info Holstein

March/April 2018 issue no. 150

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

TRADITIONS ● INNOVATIONS
Congrès National Convention
QUÉBEC 2018

Convention is almost here!

National Holstein Convention
April 11-14, 2018

Last chance to register!

09 Mar	Hotel Room Block closes
12 Mar	Registration closes

Farm Tours

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Tour 1 — STgenetics

- Drapeau et Fils (Dragon)
- Ferme Pierriche inc. (Pierriche)
- Ferme Rolandale enr. (Jolibois)
- B. Lehoux et Fils inc. (Lehoux)
- Ferme Duhibou inc. (Duhibou)

Tour 2 — SexedULTRA 4M

- Ferme Malic (Malic)
- Ferme Canco inc. (Canco)
- Ferme Boulet inc. (Boulet)
- A. et R. Boulet inc. (Bonaccueil)
- Pierre Boulet (Pierstein)

Tour 3 — ecofeed

- Ferme Geno inc. (Geno)
- Drolet et Fils (Drolie)
- Ferme Jacobs inc. (Jacobs)
- Ty-D Holsteins (Ty-D)
- Ferme Jean-Paul Petitclerc et Fils inc. (Petitclerc)
- Yvon Richard et Fils inc. (Rigo)

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Chief Executive Officer Ann Louise Carson

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ABOVE: Be sure to check out the farm profiles on page 7. In this edition, we talked to four members across the country who immigrated to Canada to start dairy operations. **ON THE COVER:** an entry by James Rapaport, for Frame the Herd Theme #5 "Farm Scenes". See page 22 for Contest winners. The photo was captured at Port Hill Milking Co., PEI.

contents

From the Farm to the Food Guide

By Holstein Canada Chief Executive Officer, Ann Louise Carson

THERE IS CERTAINLY a lot to be optimistic about in today's Canadian dairy industry. Thanks to loyal clients, Holstein Canada is experiencing unprecedented growth in its core services. You are milking more cows and continuing to see value in our services. A $20B industry getting even bigger is great economic news for all Canadians.

You are milking these 'extra' cows because consumers are seeing the benefits of dairy products, especially ones with higher fat content. Butter is back – and we all know life is better with cream! Long live our system which links supply to demand in such a direct manner.

It is sad to see that currently, the people behind the new proposed Canada Food Guide have demoted the importance of dairy products. A very respected heart surgeon from Belleville, Ontario, Dr. Andre Samis, recently shared with a room of dairy farmers the proposed guide will actually 'harm people'. Dr. Samis also shared there is no scientific fact linking dairy fat to heart and stroke disease. In fact, he and his colleagues recommend cheese to stroke patients.

Why does the Food Guide matter? Institutions, such as hospitals, base their menus on the Food Guide. This important document is also the basis to teach school children. You didn't build that new barn or extension for the short term – we can't have the next generation of Canadians thinking butter is bad! Life without cheese? I don't think so!

Some feel we need to disregard the next Canada Food Guide and accept this battle is lost. I say let's find a solution. Hats off to DFC and the provincial Milk Boards for creating the website www. keepcanadianshealthy.ca. The documented benefits of dairy products and how you can do your part to raise awareness are very well explained. Let's say 'Cheese Please' loudly!

Excellent Sisters

FOR JUST THE FIFTH TIME in the history of Holstein Canada Classification, three full sisters at the same farm were awarded a final score of "Excellent" on the same day. Holstein Canada Classifier Pierre Houle attributed the Excellent rating to the three sisters at Ferme Ginel in St-Ignace de Stanbridge, QC on Sept. 7, 2017. These three Windbrook daughters (pictured at right), all in their third lactation, are out of Quiko Goldwyn Jadys EX-94-3E.

Ferme Ginel is owned and operated by Pierre and his son Simon, along with his brother, Richard, and his two sons, Benoit and Vincent Gherardi. Together, they manage a 150 cow herd in a bed-pack free-stall with two Lely milking robots, which have been in operation since 2002. Their current herd classification is 14 Multiple EX, 12 EX, 80 VG and 38 GP.

They changed their genetic selection process to suit their operation's needs, but then found longevity to be a challenge. To improve longevity, they used balanced bulls on their cows, while using corrective mating in order to breed for balanced animals, rather than extremes. This corrective mating strategy seems to be working well, with many of their cows are now at their 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th and even 11th lactations!

Holstein Canada's classification service helps to validate these mating choices by bringing an outside perspective to Ferme Ginel's herd conformation trends. Ferme Ginel scored their first EX cow in 2005, and has since celebrated 55 more!

IN THE HISTORY OF HOLSTEIN CANADA CLASSIFICATION, THIS HAS HAPPENED ON FOUR OTHER OCCASIONS:

2011: Quality Holsteins, Quality Prefix in Vaughan, ON

2013: J.Williaw Wikkerink Farm LTD., Willswikk Prefix in Cobble Hill, BC

2016 : Hamming Holstein LTD., Hamming Prefix in Vemon, BC

2016 : Ferme Laperle enrg., Desperle Prefix in Coaticook, Qc.

Brian Van Doormaal,
General Manager, CDN

HEIFER RE-RANKING WITH GENOMIC TESTING

In Canada, the majority of dairy producers have at least tried, for one reason or another, genomic testing heifers in their herd. Some saw very little value and/or did not know what to do with the results while other herd owners have adopted a policy to automatically genotype every heifer born on the farm as soon as possible after birth. Let's take a closer look at heifer genomic testing and why the response by producers has been so variable.

Reasons for Genomic Testing

THERE ARE THREE MAIN REASONS WHY DAIRY PRODUCERS SHOULD CONSIDER GENOTYPING HEIFERS BORN IN THEIR HERD:

- Guarantees correct pedigree recording when the parent is also genotyped, which is essentially always true for daughters of A.I. sires
- Identifies heifers that are carriers of undesirable genetic recessives such as haplotypes affecting fertility as well as cholesterol deficiency in Holsteins
- Increases the accuracy of the heifer's genetic evaluation as it moves from a Parent Average (PA) to a Genomic Parent Average (GPA)

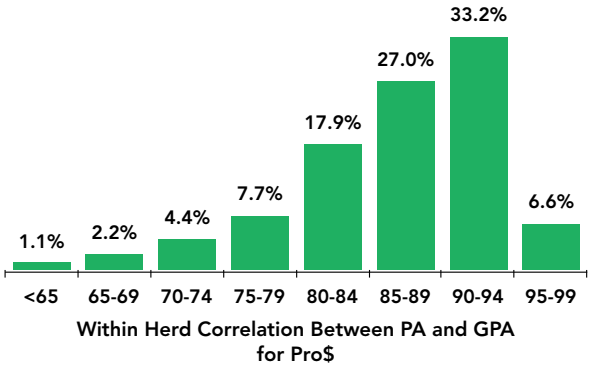
In terms of economic benefits, in most herds, it is the gain in accuracy that yields the highest return on the investment of genomic testing. In addition, the optimal use of genomic testing in most herds is not a simple question of "Yes" or "No" but rather, "What percentage of heifers and which ones?"

Re-Ranking of Heifers

In most Holstein herds, the average Parent Average (PA) Reliability for LPI and Pro$ ranges from 30 to 39%. Once heifers are genotyped, however, the average Reliability of the resulting Genomic Parent Average (GPA) is commonly between 69 and 73%. This significant increase in genetic evaluation accuracy provides Holstein breeders with a tremendous opportunity to make better selection and mating decisions to achieve their desired breeding objectives. As expected, when the accuracy of genetic evaluations increases, some heifers in the herd may receive a significantly different value for GPA compared to their previous PA. Such changes in heifer evaluations result in some degree of re-ranking.

Figure 1:

Distribution of Holstein Herds By Correlation Between Parent Average and Genomic Parent Average for Pro$



An analysis at Canadian Dairy Network (CDN) calculated the correlation of GPA versus PA values for LPI and Pro$ for hundreds of Holstein herds that had genotyped several heifers in 2016 and 2017, which are presented in Figure 1 for Pro$. For 60% of the herds studied, the correlation of heifer evaluations before and after genomics was between 85 and 94%, and another 6.6% of herds had even higher correlations. These high correlations for two-thirds of the herds studied indicate that most heifers in these herds would rank similarly based on GPA compared to PA for Pro$. Also of interest are the remaining herds that had a lower correlation of heifer evaluations before and after genotyping, some of which were even below 65%. Figure 2 helps to better visualize the impact of genomic testing in three Holstein herds that each had more than 100 genotyped heifers in the CDN analysis.

