maximum attainable score in the Netherlands. On the genomic side, all bulls born on the farm that may seem interesting will be genomically tested. If the numbers align favourably, they may be marketed to AI. Otherwise, all bulls born on the farm are sold as private breeding bulls.

The milk produced at Bons-Holsteins is directed toward a separate milk stream at FrieslandCampina, known as PlanetProof. This certification adds a 5-cent premium on top of the standard milk price. To qualify for PlanetProof, farms must maintain a higher health standard, including a lower calf mortality rate, and meet certain requirements such as adequate protein production from their own crops.

Nico acknowledges the significant impact of Canadian genetics on their herd. They rely on North American sires for a substantial 99% of their breeding, and have experienced notable success with Canadian sires. Some of the most influential Canadian sires on their farm have included Starleader, Gibson, Lyster, Lauthority, Jasper, and Doorman. Their bull selection process is firmly rooted in Canadian statistics and figures.

When it comes to breeding criteria, Nico uphold a singular standard – high conformation. They meticulously choose bulls capable of enhancing the overall balance and conformation of their cows, with a focus on exceptional udders, body depth, capacity, chest width, and the correct rump angle.

Looking ahead, the farm's most significant challenge lies in the policies and regulations set forth by the Dutch government. The future remains uncertain due to factors such as phosphate quotas and the government's aim to drastically reduce the number of cows in the Netherlands. The persistently low average milk price in their region has created problems for many dairy farmers.

Despite these challenges, Nico doesn't view his approach as radically different from other farms. He has chosen not to prioritize growth for its own sake, opting instead to carve a niche in the market. The sale of embryos and some of their top cows and heifers has emerged as an additional source of income, reinforcing their commitment to quality over quantity.

For the next decade, Nico envisions a future where one of his children might choose to take over the farm. If such a scenario becomes reality, he wishes to grant them as much creative freedom to shape the farm's direction as his own mother once extended to him. As for the near future, his focus remains on refining their existing practices to maintain their success in European cattle shows.

Farming consumes most of Nico's time, leaving little room for other commitments. The farm's slogan, "Breeding for Perfection", aptly encapsulates their daily endeavours, striving for excellence in every aspect of their operations. Feeding, environment and breeding are their three core pillars, and are all equally important to them. Nico's personal passion lies in judging shows worldwide, a pursuit that allows him to connect with like-minded individuals globally. The opportunity



to travel and view exceptional cattle in various parts of the world serve as potent motivators for their work at home.

In closing, Nico wishes to impart an inspirational message to Canadian breeders: never underestimate the attainability of your goals and dreams. He advocates for wholehearted dedication and unwavering commitment to one's vision. Surrounding yourself with individuals who understand and support your mission is crucial, as they will act as a sounding board for introspection as needed.

For Nico, the ability to farm alongside his wife and children is an incredibly rewarding experience, transcending all other achievements. Last year, they participated in the Open European Show in Cremona, Italy, and claimed a slew of prestigious titles, including Intermediate Champion, Reserve Senior Champion, Champion Breeders Herd, Reserve Grand Champion, Premier Breeder, and Premier Exhibitor. For the crowning moment, emotions ran high as Lianne and their children joined Nico in the ring with tears of joy in their eyes, a poignant testament to the power of teamwork in achieving remarkable accomplishments. 🐄



BY: SHANNON CARTWRIGHT, EXTENSION & EDUCATION TECHNICAL SPECIALIST

Early Onset Muscle Weakness: Genetic Defect Under Investigation and its Impact on the Holstein Breed



You may have heard discussions this year around early onset muscle weakness and wondered what all the hype was about. You may have wondered, is this really something our industry needs to be concerned about? In this article we will discuss what early onset muscle weakness is, how it could impact your herd and where our industry is currently with this issue.

WHAT IS EARLY ONSET MUSCLE WEAKNESS?