The plots for Herds A, B and C show the distribution curve of Parent Average values for Pro$ versus the curve for Genomic Parent Averages. For Herd A, the correlation between GPA and PA was among the lowest found, which resulted from the fact that genomic testing spread out the heifers across a wider range of Pro$ values. In this case, the benefit of genotyping all heifers is clearly obvious. Recall, also, that the average Reliability of the GPA values increases significantly by genomic testing so this herd owner can make much better selection and mating decisions based on the new ranking of the potential heifer replacements.

Herd B has a more moderate correlation between PA and GPA after genomic testing compared to Herd A. This result is a reflection of the important increase in the spread of heifer evaluations with genomics in this herd. In herds like this, genomic testing a significant portion of targeted heifers is expected to be the most economical strategy.

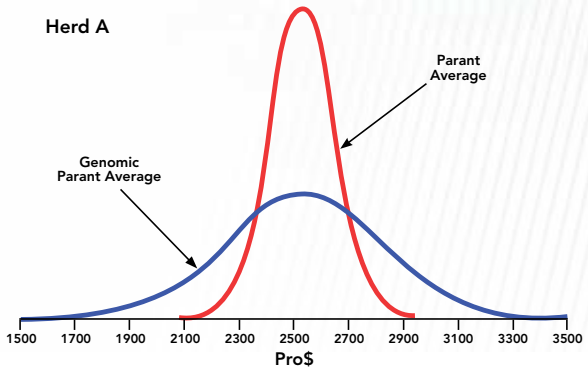
Looking at the comparison of curves for Herd C, it is clear that the correlation of GPA and PA for Pro$ was very high. It should be noted, however, that individual heifers will have changed their evaluation from genomic testing and therefore will rank differently based on the gained accuracy of GPA values. Even in herds with a very high correlation of heifer evaluations after genotyping, there is likely a group of heifers for which genomic testing makes economic sense. Figure 2: Comparison of the distribution of heifers based on Parent Average and Genomic Parent Average for Pro$ in three Holstein herds.

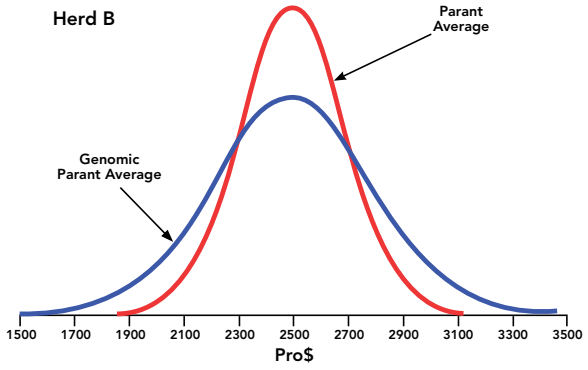
Summary

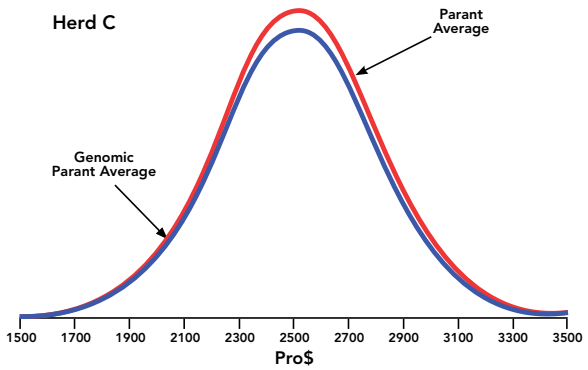
While there are various reasons for genomic testing potential replacement heifers in your herd, including parentage verification and management of genetic recessives, the main benefits stem from the significant gain in accuracy of heifer evaluations. For Holsteins, the average Reliability for LPI and Pro$ more than doubles from 33% for Parent Average values to 70% for Genomic Parent Averages. This increased accuracy of heifer evaluations will usually spread out the distribution of heifers for LPI and Pro$ and result in some degree of re-ranking. In reality, the degree of heifer re-ranking experienced within a herd is dependent upon several factors. It is only through genomic testing that herd owners can concretely know how much re-ranking will occur. Even for herds with little re-ranking, the higher accuracy in heifer evaluations can yield a significant return on the investment of genomic testing through an increased confidence for making better selection and mating decisions.

Figure 2:

Comparison of the distribution of heifers based on Parent Average and Genomic Parent Average for Pro$ in three Holstein herds







FARM PROFILE

New Canadian

Sweetridge Farms

Winkler, Manitoba

By Morgan Sangster, HC Field Service Business Partner.

PREFIX: Sweetridge

PEOPLE INVOLVED: Harold, Miriam, Mark, Tara Sweetnam & Team "Sweetridge" consisting of 9 full/part-time employees

 # OF YEARS AS A HOLSTEIN CANADA MEMBER: 18 years

 # OF COWS MILKED: 279 cows

 # OF ACRES FARMED: 1,020 acres

FACILITY TYPE: Free-stall, Bedding pack, Double 12 parlour

HERD PRODUCTION AVERAGE: 11,167 kgs

HERD CLASSIFICATION (IF APPLICABLE): Holsteins: 2ME-4EX-55VG-142GP-51G

WHAT IS YOUR FEEDING SYSTEM? TMR

ARE THERE OTHER BREEDS IN YOUR HERD? 20 Jerseys

HOLSTEIN CANADA SERVICES USED: Registration, Classification, Genotyping

WHEN DID YOU EMIGRATE TO CANADA AND FROM WHERE? We emigrated from Ireland to La Broquerie, Manitoba in 2000.

WHY DID YOU DECIDE TO EMIGRATE? We emigrated for the opportunity to dairy farm and to give our children the choice of entering the dairy industry if they so wished.

WHY DID YOU CHOOSE TO MOVE TO CANADA AND HOW DID YOU SELECT THE LOCATION OF YOUR NEW FARM? We admired the security offered by the Canadian supply management system, and the fact that quota was not tied to the land and was available in small increments. We initially farmed in La Broquerie, but following a barn fire in May 2006, we relocated to Winkler in November 2006. Both farms were close to services.

WERE YOU DAIRY FARMING BEFORE COMING TO CANADA? IF SO, HOW DOES THAT FARM SIZE (LAND BASE AND COWS) COMPARE TO YOUR CANADIAN FARM? Our Irish farm consisted of 163 acres which we owned and 165 acres which were rented. We milked 110 cows. Cows are similar. Quota was almost impossible to obtain. We also had a flock of 450 ewes.

WHAT ARE SOME OF THE KEY DIFFERENCES BETWEEN FARMING IN CANADA AND FARMING WHERE YOU CAME FROM? From then to now the differences include longer, much colder winters, a shorter, more intense growing season, year-round housing vs an 8 month grazing system and three times more land base required per cow to produce feed.

HAS YOUR MOVE TO CANADA CHANGED YOUR HERD MANAGEMENT PRACTICES OR CHANGED YOUR BREEDING PHILOSOPHY? HOW? Adapting to having the herd indoors led to an attitude change. Our breeding philosophy has always been a balance of high production and type. No change.

WHAT WAS THE MOST CHALLENGING PART OF TRANSITIONING TO DAIRY FARMING IN CANADA? The challenges were starting with a grade herd without identification or DHI history, establishing the support system for our new businesses in La Broquerie (and again in Winkler) and living with mosquitoes.

WHAT ARE THE LONG-TERM GOALS FOR YOUR OPERATION? HAVE THESE GOALS CHANGED FROM WHAT YOUR GOALS WERE PRIOR TO MOVING TO CANADA? Our long term goals include expanding the herd, improving our facilities and transitioning the farm to the next generation.

AND, FINALLY, WHAT DOES THE IDEAL COW LOOK LIKE ON YOUR FARM? Our ideal cow is superior for production, type and health traits. We appreciate star brood cows.

FARM PROFILE

New Canadians

Pfister Dairy Farm

Mitchell, Ontario

By Ava Doner, Ontario Holstein Contributor.

PREFIX: Ulmar

PEOPLE INVOLVED: Hans & Marlise Pfister and Marco & Ashley Pfister

 # OF YEARS AS A HOLSTEIN CANADA MEMBER: 26 years

 # OF COWS MILKED: 90 cows

 # OF ACRES FARMED: 550 acres

FACILITY TYPE: Sand-bedded free-stall

HERD PRODUCTION AVERAGE: 12, 928 kg milk, 523 kg fat, 405 kg protein

HERD CLASSIFICATION (IF APPLICABLE): 17 ME; 11 Excellent; 42 Very Good; 21 Good Plus

WHAT IS YOUR FEEDING SYSTEM? Silages are stored in Harvestore silos. Belt feeding system with stationary TMR mixer.