Early onset muscle weakness or MW for short, is a newly discovered genetic defect currently under investigation in the Holstein breed. MW is characterized by the inability of calves to stand or walk at birth or calves that lose the ability to stand and walk shortly after birth but are otherwise appear normal

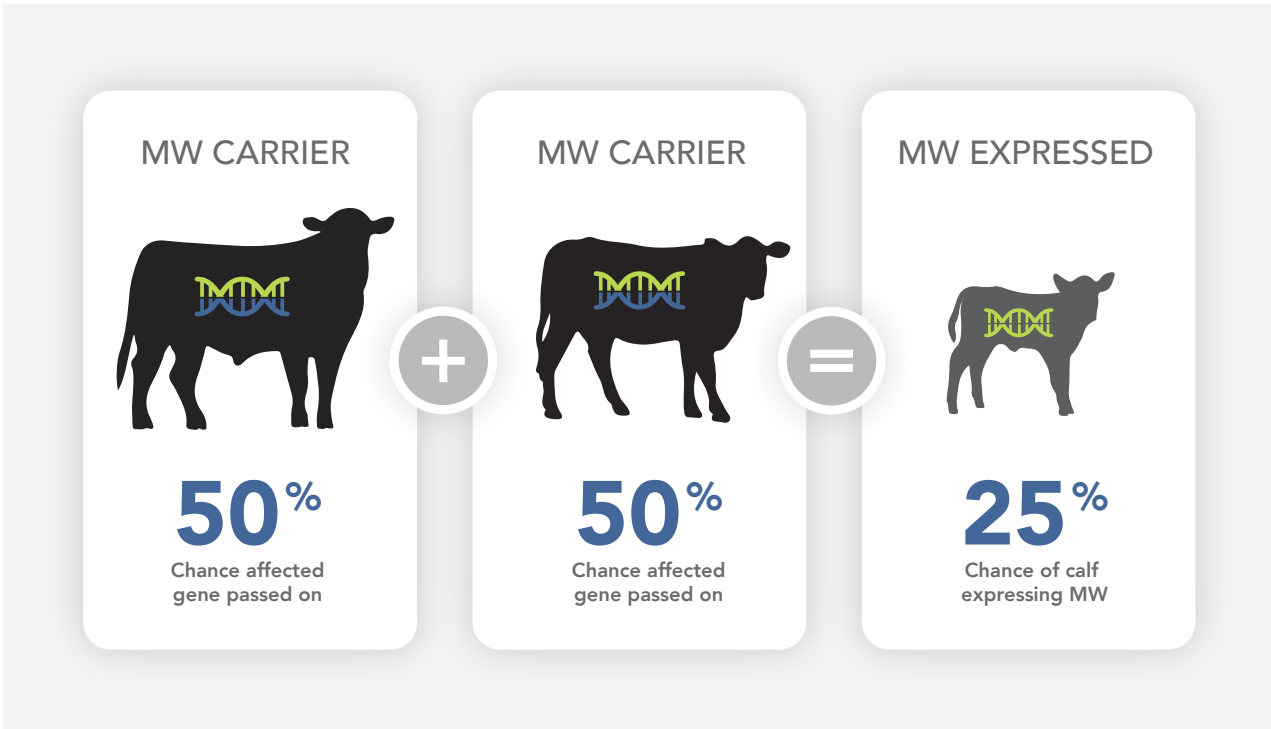
and healthy. However, due to their inability to stand and walk calves do become weaker over time and typically will succumb to other health issues if not euthanized at the onset of discovering this defect.

This genetic defect was initially noticed by a group of American dairy farmers who found an increase in the number of calves that were being born with the inability to stand or walk. A researcher at Penn State University (Dr. Chad Dechow) took tissue samples, for genotyping, from both affected and non-affected calves and discovered all affected calves had the same haplotype (a group of genes inherited together from a parent). After additional analysis, Dr. Dechow identified the gene that causes this condition, making it easier to identify animals that may be carriers of this defect. It was also discovered that this gene plays a role in the tensing and contracting of muscles, with the muscles in affected calves being unable to perform these functions, leading to their inability to stand and walk.

SO HOW DOES EARLY ONSET MUSCLE WEAKNESS AFFECT YOUR HERD?

With the information discovered by Dr. Dechow and through pedigree tracing the industry found that the earliest known carrier of the MW gene was the bull Southwind Bell of Bar-Lee. Southwind went on to sire Roylane Socra Robust-ET, who is also a carrier of the MW gene, and was a key contributor to the haplotype being found in affected calves. The spread of the gene in the Holstein population is mainly attributed to Seagull-Bay Supersire, who is a son of Robust and a prominent sire used within the Holstein breed. This increase in gene frequency within the breed is likely why producers were starting to notice a rise in the number of calves being affected.

However, just because an animal may be a carrier of the gene does not mean it will be affected with MW. During Dr.



Dechow's research he also discovered that all affected calves were homozygous for the MW genes, which means a calf must get a copy of the affected gene from both their sire and dam and therefore needs 2 copies of the MW gene to inherit the disorder. So, in other words if you were to mate two known carriers of the gene your resulting offspring would have a 25% chance of being affected with MW, a 25% chance of having no affected genes and a 50% chance of being born as a carrier (i.e. one copy of the affected gene and one normal copy).

There have however been some animals discovered to have 2 copies of the MW gene that survive to adulthood and display no symptoms of the MW disorder. It is thought that this may be due to incomplete penetrance, which means this trait may only be expressed in part of the population.

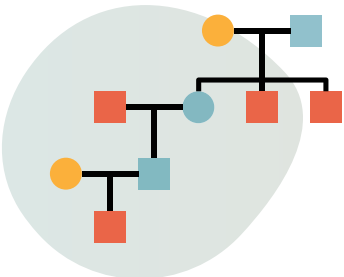
SO, WHERE IS THE INDUSTRY TODAY WITH RESPECT TO EARLY ONSET MUSCLE WEAKNESS?

Since identifying MW as a potential issue for the breed, the industry has banded together to provide producers with as much information as possible to make informed breeding decisions. All AI companies have genomically tested their bulls

to identify which ones may be carriers and have made this information available to producers. Also, many AI companies updated their mating programs to provide information that reduces the risk of breeding two carriers for MW together. There are gene test options available for producers if they want to test females in their herd through specific providers. The CDCB is currently working on developing a haplotype test, which will hopefully be available by the end of 2023. Following this, Lactanet and Holstein Canada will work to deliver this valuable information to producers.

There are still things to be learned about MW and therefore this trait is still under investigation and is not officially being recognized as a genetic defect until more research has been done. Despite this the industry has still been quite proactive in offering producers multiple ways in which they can best manage this trait within their herd. In cooperation with the Holstein Association USA, Holstein Canada is happy share their collection of gene test results for MW which can be found here:

www.holsteinusa.com/lists/early_onset_muscle_weakness.html





2023 NOMINATIONS



Do you own the next Cow of the Year?

In early January, breeders whose cows meet the following criteria will be contacted so that they can officially submit their animal's application to the contest:

Criteria:

- ✓ Have been bred in Canada
- ✓ Have produced over 80,000 kg of milk lifetime
- ✓ Have produced over 3200 kg of butterfat lifetime
- ✓ Have a final score of at least 92 points
- ✓ Have at least 3 stars
- ✓ Have been active in 2023 (have calved in 2023 and/or been in milk in 2023 and/or have a calf born in 2023)
- ✓ Have been alive as of January 1st 2021

Following receipt of applications, the Awards Committee will meet to select the 4 official finalists. These will be known in February and members will then be asked to vote for their 2023 winner!

The results of the vote will be announced at the AGM in April in Hamilton.





Traceability Event Reporting – Requirements & Best Practices

Why Reporting is Beneficial

Reporting events regularly and within the timeframes required by proAction® is beneficial to your farm and to the dairy industry as a whole. Here's why:

- It helps you meet proAction® reporting requirements and to have a successful audit.
- It helps keep your herd information up to date in your DairyTrace account, which means a shorter, accurate list of animals on-farm.
- Reporting is easier from an accurate herd inventory list and helps you quickly verify if you have forgotten to report an event.
- Provides a back-up of records you keep on-farm in the event they are lost or destroyed.
- Up to date traceability records help ensure effective and rapid traceback in an animal health emergency, protecting farms and the dairy industry.