ARE THERE OTHER BREEDS IN YOUR HERD? No

HOLSTEIN CANADA SERVICES USED: Classification & Registration

WHEN DID YOU EMIGRATE TO CANADA AND FROM WHERE? We came in 1991 from Switzerland.

WHY DID YOU DECIDE TO EMIGRATE? Our dream was to have our own farm and due to the high land cost in Switzerland, we were unable to purchase one.

WHY DID YOU CHOOSE TO MOVE TO CANADA AND HOW DID YOU CHOOSE THE LOCATION OF YOUR NEW FARM? Marlise and I vacationed in Canada in 1980; we really liked it and never forgot about it. Canada was, and continues to be, very welcoming to immigrants. Back then, the land and quota price was much lower than it is now, making it possible for us to pursue our dream. At that time, there were also not that many regulations for dairy farmers, which was a welcome change for us. Canada also has a very good milk marketing system and dairy farmers are well-respected by most Canadian consumers. We chose Mitchell because Perth County has very good land and it is an agriculturally-rich area.

WERE YOU DAIRY FARMING BEFORE COMING TO CANADA? IF SO, HOW DOES THAT FARM SIZE (LAND BASE AND COWS) COMPARE TO YOUR CANADIAN FARM? Marlise and I both grew up on dairy farms. After I graduated from high school, I completed a plumber apprenticeship. At the age of 24, I decided I would like to be a dairy farmer. I completed my agricultural apprenticeship and began working as a herdsman. Then, from 1985-1991, I was a manager of a dairy farm located in the middle of a town, owned by a factory. We had 30 dairy cows, some beef, and operated 100 acres. When we moved to Canada, we started with 150 acres and a few buildings, but no cows, quota, or a dairy barn.

WHAT ARE SOME OF THE KEY DIFFERENCES BETWEEN FARMING IN CANADA AND FARMING WHERE YOU CAME FROM? The fields in Switzerland are much smaller and are generally not flat. Similarly, the average herd size was much smaller than in Canada. Back then, it was almost impossible to start dairy farming on your own due to the high land costs, whereas it was still affordable to do so in Canada. There are a lot of regulations in Switzerland for farmers, which we are seeing more of now here in Canada. Canadian farmers are valued and well-respected by the majority of the consumers, while in Switzerland, that is unfortunately not the case.

HAS YOUR MOVE TO CANADA CHANGED YOUR HERD MANAGEMENT PRACTICES OR CHANGED YOUR BREEDING PHILOSOPHY? HOW? Our herd management practices have changed a lot. In Switzerland, our cows were grass-fed. When we came to Canada, we discovered that dairy nutrition was much more professional. We began, and continue to use, a TMR system, which was hardly used in Switzerland at the time. We went from a tie-stall facility in Switzerland to building a sand-bedded free-stall barn in Canada. We have always bred for long-lasting, high-producing cows with good udders, feet, and legs – we love the old girls! In Switzerland, we worked with Brown Swiss cows, but switched to Holsteins in Canada. At the time, Canada offered some of the best genetics in the world, while the ones in Switzerland were quite limited. These genetics helped us achieve our breeding goals faster.

WHAT WAS THE MOST CHALLENGING PART OF TRANSITIONING TO DAIRY FARMING IN CANADA? The most challenging part was learning English. We had taken a four-day English course in Switzerland before moving to Canada, but it did little to help us start up and manage our own business. Also, the production averages of the Canadian cows were quite a bit higher than those of the Swiss cows, and we had to learn how to manage these cows properly.

WHAT ARE THE LONG-TERM GOALS FOR YOUR OPERATION? HAVE THESE GOALS CHANGED FROM WHAT YOUR GOALS WERE PRIOR TO MOVING TO CANADA? Our first goal had been to buy our own farm and make it profitable. From there, we wanted the next generation to be able to take over and make a living, which continues to be our goal going forward.

AND, FINALLY, WHAT DOES THE IDEAL COW LOOK LIKE ON YOUR FARM? A mid-sized, high-producing, long-lasting cow with a well-attached rear and fore udder, good feet & legs, and good rump & loin structure.

FARM PROFILE

New Canadians

Sindas Inc.

Henryville, QC

By Claudia Kessler, Holstein Québec Advisor.

PREFIX: Sindas

PEOPLE INVOLVED: Urban Buetler, Marie Buehlmann & their son, Marc

 # OF YEARS AS A HOLSTEIN CANADA MEMBER: 27 years

 # OF COWS MILKED: 65 Cows

 # OF ACRES FARMED: 400 Acres

FACILITY TYPE: Tie-stall (lactating cows); bred heifers and dry cow on bedded-pack

HERD AVERAGE: 10,500 kgs

WHAT IS YOUR FEEDING SYSTEM? TMR & mixer wagons

ARE THERE OTHER BREEDS IN YOUR HERD? 3 Brown Swiss

HOLSTEIN CANADA SERVICES USED: Registration & Classification

WHEN DID YOU EMIGRATE TO CANADA AND FROM WHERE? In 1989 from Switzerland.

WHY DID YOU DECIDE TO EMIGRATE? In 1988, when we first visited Canada.

WHY DID YOU CHOOSE TO MOVE TO CANADA AND HOW DID YOU SELECT THE LOCATION OF YOUR NEW FARM? We met other Swiss people who had emigrated to Canada. We visited many farms in Eastern Ontario & in Quebec. The farms were a lot cheaper here than in Switzerland.

WERE YOU DAIRY FARMING BEFORE COMING TO CANADA? IF SO, HOW DOES THAT FARM SIZE (LAND BASE AND COWS) COMPARE TO YOUR CANADIAN FARM? No, I was a carpenter in Switzerland; however, I grew up on a dairy farm (25 cows, 14 ha). Back then, the average dairy farm had 15 lactating cows. When we arrived here, we had about 35 lactating cows.

WHAT ARE SOME OF THE KEY DIFFERENCES BETWEEN FARMING IN CANADA AND FARMING WHERE YOU CAME FROM? Dairy farms are bigger in Canada. Spring is later here than in Switzerland. There are also fewer hay cuts and machinery is much bigger here.

HAS YOUR MOVE TO CANADA CHANGED YOUR HERD MANAGEMENT PRACTICES OR CHANGED YOUR BREEDING PHILOSOPHY? HOW? We didn't have a dairy farm in Switzerland, so we did not have a breeding philosophy.

WHAT WAS THE MOST CHALLENGING PART OF TRANSITIONING TO DAIRY FARMING IN CANADA? We were neither fluent in French nor English. Urban was familiar with dairy production, but large field crops were new to us.

WHAT ARE THE LONG-TERM GOALS FOR YOUR OPERATION? HAVE THESE GOALS CHANGED FROM WHAT YOUR GOALS WERE PRIOR TO MOVING TO CANADA? Produce high quality milk, have healthy cows and keep our business viable.

AND, FINALLY, WHAT DOES THE IDEAL COW LOOK LIKE ON YOUR FARM? It's a cow that has good feet & legs, a good mammary system and good health and fertility traits.

FARM PROFILE

New Canadians

Sunny Meadow Farms

North Milton, PE

By Rob Beckwith, HC Field Service Business Partner

PREFIX: Miltonmeadow

PEOPLE INVOLVED: Valerie, Stefan, Dennis & Kai

 # OF YEARS AS A HOLSTEIN CANADA MEMBER: 6 months

 # OF COWS MILKED: 98 cows

 # OF ACRES FARMED: 300 acres

FACILITY TYPE: Free-stall with double 10 parlour.

HERD AVERAGE: 36 liters per cow

HERD CLASSIFICATION: N/A

WHAT IS YOUR FEEDING SYSTEM? TMR

ARE THERE OTHER BREEDS IN YOUR HERD? Just Holsteins!

HOLSTEIN CANADA SERVICES USED: Registration, NLID, Classification

WHEN DID YOU EMIGRATE TO CANADA AND FROM WHERE? March 24th 2017, from Puttwil, Switzerland.

WHY DID YOU DECIDE TO EMIGRATE? Stefan has been working and living in Canada for almost a year now. He has always wanted to live over here. So we all agreed to move over here with him!

WHY DID YOU CHOOSE TO MOVE TO CANADA AND HOW DID YOU SELECT THE LOCATION OF YOUR NEW FARM? There are many more possibilities in Canada in terms of building something for the next generation. When we moved to Canada, it was not clear which location we would choose. While waiting for our permanent resident visas to be approved, we looked at places all over the country, including Quebec, Ontario and the Maritimes. At the time we were looking at farms, this farm had everything we were looking for, and for the best price compared to land values in other provinces. The island (Prince Edward Island) is a beautiful spot. I have the city, I have the ocean, I have my farm all in close proximity to each other; everything is nearby.

WERE YOU DAIRY FARMING BEFORE COMING TO CANADA? IF SO, HOW DOES THAT FARM SIZE (LAND BASE AND COWS) COMPARE TO YOUR CANADIAN FARM? No, we were beef farming and finish hog farming. Stefan was raised on a dairy farm, but his family sold the quota when the quota system broke down in Switzerland in the 90's. At the time, it was the best decision, because everything went under private regulations and it was more profitable to go to beef and hog production. Our business in Switzerland was very profitable and one of the better farms in our area, but with the state of the industry in Switzerland, we were limited in our growth and could not imagine leaving those limitations to the next generation.

WHAT ARE SOME OF THE KEY DIFFERENCES BETWEEN FARMING IN CANADA AND FARMING WHERE YOU CAME FROM? Regulations. That is one of the main differences. Farming in Canada is an economic choice; farming in Switzerland only works because the Government is pushing it. The Swiss government gives a lot to farmers, but in return there are a lot of rules and regulations that limit growth and limit the profitability of your farm. Also, these regulations are always changing, so it is hard to adjust to each change.

WHAT WAS THE MOST CHALLENGING PART OF TRANSITIONING TO DAIRY FARMING IN CANADA? It was a challenge to get used to the industry! We had a very steep learning curve. Everything was new to us. We had to learn the industry, meet new people, and get to know the distributors and industry contacts.

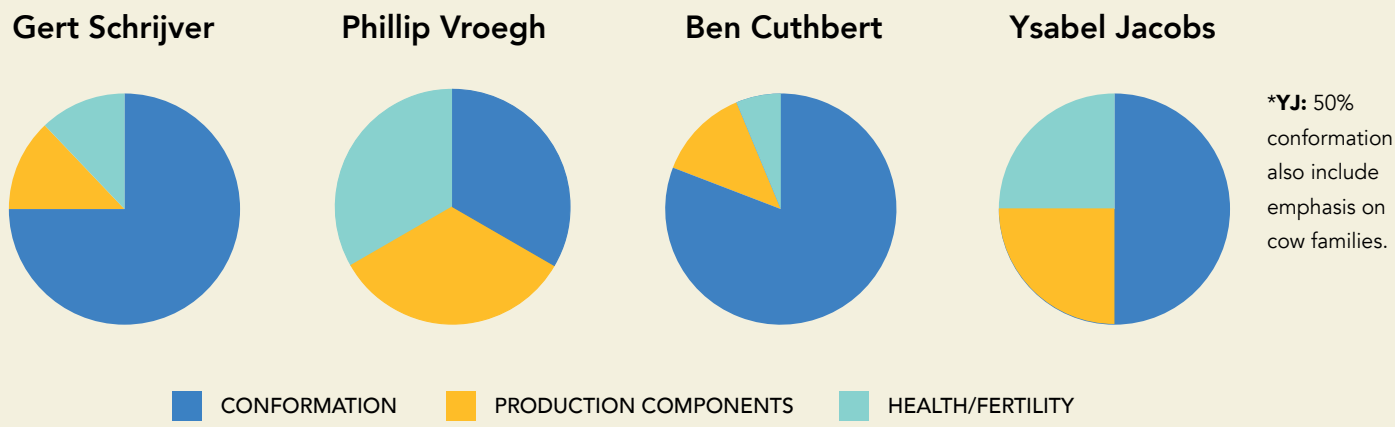
WHAT ARE THE LONG-TERM GOALS FOR YOUR OPERATION? HAVE THESE GOALS CHANGED FROM WHAT YOUR GOALS WERE PRIOR TO MOVING TO CANADA? Our goals haven't changed. Our main goal is to set up something profitable for our next generation. That is our main motivation, and we can do that here in Canada! In Switzerland, I had my own business, Stefan had his own business, but on the farm in Canada, we can come together as a family.

AND, FINALLY, WHAT DOES THE IDEAL COW LOOK LIKE ON YOUR FARM? Healthly and durable. We like older cows. We don't like shipping cows. We like cows that can stay healthy and comfortable long term on our farm. We like our cows low maintenance and able to milk without being pushed too hard.

Continuously improving the classification program

OVER THE LAST THREE ISSUES of *infoHolstein*, Dr. Gordon Atkins, alongside our Extension and Education team, and a panel of producers from coast to coast have reviewed the science of functional conformation, it's associated profitability, and explored producer's perspective on how the classification program is utilized in their herds.

Classification is a management tool, and each producer may value different aspects of the program. The differences amongst some producers were highlighted in the article entitled: Producer Perspective on Conformation, which appeared in the January/February 2018 issue of infoHolstein. The producer panel was asked where they place their breeding emphases when it comes to conformation, production components and health/ fertility. Here are their responses:



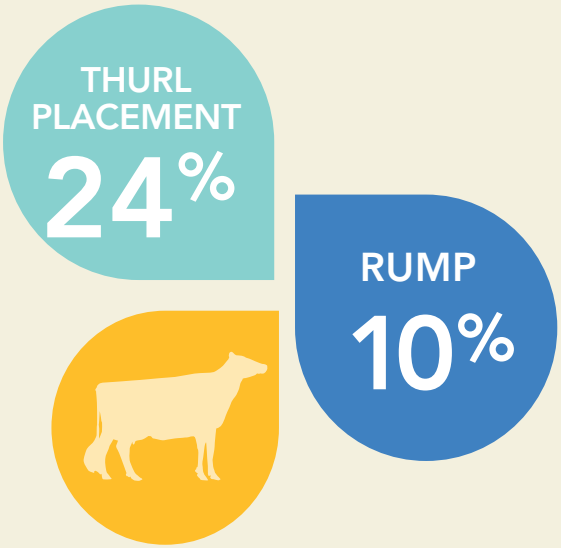
Each of these four producers placed different emphasis when making sire selections. However, each of these four producers has achieved great success in all areas highlighted. In fact, all four producers' herds are in the top seventy-five percentile, or higher, for milk production, fat and protein components.

How an animal expresses her genetics will vary based on the management and environment, meaning the animal's actual performance (phenotype) is highly influenced by its environment. The producers on the panel are not only putting breeding emphasis on these three sections, they are also doing an excellent job monitoring their herd's nutrition, health, and comfort to ensure their animals meet their full potential.

As the industry shifts, Holstein Canada makes yearly updates to the scorecard, whether that means modifying, adding or removing traits or defects. Over the last three years, there have been many key updates to the scorecard; the following highlight some of those changes:

- Adding Udder Floor (4%) to the Mammary System (42%) section. In addition to udder floor, additional emphasis was placed on teat length (4%). These program updates are a direct result of the increased number of robotic farms in Canada, as well as the importance on udder health and the ability to properly milk out a cow.

- Thurl Placement (24%) gained a higher emphasis in the Rump (10%) section. Thurl placement plays a specific role in having a strong, well-sloped rump, which has many benefits for overall reproduction efficiencies and health.
- Thurl Placement (14%) was added to the Feet & Leg (28%) section. Proper thurl placement is important for straight-tracking locomotion, foot health and animal mobility.
- Also within the Feet & Legs section, Holstein Canada increased the discrimination for animals scored code 9 for Foot Angle (9%) to better represent the severe impediment to functionality. Ideal Foot Angle is code 7.
- Fore Attachment (18%) discrimination was increased for animals coded as 1 through 3 to more effectively describe mammary systems with weak fore udders.
- Body Depth (17%) discrimination was increased for a code 8, whereas a code 6 was given more advantage. This change correctly reflects the scientific fact that it is better for heifers to have less body depth in first lactation and also reflects the mounting evidence that deeper bodied Holsteins are less profitable and less efficient at converting feed.