Here's what Chris McLaren, Larenwood Farm says about keeping his records up to date:

“I think the most important thing with traceability is that when you do something, that you enter it. Don't leave yourself a list of things that you did all week and then try and remember what you did and when you did it.”



Timeframes for Reporting

proAction® requires that the following events must be reported **within 7 days** to DairyTrace, for male and female animals:

- Arrival on farm
- Move-in to an affiliate premise
- Tag replacement (previous tag number is not known)
- Tag cross reference (previous tag number is known)
- Tag retirement (on-farm disposal)
- Export and Import

Animals born on farm must be tagged within 7 days of birth or before leaving the farm, whichever comes first.

Births must be reported to DairyTrace within 45 days or before leaving the farm of origin, whichever comes first.

Tagging of stillborn calves is not required if they are disposed of on-farm. Tagging and reporting the tag activation is required, however, if they are leaving the farm to go to a rendering

facility, which will subsequently report the tag retirement. For either scenario, the event needs to be recorded on-farm. It is also highly recommended to report a move-out when a renderer or deadstock company picks up an animal carcass.

What's Your Best Option?

There are several options for reporting traceability events, so you can choose the one that works best for you.

DairyTrace has revamped the on-line portal and mobile app, with new features that make reporting easier. One important update is that the DairyTrace mobile app now links to your address book in the DairyTrace portal. You can also now order tags directly through your DairyTrace account, and as always, shipping is free for all DairyTrace tag orders.

There are also software solutions that are fully automated to capture, record, and report right to DairyTrace. If you are using a third-party software for reporting, be sure to check your DairyTrace account on a regular basis to verify that your events are being reported correctly.

For producers needing non-electronic options for reporting, paper forms can be downloaded from the DairyTrace website dairytrace.ca/animal-movement or ordered from Customer Services. Paper forms can be submitted by mail, fax, or email. Please see contact information at the end of this article.

For registered animals, other industry partners, including breed associations, can receive, send and report event information to DairyTrace on your behalf. When you register an animal through your national breed association, or its identification number changes and needs to be cross referenced, Holstein Canada will automatically transfer the associated traceability event(s) to DairyTrace on your behalf. Just remember, the birth must be registered before 45 days to comply with proAction® reporting requirements or before the animal leaves the farm of origin, whichever occurs first.

View the Reporting Methods Guide from the DairyTrace website or call Customer Service to obtain a copy.

Get More Out of Traceability

Here are some best practices to help you get more out of traceability:

1. Reporting move-outs is highly recommended. Why?

- Keeps your herd inventory list up to date, rather than relying on the next premises who may not report the move-in
- Reported move-outs create documented events when your animals were intermingled with others off-farm
- Helps ensure full traceability of the animal through the dairy system

2. Entering the sex and breed of animals

There are now more breed options to select from in DairyTrace. Entering this information provides complete data about your animal if needed in the future and is easy to complete at time of tag activation. Including the sex and breed of calves at birth also makes it easier to sort and manage your herd list. Additionally, having more complete data about your animals may open the door for value-added opportunities for farmers in the future.



Keeping traceability records up to date helps you stay on track and is beneficial for all dairy farmers. Jennifer Peart, Erievue Farms Ltd. says:

“I now ear tag the calves on the day they're born and record the information immediately so I'm not going back and doing it later and everything is up to date, and it feels good to stay on track.”

We've reached a milestone!

Since October 2020, the DairyTrace customer services team has sold over 500,000 white single button RFID tags. Thank you to all producers who have made the transition to single white button tags to identify all calves born on dairy farms. You are helping to ensure an effective national and globally trusted traceability system, building public trust, and strengthening Canada's export status.

Have Questions?

Dairy farmers can contact DairyTrace Customer Services at 1-866-55-TRACE (1-866-558-7223) or info@DairyTrace.ca.