Each of the 25 descriptive traits has varying percent weightings as determined by our Classification Advisory Committee. The importance some producers may place on traits will vary, while other producers may prefer to focus on a particular section of the scorecard. Regardless of which philosophy a producer prefers, the classification reports provided meets both needs – it includes all trait scores and section scores. The report also indicates the animal's strengths and weaknesses as well as the herd's strengths and weaknesses. The reports provided by the classification service can be very useful when making breeding decisions and gauging where a herd's performance is at.

"The past decade has seen a dramatic shift in the use of classification as a herd improvement tool," says Dr. Atkins. "Final Class still carries huge importance and prestige in herds that have a long-standing investment in achieving excellence in dairy cattle type selection. However, today more than ever before, the classification program must focus on a comprehensive set of descriptive traits that describe the animal's strengths and weaknesses, and collectively depict her overall functionality. One of the largest challenges is to identify the specific traits and parameters that are most important in defining true functionality."

"Today more than ever before, the classification program must focus on a comprehensive set of descriptive traits that describe the animal's strengths and weaknesses, and collectively depict her overall functionality." - Dr. Atkins

The Holstein breed has changed drastically over the past 100 years. When the producer panel was asked what they thought the Holstein breed would look like in ten years, the producers predicted that Holsteins will be more balanced and we will move away from the extremes in the breed. Therefore, animals will likely be shorter in stature and will be more compact and efficient in terms of feed efficiency and conversion. Ideally, a more balanced cow will lead to greater longevity.

One of the producers also suggested using hoof trimmer data to create more genetic evaluations for hoof health events. Comparing hoof health records and classification data, the producer is hoping we will discover correlations between hoof health issues and Feet & Leg traits. The producer would also like to see a focus on front legs, as our current scorecard does not evaluate front legs, except for the defect Toes Out Front.

Keeping those remarks in mind, it is CDN's intent to continue to add genetic evaluations for hoof health events in the coming years. As it relates to Front legs, both the Breed Advisory and Classification Advisory Committees have started having discussions on this trait and the impact it has on longevity and overall functionality of cows.

In addition to these traits, Holstein Canada would like to include profit data in its classification reports as we understand the importance of showing added value in the classification program in addition to all this service offers.

young LEADER PROGRAM

Succession Planning *Featured article on Marie-Pier Vincent (Quebec)*

SUCCESSION PLANNING is a topic of discussion around many kitchen tables. It can be an exciting step for many, as they see the benefit of the next generation coming into the family business. Even so, it can be a trying period, as it involves dealing with family. It's during this time that you need to learn to separate business from family and do what is best for the business.

Nowadays, farms are implementing different types of succession plans. Not all farms have interested partners who want to undertake the everyday tasks. In these situations, non-family-related transfers sometimes make the most sense.

Marie-Pier Vincent was born and raised on her family farm. From a young age, her passion for farming was present and it led her to study Animal Sciences at the ITA de Saint-Hyacinthe. The course requirements included farm internships, which gave Marie-Pier the opportunity to explore various types of farming in different parts of the world - something she felt would benefit her future career. She spent some time in Australia, as well in Alberta, working and gaining expertise. Although Marie-Pier's brother is also interested in farming, their philosophies are very different and they soon realized they would be better off pursuing separate avenues in order to achieve their farming goals. In April 2016, she had the opportunity to purchase a neighbouring farm and start up her own business.

Q&A

What type of farm transfer did you do/are doing? (Family, non-family, significant other) Non-Family Related Transfer

Do you come from a farm background and if so, how did you make the decision to take over a non-family related farm? I come from a farming family, which also has a dairy farm. We are two children, both of us very interested in dairy production, but with very different ideas, so we have come to the conclusion that it would be better for each of us to have our own business.

What did you do to prepare yourself for this type of transfer? Were you advised by your parents, a farm specialist, and/or a friend? Everything went very quickly, therefore I had little time to consult with various experts. It was ultimately a family decision; then I took the time to look at the financial side of things with my financial advisor.

How did you find the farm? Did it belong to someone that you knew? The farm is located 15 kilometres away from our family farm. Over the years, my parents bought a lot of land sold by the Thibault family. When they put the farm up for sale, they gave us the opportunity to buy it; that is when I met them.

young LEADER PROGRAM

Succession Planning Continued...

Featured article on Marie-Pier Vincent (Quebec)

What made you pursue your dream of owning a farm? Ever since I was a little girl, I've always dreamt of having my own farm. When the opportunity arose, I didn't ponder for long. I've always had a deep passion for animals, cows especially. I'm not afraid of hard work; to me, this was the most challenging thing I've ever faced. Although it is a very busy job, every day I'm happy with the choice I made.

What type of a barn set up do you have and what are some of your immediate projects that you have done/are doing to help make things efficient? I have a head-to-head tie-stall barn. I made some changes to have stalls dedicated to dry cows, two small boxes to raise my heifers or to house sick cows. I then added mattresses to improve the comfort of lactating cows. Finally, I recently added three milker units and installed a TMR robot to improve efficiency.

Where do you see yourself and the farm in the next five years? In 10 years? In the near future, I would like to build a cold barn for my heifers, instead of having to board them. I would like to continue to buy quota to gradually increase the size of my herd. In the slightly longer term, I would like to have the opportunity to build a new barn. On another note, I would like to work on the genetics of the herd to be able to take part in shows, while pursuing my ultimate goal of one day becoming a Master Breeder.

From what we are able to learn from everyone's experience, no two farms will undergo the same type of succession. The important thing to remember is to keep the lines of communication open; the minute the communication between partners stops, the more difficult it is to continue the process and make sure everyone is in agreement. Another tip to remember is that there is no good time to start the process, but the sooner you start talking about it, the easier the transition will be. It will also help address the "what if" scenarios and questions that can arise.

Remember, at the end of the day, everyone wants the same thing: to keep the business going and to be successful. Don't be afraid to ask questions and take part in conferences on the topic. During the in-class sessions at the Young Leader Convention in April, farm families will be sharing their personal experiences with succession planning. It is a great opportunity for young people to ask questions and gain knowledge that may help you with your own experience.

young LEADER PROGRAM

Presenting the 2017 Scholarship Winners

Congratulations to the six outstanding young leaders selected to receive the 2017 Scholarships:

RACHEL BOONSTOPELL, MANITOBA:
Rachel is currently studying Animal Sciences at Lakeland College. She has known from a young age that her heart lies with the dairy industry and hopes to one day own and operate her own farm. She has been very involved in 4-H in Manitoba and in New Brunswick, and has been a part of Team Manitoba for WCC for the last three years.

ALEX DOLSON, ONTARIO:
Alex is currently enrolled in the University of Guelph's Agriculture Business Program, where he is focusing his studies on small business operations and the impacts of domestic and foreign policy on agriculture sectors around the world. His motivation to succeed is inspired by his parents' hard work ethic, which he hopes will help him open the door of opportunity in the industry.

ANGELA PFAEFFLI, ONTARIO:
Angela realized her passion for dairy farming at an early age. During her summers off from university, she has broadened her horizons to help expand her knowledge of farming, which entails more than animal management. Angela is currently at the University of Guelph studying Science in Agriculture with the goal of one day working in the dairy industry.

MARTHA MACKINNON, QUEBEC:
Martha is currently enrolled at McGill University MacDonald Campus in the Farm Management Program. She is a very active student in the program as well as in the dairy industry, taking part in Holstein Québec's École d'Élevage this past fall and being a part of McGill's Dairy Challenge Team. Martha is working toward finishing her DEC and furthering her knowledge by traveling and working abroad.

RAPHAËL CHABOT, QUEBEC:
Raphaël is currently enrolled at Laval University in Business Management. After receiving his diploma in Animal Sciences at the same university, he felt that he had more to gain by adding this Master's Degree to his education. He hopes to one day work in a business setting with dairy as a main focus.

SPENCER MACNEILL, PEI:
Spencer's family farm is a rather unique operation. The family runs a tourist homes and cottages business that allows them to interact with the public on a daily basis and teach them about dairy farming. Spencer is a graduate of Holland College, where he obtained his diploma in business Administration. He is currently attending Dalhousie University in a Business Technology program specializing in Dairy Farming.

For more information on Education Awards, please visit the Young Leader section of the Holstein Canada website.

Transfer of Animals Imported from USA

WHEN YOU BUY REGISTERED ANIMALS from the USA and transfer them into your ownership, the registration status is maintained for future Canadian progeny and there will be no gaps in the pedigree.