Connecting to Facebook

Looking for a way to easily connect your herd with more Holstein Canada members? In a few simple steps you can link your Farm's Facebook Page to your Holstein Canada account.

1

Log into your web account

2

Click View/Edit Profile Details

3

Click URL

4

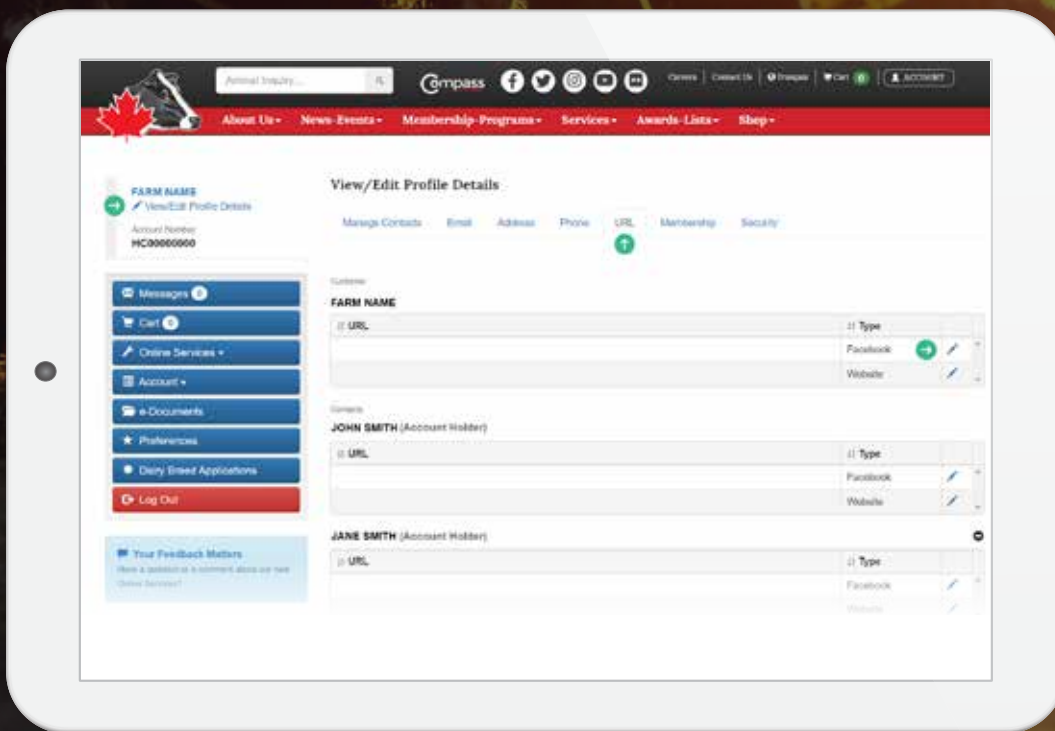
Click the pencil icon next to Facebook

5

Add the web address for your farm's Facebook page

6

Save



Once it is saved, your Facebook Page will be automatically linked to your prefix. Anytime someone searches an animal on Holstein Canada's website that you have bred, or owned, your prefix will appear blue in the owner information. Clicking the blue prefix will lead straight to your website or Facebook page!

The Best of the West

By: Darren Isaac, Holstein Solutions Partner & Classifier

The theme of the 2023 WCC held in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, was Cirque Moo Soleil and what a show we had. The opening and closing ceremonies were brightened by some great circus-oriented entertainment from young Saskatchewan dairy farmers.

Moving straight into placings...

The top fitters in the clipping competition were Corban Friesen, SK, from the Junior division; Dorian de Lange, AB, from the Intermediate; and Kyle Vaandrager, BC, from the Seniors.

In the Dairy Quiz, Sabrina de Vos from BC had the highest score of the Juniors. Ashlee McAvoy, BC, had the highest score in the Intermediate category. The Senior category was dominated by three participants who placed very closely, separated only by their performance on the tie-breaker questions. Cassandra Archambault, BC, placed first; with Natalie Boonstoppel, MB, taking second; and Ethan Nienhuis, SK, in third place.