To see if the animal you purchased has been transferred into your name, check the Transfer Record on the bottom of the USA Certificate of Registration to see if it is in your name. If your name appears as the owner, the transfer has been completed. Holstein Canada will receive the new ownership information from Holstein Association USA and will add the information to the animal record in our Canadian database.

If you do not have the USA Certificate of Registration, please be sure to verify the sale agreement and clarify who (seller or buyer) will submit the transfer to Holstein USA. You can expect the new Certificate of Registration to be mailed to you once the transfer is completed.

If you are unsure whether the transfer has taken place or need assistance with submitting the transfer, let us know. Customer Service can check the ownership record and/or submit the transfer on your behalf. For any fees related to the transfer, Holstein Association USA will invoice you directly.

IF YOU ARE SUBMITTING THE TRANSFER, IT CAN BE SENT TO HOLSTEIN ASSOCIATION USA VIA EMAIL, FAX, OR MAIL TO:

Holstein Association USA, Inc.
1 Holstein Place
PO Box 808
Brattleboro, VT 05302

Email: info@holstein.com
Fax: 802.254.8251
With any questions for Holstein USA, call 800.952.5200

Once the transfer of ownership is completed, Holstein USA will send you an updated Certificate of Registration and invoice you directly for the transfer fee. Holstein Canada will update the animal records once we receive the new information from Holstein USA.

Accepted methods of payment to Holstein USA

CREDIT CARD, DEBIT CARD OR WIRE TRANSFER

PAYMENT CAN BE MADE BY:

1. **Call Holstein USA and pay with a credit card over the phone**
2. **Complete the authorization form and your credit card will be billed at month end**
3. **Checks from a Canadian bank marked "US funds" are no longer accepted**
   Holstein Association USA: 1-800-952-5200 ext.4001 billing@holstein.com

CHECK: Is registered USA animal transferred in your name?

IF NOT > SUBMIT TRANSFER TO HOLSTEIN USA

NEED ASSISTANCE?

Holstein Canada Customer Service can check ownership record and/or submit transfer on your behalf. Call Customer Service 1-855-756-8300.

Identification of Animals Imported from USA

Dairy cattle imported from the United States that are identified with American "840" electronic ear tags are considered equivalent to animals with Canadian approved ear tags, for traceability. Farmers, and others involved in the Canadian dairy industry, do not have to apply Canadian ear tags to animals imported from the United States that already bear "840" equivalent tags.

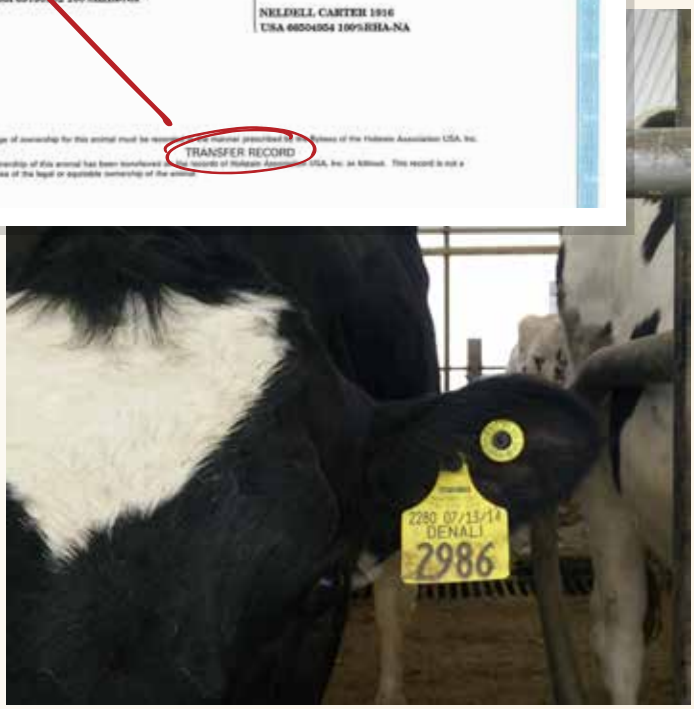
In Canada, double identification/dual tagging is the standard for dairy cattle traceability and herdbook registration. If the US imported animal is only identified with an official US "840" electronic button tag, you will need to complete the identification of the animal by affixing a blank tag with the same number written on it.

TO OBTAIN A BLANK TAG YOU CAN CONTACT:

- **in Quebec contact ATQ – 1-866-270-4319**
- **in all other provinces contact NLID – 1-877-771-6543**

Animals imported from out-of-country need to be reported when they arrive onsite in Canada. Receiving animals on-farm, as of September 1, 2017, requires notification to CCIA (CLTS database – http://www.clia.livestockid.ca) or ATQ (SimpliTrace database - www.atq.qc.ca for Quebec farmers). As in the case of domestic dairy animals, it is important to record and report the following:

- The animal identification number (15 digits) (found on RFID ear tag)
- The date of the animal's arrival to your farm/site



- The premises ID number of the location where the animal is arriving at (i.e. your farm)
- The location from where the animal departed from (country, state, address if possible etc.)
- The vehicle (single unit) or the trailer (tandem unit) licence plate number

As imported animals will not come from a property with a recognized premises ID, the address/location of the animal's original departure should be recorded and reported. This should be done within the first seven (7) days of the animal's arrival on your premises/farm or before the animal's departure, whichever comes first. If you have any questions on Livestock Traceability you can contact your Dairy Farmers of Canada Traceability Provincial coordinators or visit www.holstein.ca and check out the Livestock Traceability information under our NLID services section.

Info Holstein - How to Read a Pedigree

What is a pedigree?

A pedigree summarizes an animal's potential performance, its actual performance (if applicable) and its ancestry, going back four generations. It is a great tool for maintaining animal records, marketing animals and learning about the animal's potential and current performance. The information found on pedigrees comes from an animal's registration and is updated with official proofs, which are released from CDN in April, August and December, and it can be used for a variety of purposes.

While pedigrees can be found through many different avenues – breed associations, the Canadian Dairy Network (CDN), sire proofs, milk recording, sale catalogues or show catalogues – official pedigrees can only be ordered through the breed association. Holstein Canada clients can order pedigrees for any Holstein Canada-registered animals through the producer's online web account or through Customer Service by phone or email. This information can also be viewed on ***www.holstein.ca*** by using Animal Inquiries.

Pedigrees are available in both domestic and international options: *Domestic* pedigrees provide BCAs. Instead of BCAs, *International* pedigrees include 365-day records and ME values. Pedigrees can be produced in French or English, and weights can appear in kilograms or pounds. The example shown here is a great tool for dairy enthusiasts to learn how to read a pedigree or just brush up on their knowledge.

Pedigrees display information in nine different sections. Note that if a section has no available information, the section will not appear on the pedigree. For example, if the animal has not received any production awards, none will be listed.

Section A: Basic Animal Information

This section includes the animal's full name, registration number and the birthdate. Each animal's registration number contains a country code, the gender of the animal and the animal's unique life time number. Genetics imported from other countries will have a country code representing that country, ie animals registered in the United States will have a country code of USA or 840. This section also includes recessive information, genotyping status, whether the animal was the result of ET, genetic traits and coat colour.

Section B: Conformation Assessment and Star Brood

The animal's most recent classification data is found here. You will also find star brood points in this section, including the number of animals influencing the star brood points.

Section C: Genetic Indexes and Genetic Production

This section includes the two Canadian Indexes, LPI and Pro$. To learn more about LPI and Pro$, check out the Genetics 101 article in the May/June 2017 issue of *Info*Holstein. This section also includes the animal's genetic potential for milk production and components.

Section D: Genetic Indexes – Type (classification)

Similar to the previous section, producers can find the animal's genetic potential for overall conformation, and the scores from the four sections: Mammary System, Feet and Legs, Dairy Strength and Rump.

Section E, F, G: Lactation Records

Three sets of lactation records are listed on the animal's pedigree:
A list of all ***completed*** lactations, highlighting milk, fat and protein yields.

A ***projected*** record, which indicates her projected milk record for that lactation. This section highlights projected milk volume, fat volume, protein volume and BCAs.

The ***lifetime*** summary shows the animal's total production through all lactations and the average BCA/Deviation values for milk, fat and protein.

Section H: Production Awards

Awards are further divided into two sections:

- **Production Awards** (Super 3 and Superior Lactation)
- **Show Winnings** – There are two lines for All Canadian/American (by priority when there are many), and four lines for all other awards (criteria is by priority when there are many)

Production awards and show winnings are highlighted here. Show awards highlight placing, age, show name and year. The Holstein Canada Show Committee has determined that only animals that meet one of the following criteria are eligible to have show winnings listed on pedigree.

75 HEAD OR LESS: Champions and 1st place
OVER 75 HEAD: Champions and top 3
150 HEAD AND UP: Champions and top 5
ROYAL B&W: Champions and top 10

Section I: Progeny

Here you can find the number of daughters in each classification final class, the number of daughters, their mature equivalent lactation averages and the daughters' average BCAs.

By looking at an animal's pedigree you can learn a lot about the animal, their potential performance, their actual performance and past generations. Pedigrees are good tools to help with breeding decisions, provide valuable insight into performance and can be used as a marketing tool. To order a pedigree, visit your web account or contact customer service.

Reading Official Pedigrees

Jan 2018

A **REGISTRATION INFORMATION** *Breed (2 digits) + country (3 digits) + sex (1 digit) + registration number*

PB	Purebred	*A2A2	Beta Casein A2A2	*BLF	Non-carrier of BLAD
PG	Purebred by grading up	*A1A1	Beta Casein A1A1	*MFC	Carrier of Mulefoot
HO	Breed (Holstein)	*A1A2	Beta Casein A1A2	*MFF	Non-carrier of Mulefoot
CAN	Country Code (Canada)	*RDC	Carrier of Red Gene	*DPC	Carrier of DUMPS
F,M	Sex (Female or Male)	*RDF	Non-Carrier Of Red Gene	*DPF	Non-carrier of DUMPS
B&W	Black & White	*VRR	Carrier of Variant Red Gene	*XIC	Carrier of Factor XI
R&W	Red & White	*BRC	Carrier of Black/Red Gene	*XIF	Non-carrier of Factor XI
B/R	Black/Red	*BKC	Carrier of Black Gene	*CNC	Carrier of CIT
AW	All White	*CDF	Tested Free of Cholesterol Deficiency	*CNF	Non-carrier of CIT
AB	All Black	*CDC	Tested Carrier of Cholesterol Deficiency	ET	Embryo Transfer (regular)
AR	All Red	*CDS	Tested True Cholesterol Deficiency	ETA	Embryo Transfer Adult Clone
IC	Irregular or other colour	*CVC	Carrier of CVM (Complex Vertebral Malformation)	ETM	Embryo Transfer Manipulation (split/clone)
*POC	Carrier of Polled (heterozygous)	*CVF	Non-Carrier of CVM (Complex Vertebral Malformation)	IVF	In Vitro Fertilization
*POF	Non-Carrier of Polled	*BYC	Carrier of Brachyspina	MB	Multiple Birth
*POR	Born Hornless - not tested	*BYF	Non-carrier of Brachyspina	GT	Genotype on file M - Micro-Satalite test S - SNP Genomic test
*POS	True Polled (homozygous)	*BLC	Carrier of BLAD	B:	Born

A **ANIMAL NAME** **PB**
HOCANF11111111 B&W ET GTM B:06 Mar 2011

B
VG-89-3YR-CAN 1*(1/9)
MS:89(FA:9 RAH:7 RAW:9) F&L:89 DS:90 R:90

C
CAN-GEBV Aug*17 74%Rel GLPI+2083/99%
KG M 1438/95% F 47/94% %F-0.04 PRO$
SCS 2.74 P 44/97% %P-0.02 2560

D
CAN-GEBV Aug*17 74%Rel Conf+15/99%
MS 13 F&L 9 DS 12 R 12

E
02-00 305 12047 441 3.7 409 3.4
365 14244 528 3.7 489 3.4
BCA 276 271 294

F
04-06 P114 11403 608 4.2 452 3.1
PBCA 289 330 288

G
2 LACT: 21644 823 3.8 713 3.3 KG
AVG BCA: M283(102) F301(180) P291(113)

H
1 SUPER 3, 3 SUPERIOR LACTATIONS
All-Canadian JR 2-YR 2014
Int. Champ Victoriaville 2015
1st JR-3YR Victoriaville 2015

I
Progeny Data: 0EX 5VG 2GP 0G 0F
7 DAUS ME AVG: 14121 501 3.5 449 3.2
AVG BCA: M267 F256 P272

**The information herein contained is based upon the records maintained by the Holstein Association of Canada. The accuracy of the information is not guaranteed and is subject to correction according to the Association's By-laws.*

B **CONFORMATION ASSESSMENT / STAR BROOD STATUS**

VG	89	3YR	CAN	1*	(1/9)	
Final Class	Final Score	Age at Classification	Country	# of Stars	Points Contributed by: (Natural / ET Progeny)	
MS:89	FA: 9	RAH: 7	RAW: 9	F&L: 89	DS:90	R: 90
Mammary System	Fore Attachment	Rear Attachment Height	Rear Attachment Width	Feet & Legs	Dairy Strength	Rump

GENETIC INDEXES

C

CAN	GEBV	Aug*17	74%Rel	GLPI 2083/99%	Production
Country of Index	Genomic Estimated Breeding Value	Month/Year of Index Calculation	% Reliability	Genomic LPI Index / % Reliability	
KG	M 1438/95%	F 47/94%	%F-0.04	Pro$ 2560	
Weight	Milk / % Ranking	Fat / % Ranking	% Fat	Pro$ Index (% Rel same as above)	
SCS 2.74		P 44/97%	%P-0.02		
Somatic Cell Score		Protein / % Ranking	% Protein		

D

CAN	GEBV	Aug*17	74%Rel	Conf 15/99%	Type
Country of Index	Genomic Estimated Breeding Value	Month/Year of Index Calculation	% Reliability	Conformation / % Ranking	
	MS 13	F&L 9	DS 12	R 12	
	Mammary System	Feet & Legs	Dairy Strength	Rump	

INDEX TYPE

PA	Parent Average (if no official index)	GPA	Genomic Parent Average
EBV	Estimated Breeding Value (CAN)	GEBV	Genomic Estimated Breeding Value
MACE	Multi-Trait Across Country Evaluation (Int'l)	GMACE	Genomic Multi-Trait Across Country Evaluation

LACTATION RECORDS

E

02-00	305	12047	441	3.7	409	3.4
Age at Calving (year-month)	365	14244	528	3.7	489	3.4
	Days in Milk	Milk Volume	Fat Volume	% Fat	Protein Volume	% Protein
BCA		276	271		294	
Breed Class Age		Milk BCA	Fat BCA		Protein BCA	

Completed record

F

04-06	P114	11403	608	4.2	452	3.1
Age at Calving	Days in Milk	Milk Volume	Fat Volume	% Fat	Protein Volume	% Protein
PBCA		289	330		288	
Projected BCAs		Milk BCA	Fat BCA		Protein BCA	

Projected record

G

2 LACT	21644	823	3.8	713	3.3
# of records	Milk Volume	Fat Volume	% Fat	Protein Volume	% Protein
AVG BCA	M283 (102)	F301 (180)		P291 (113)	
Average BCA with Deviations from Herd	Milk BCA	Fat BCA		Protein BCA	

Lifetime totals

H **PRODUCTION AWARDS**

Super 3	Superior Lactation
High production over at least 3 consecutive lactations	High production in single lactation

I **SHOW WINNINGS**

All-Canadian	JR. 2YR.		2014
Champ	Int.	Victoriaville	2015
1st	JR. 3YR.	Victoriaville	2015
Placing	Age Class	Show Name	Show Year

PROGENY DATA

Progeny Data: 0EX 5VG 2GP 0F 0P	# Of Daughters Classfied in Each Class
7 DAUS ME AVG: 14121 501 3.5 449 3.2	# Of Daughters: Mature Equivalent Lactation Average
AVG BCA: M267 F256 P272	Daughters' Average BCA

2018 By-law amendments proposed by the Board of Directors

1. Young Leaders: A new Section be added (8.2.8):

Young Leaders Delegates: Young Leaders Delegates have the right to vote at the Annual General Meeting in the year in which they are Young Leaders Convention delegates.

Background: Young Leaders delegates chosen to attend Holstein Canada's Annual General Meeting will be given one voting card to vote on Association matters. Young Leaders are aged 19 to 30 with an interest in the governance of the Association. This gives them ability to participate in the democratic process and further their learning experience.

2. Elections results

Repeal Section 9.6 which reads as follows:
The Secretary shall notify each candidate of the result of the election, and the number of votes cast for each eligible candidate.

And substitute therefor the following:
The Secretary shall notify each candidate of the result of the election.