The first place Overall Junior Judge was Edwin Slingerland from AB; with Corban Friesen, SK, first on Reasons; and Georgia de Lange, AB, first on Placings. In the Intermediate category, Adyson Wilderboer, AB, was first for Placings and Overall. Ashlee McAvoy, BC, was first for Reasons. The Overall winner for Senior Judging was Ethan Nienhuis, SK, who took first for both Placings and Reasons.

The Showmanship classes were really a joy to watch, with great work from all the participants. It required excellence from calf and handler to rise to the top of a class. Sophie Neufeld, MB, was the first place Junior; Jasmine Lemke, BC, won the Intermediate category; and the first place Senior Showman was Ethan Nienhuis, SK. The Grand Champion Showman was Ethan Nienhuis, SK. Taylia Rees, SK, was 2nd in the Senior division and Reserve Grand Champion, and Jasmine Lemke, BC, won Honorable Mention.

Taylia Rees, SK, formerly from BC, won the Logan Chalack Memorial Award, a recognition of team work and personality, as well as leadership and mentoring younger participants.

The High Point Participant was Ethan Nienhuis, with Kyle Vaandrager, BC, in second place. This is used to determine the European Young Breeder Trip Winner from Western Canada, as Ethan has already gone to Europe this year as a result of his accomplishments in 2022, Kyle will be the representative in 2024. Team Manitoba won the Herdsman Competition and the Premier Province Award went to BC.

Spending several days at WCC was made very enjoyable by the passion and enthusiasm of all the participants. The future of the industry is in good hands.

A host of sponsors make WCC possible, with Westgen and its Endowment Fund being primary among them. A special Thank you to Nancy Friesen for all of her efforts in organizing this event.

WCC will be held in Armstrong, British Columbia, next year. If you're looking for a good show and a window into the future of our dairy industry, we hope to see you there!



YBS Report 2023

By: Melissa Marcoux, T.P.,
Bilingual Extension and Education Specialist

Six Young Leaders had the honour of representing Canada at the 21st Young Breeder School event in Belgium this August – making it the 8th year they were in attendance.

152 youth from 16 countries took part in the competition. After three days of intense technical training on marketing, showmanship, clipping and judging, the participants competed in the ring to apply what they learned.

Once again, Team Canada stood out thanks to their fantastic results! We would like to thank Semex for their partnership in our 2023 participation in YBS.



WINNERS



BEST CLIPPER
Kolton Crack,
Quebec

SHOWMANSHIP CHAMPIONS
CHAMPION

Félix Lemire, Quebec

RESERVE

Deborah Zey, Germany

HONORABLE MENTION

Sarah Dean, Ontario

SHOWMANSHIP CLASSES



CLASS 2
1st Sarah
Dean, Ontario

INDIVIDUAL OVERALL RESULTS

3rd Félix Lemire, Quebec

4th Sarah Dean, Ontario

7th Kolton Crack, Quebec

8th Ethan Nienhuis,
Saskatchewan

12th Emma Finch, Ontario

35th Grace Hughes, PEI

4th Grace Hughes, PEI

CLASS 3

2nd Emma Finch, Ontario

4th Kolton Crack, Quebec

CLASS 4

1st Félix Lemire, Quebec

CLASS 5

2nd Ethan Nienhuis,
Saskatchewan



Young Leaders Program: We cannot predict the future, but we can work for it!

The Young Leaders Program offers a wealth of opportunities for networking, making memories and forging unforgettable friendships.

Whether it's attending the Young Breeders' School (YBS) in Belgium, listening to the Master Breeders' discussion panel during the National Convention or attending the presentation of those coveted shields, the result of over 15 years' hard, passionate work, Young Leaders' experiences are not only enriching, but also memorable and motivating.

To begin with, what is Holstein Canada's Young Leaders Program? Cynthia Campbell, member of Holstein Canada's Young Leaders Advisory Committee, has plenty of words to describe this program brimming with possibilities.

Who are the Young Leaders?

First and foremost, they are young people between the ages of 19 and 30 who have an infectious passion for the Holstein breed.

What is the program's mission?

To invest in the young Holstein breeders of today, and pave the way for tomorrow's industry leaders.

What is the program's vision?

To create a cohesive group of passionate, knowledgeable young leaders who know Holstein Canada and are enthusiastic advocates and ambassadors for the dairy industry, so that they remain committed and



FROM LEFT TO RIGHT : Audrey Morneau, Mark Sweetnam, Lysanne Pelletier, Cynthia Campbell, Kirstan Bennett and Emma Prelaz.
Missing: James Pruiim

determined members in promoting our breed and the sustainability of the industry.

What does the program provide?

We offer 6 annual scholarships, several youth event sponsorships, work opportunities on farms across the country, life-changing experiences such as the YBS, National Judges School, the National Convention, online seminars and the famous virtual National Barn Cow Competition.

Where can Young Leaders be found?

We can easily be found on social media but also in person at various activities and events such as the Holstein Canada National Convention, local, regional and national shows, Holstein Québec's Fitting School and Breeding School, the Classique des Jeunes ruraux du Québec, Holstein Canada events, the Western Canadian Classic (WCC), EastGen Challenges, YBS, the DairySen\$e forum, Holstein Canada Provincial Branch meetings, the TD Classic and many more.

How can Young Leaders be reached?

Simply write to us at youngleader@holstein.ca.

Kirstan Bennett, also a member of Holstein Canada's Young Leaders Advisory Committee in Ontario, attests to the importance of networking: "The Young Leaders Program offers you the opportunity to interact with members of the industry, not only in your own province, but also across the country. You will learn about the opportunities offered

by other branches, the challenges everyone faces, and how we can help shape the future of all Holstein breeders."

For Audrey Morneau, who also sits on Holstein Canada's Young Leaders Advisory Committee, the program is synonymous with meaningful experiences that have provided her with memorable moments, friendships and the opportunity to learn from the best in the industry. "When I received the call from a Holstein Canada Board member asking me if I wanted to be part of the Young Leaders Advisory Committee, I had no idea what a huge impact this program would have on my life as a member of the dairy industry's next generation. I sincerely believe that the Young Leaders Program should be shared with as many young people as possible, in order to offer these opportunities to all those who are passionate about the dairy industry. It is by supporting young people in the Association that we will have a future in the Holstein industry. As tomorrow's generation of enthusiasts, we face a challenge, but we must continue the work of the pioneers and people who forged what the Holstein Association of Canada is today."

The Young Leaders Program is there to support up-and-coming Holstein members, help them make connections and be their voice. Don't hesitate to take advantage of it and embark on the "Young Leaders" experience.

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

Based on 1st Lactation Classifications June, July and August 2023

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

Sire	Daughters Classified	Avg Daus Score	Avg Dam Score
DELTA-LAMBDA	357	82.55	82.93
ASHBY	148	82.43	82.61
ALLIGATOR	302	82.26	82.54
SIDEKICK	122	82.07	82.46
DOC	237	81.83	82.23
RANDALL	383	81.59	81.77
MILANO	114	81.42	81.60
MIRAND	240	81.39	82.15
FUEL	153	81.07	80.95
POSITIVE	145	81.05	80.94

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

Sire	Daughters Classified	Avg Daus Score	Avg Dam Score
LEGEND	38	83.29	83.13
CRUSHABULL	87	82.34	82.79
HIGH OCTANE	49	82.29	81.63
ILLUSTRATOR-P	40	82.28	82.28
A2P2-PP	75	81.91	81.37
RADIO	45	81.89	82.11
LIGHT MY FIRE	82	81.70	82.06
ALONGSIDE	65	81.65	81.95
FIRECRACKER	39	81.62	82.41
REDEYE-P	55	81.42	81.76