Background: This section is covered in the election notification procedures. The Secretary calls the candidates to inform them of the election results. The actual number of votes cast for each candidate is not included in any public announcement. Candidates may request the Secretary provide them with the actual number of votes cast.

3. Committees

Repeal Section 9.14.1 which reads as follows:
The Board may appoint other Committees from time to time as it sees fit.

And substitute therefor the following:
The Board may appoint other Committees from time to time as it sees fit. The Board shall establish terms of reference, mandate, composition and reporting structure for the appointed committees.

Background: The proposed amendment is to provide more clarity on the scope of operations of Committees.

4. Resolutions

Repeal Section 10.5.1 which reads as follows:
All proposed resolutions must be put in writing, drafted so as to be suitable for passage, and signed by a member of the Association, and provided to the Secretary at least thirty (30) days prior to the meeting at which such resolutions are to be discussed.

And substitute therefor the following:
All proposed resolutions shall be in writing, in a form suitable for passage, signed by a member of the Association, and provided to the Secretary at least thirty (30) days prior to the meeting at which such resolutions are to be considered. The Board will review and discuss all resolutions presented at the meeting, for the purpose of understanding the wishes of the membership. Resolutions are not binding upon the Board.

Background: The proposed amendment is to provide scope of reference for new resolutions brought forward to the Board.

MASTER BREEDER

The announcement of the Master Breeder recipients has become an annual tradition at Holstein Canada, and this year was certainly no exception. Holstein Canada is pleased to announce the Master Breeders who will be honoured at the 2018 National Holstein Convention Master Breeder Gala in Quebec City, Quebec on Saturday, April 14, 2018. Of the 20 breeders who received the exciting news, 70% (14) are first-time recipients of a Master Breeder shield. The remaining are previous shield winners with four breeders receiving their second shield and two receiving their third shield! Nine breeders are from Ontario, six are from Quebec and two are from Saskatchewan, while Prince-Edward Prince-Edward Island, Manitoba and Alberta each have one recipient!

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OF THE 2017 WINNERS

ALLEY
Dalmeny, SK

MABEL
Normandin, QC

CAMPHOLS
Sainte-Sabine, QC

MACTALLA
Bonshaw, PE

CAVANALECK
Belmont, ON

OOSTVIEW
Lakeside, ON

DARWELL
Orton, ON

OUTAOUAIS
Plaisance, QC

DOANLEA
Norwich, ON

PENNVIEW
Blumenort, MB

FLORBIL
Mildmay, ON

PETITCLERC
Saint-Basile, QC

HYLJON
Hague, SK

RICKEEN
Wallenstein, ON

KRUL
Arthur, ON

SERIC
Napierville, QC

LESPEREE
Saint-Henri, QC

SPENCROFT
Elmvale, ON

LOYALYN
Owen Sound, ON

ZIMMER
Daysland, AB

Since its beginning in 1929, the Master Breeder program has become the most coveted Holstein Canada award. One thousand and twenty-seven Master Breeder shields have been handed out in the award's 87-year existence. These "Master" breeders are recognized for having mastered the art of breeding balanced cattle – high production and outstanding conformation with great reproduction, health and longevity.

Congratulations to these 20 Master Breeders who now join the ranks of the most elite breeders across Canada! Watch for more information on each of the 2017 winners in the May/June edition of infoHolstein, as well as videos of each of the farms that will be made available on social media following the AGM in April!

#FrameTheHerd Photo Contest Winners

Great photos are still rolling in for the #FrameTheHerd Photo contest! Thank you to everyone for your submissions!

Milking time is a family affair at Ferme Marnique in St-Come Linière, Que.! – submitted by AnnieClaude Loignon, St-Côme Linière, Que.

Watching the cows enjoy their first spring day out on grass at Steenholl Dairy Farm! – submitted by Shannon Steen, Norwich, Ont.

Proud young dairy farmer and future Holstein breeder loves his cows and his milk! – Submitted by Christie Prins, Pryme Farms Inc., Brighton, Ont.

Dr. Kelly J. Barratt, Heartland Veterinary Services, chats with clients Carman and Rea. Photo credits go to Lachlan (age 6). – Submitted by Kelly Barratt, Listowel, Ont.

The cows are loving the winter weather. Submitted by Joel Hartman, St. Paul's, Ont.

Baby, it's cold outside! – Submitted by Jamie Wilson, West Port Holsteins, Port Perry, Ont.

THEME #15 IS: BREED IMPROVEMENT SERVICES

Show us how you maximize your herd's potential through Holstein Canada's services, whether it's through one-on-one field service and classification visits, taking advantage of the benefits of NLID, or even genotyping your soon-to-be working girls! As always, bonus points if you can sneak a Holstein Canada logo into the photo somehow (hats, jackets, farm sign, etc.). We also don't discriminate against colour, so send us those all-breed photos as well!

THE DETAILS:

- Photos should be high-res digital images (300 dpi is preferred)
- There is no limit to the number of entries per person
- Any visible animals MUST be properly tagged to be considered

Entries are to be emailed to socialmedia@holstein.ca and should include the names of any people and animals, as well as the prefix when possible. *If you do not have access to email, but wish to participate, call Jeanette at 1-855-756-8300 ext. 266 to make alternate arrangements.

DEADLINE
APRIL 30, 2018

ON SOCIAL MEDIA? SHARE YOUR ENTRY WITH THE WORLD! EMAIL YOUR ENTRY TO US AND THEN SHARE IT ON SOCIAL MEDIA USING **#FRAMETHEHERD**

Classification Notification letters are going paperless.

DOES HOLSTEIN CANADA have your most up-to-date email address? Make sure to update your basic contact information on your web account or with Customer Service, as classification notification letters will be sent via email only.

Effective in the spring of 2018, the classification notification letter will be sent to the primary emails on file rather than mailed out. For producers who do not have email, the classification notification letter will be mailed with their monthly statements at the beginning of each month.

As a reminder, producers can always access their most up-to-date Active Female List on the landing page of their web account. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the classification department by **email: classification@holstein.ca** or **Toll Free 1-855-756-833 Ext. 290 (FR: 264)**.

TOP SIRES ACCORDING TO AVERAGE FINAL SCORE OF 1ST LACTATION DAUGHTERS

Based on 1st Lactation Classifications from November/December 2017

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

Sire	Daughters Classified	Avg. Daus Score	Avg. Dam Score
GOLD CHIP	183	82.42	82.38
DOORMAN	529	82.41	82.53
DEMPSEY	322	81.78	81.34
MCCUTCHEN	159	81.65	81.96
SEAVER	122	81.51	81.43
IMPRESSION	333	81.25	80.74
CHELIOS	115	81.16	80.74
PULSAR	138	81.12	80.80
WICKHAM	202	80.92	80.61
SUPERPOWER	286	80.83	80.49

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

Sire	Daughters Classified	Avg. Daus Score	Avg. Dam Score
HIGH OCTANE	41	83.39	82.93
SOLOMON	39	83.18	82.64
KINGBOY	45	82.67	82.67
ALONZO	40	82.25	81.78
BRADNICK	72	82.03	82.10
SNOWY	61	81.89	81.67
KINGPIN	58	81.86	82.26
G W ATWOOD	91	81.70	82.23
REGINALD	60	81.70	81.47
GULF	39	81.41	79.51

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

MARCH

ON MR Peterborough, Northumberland, Ontario Central
ON Lambton, Middlesex, Elgin, Essex & Kent
QC MR Bagot & St Hyacinthe
QC Dorchester, Levis, Quebec & Montmorency

MID
ON MR Victoria & Durham, Northumberland
QC MR Quebec West, Abitibi & Temiscamingue
Alberta

LATE
ON MR Waterloo
QC MR Quebec Central,
QC Bellechasse
Alberta & Manitoba

APRIL

EARLY
ON Oxford
QC Oxford
QC MR Deux Montagnes & Terrebonne

MID
ON MR Wellington, Northern Ontario, Thunder Bay
QC Kamouraska
QC MR North Shore Central, Quebec North Central

LATE
ON Perth
QC MR Lac St Jean & Roberval, Portneuf, Lapointe & Chicoutimi

MAY

EARLY
ON MR Dundas, Stormont, Glengarry
QC Riviere Du Loup, Rimouski, Matapedia, Bonaventure, Matane, Temiscouata

Please note this schedule is tentative and can be subject to changes. For the most up-to-date schedules for Classification and Field Service, please visit the Holstein Canada website.

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