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

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

Sire Name	Daughters Classified	Avg Daus Score	Bull Proof for Conformation*
BELIEVE P	10	83.70	10
STAN	20	83.30	15
DESTINY	35	83.20	7
LEGEND	105	83.05	14
CRUSH	43	82.72	11
RESPECT	29	82.69	13
NULL	11	82.64	5
ARROW	25	82.60	9
STARS	17	82.59	6
AIRONE	13	82.54	9

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

Sire Name	Daughters Classified	Sire Health & Fertility	Avg Daus Score
ALMAMATER	172	625	79.8
ALTAMANIC	135	598	80.5
PORTER	290	589	80.3
DELTA-LAMBDA	474	552	82.5
RANDALL	547	542	81.5
BLUECHIP	156	542	79.1
DELTA	133	534	81.2
HARVEST	100	534	81.1
DRYDEN	245	534	80.1
ADAGIO-P	577	533	80.4

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

Classification Schedule

Mid-round **MR**

NOVEMBER

- ON **MR** Russell, Brant, Haldimand, Norfolk
- ON Perth
- QC **MR** Frontenac, Beauce, Levis
- QC Richelieu, Vercheres, Rouville, St-Hyacinthe, Chambly
- SK Saskatchewan

LATE

DECEMBER

- ON **MR** Prescott, Carleton
- QC **MR** Dorchester
- BC **MR**

EARLY

- QC Abitibi, Temiscamingue

MID

JANUARY

- ON Leeds, Grenville, Lanark, Renfrew, Grey
- QC **MR** Bellechasse, Montmagny, L'Islet, Pontiac
- QC Labelle, Argenteuil, Papineau & Gatineau, Terrebonne, Deux Montagnes, L'Assomption, Montcalm, Joliette, Berthier, St-Maurice, Champlain

EARLY

- ON Bruce, Huron, Peel, Halton, York, Simcoe
- QC **MR** Kamouraska
- QC Maskinonge, Portneuf, Lac St-Jean, Roberval
- AB **MR**

MID

- ON Dufferin
- QC Lapointe, Dubuc, Charlevoix, Chicoutimi

LATE

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

Common Name	Classified Daughters	Avg Daus Score	Average 305-Day Fat	Sire Proof for Fat
HUGO	54	79.6	456.6	91.0
JONES	51	81.3	451.5	119.0
HELIX	117	80.4	447.2	115.0
DUKE	71	80.0	435.9	117.0
PHANTOM	185	80.3	434.8	98.0
RUBICON	144	81.3	429.8	115.0
ALTAZAREK	69	80.0	429.4	102.0
ALCOVE	201	80.2	426.8	140.0
RUBELS RED	83	81.3	426.2	89.0
POSITIVE	165	81.0	420.2	122.0

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

Based on 1st Lactation Classifications June, July and August 2023

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

Sire Name	Daughters Classified	Average Final Score of Daughters	Sire Daughter Fertility
ALTAMANIC	135	80.5	108
ALMAMATER	172	79.8	108
PORTER	290	80.3	106
DELTA	133	81.2	105
HARVEST	100	81.1	105
ALTAMARLON	163	80.3	105
DELTA-LAMBDA	474	82.5	104
BRIDGESTONE	130	80.8	104
DRYDEN	245	80.1	104
UNIX	464	81.8	103

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

Sire Name	Daughters Classified	Average Final Score of Daughters	Sire BCS
ALMAMATER	172	79.8	118
ACTUALLY	180	80.5	110
CHIEF	500	82.4	109
DARWIN	288	79.5	108
BLUECHIP	156	79.1	108
KINGPIN	101	80.9	107
APTITUDE	240	79.6	107
PHANTOM	319	80.2	106
STAMKOS	321	80.2	106
UNSTOPABULL	113	82.1	105

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

GLOBAL SUPERSTAR!



#1 Sold Imported Bull in Denmark
July'22- Aug.'23 (2.5x More Than The #2)

#2 Most used Sire Switzerland 2021 & 2022



#2 Sold Bull by Select Sires Canada 2022
#6 Most Registered Daughters Holstein Canada Aug.'22-July'23



Link to see
his December
Official CDN
Proof!



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