Milk & Honey

- THE GENIMEX JOURNAL -

EDITION 8
SEPTEMBER 2012

DNA Proven - Reality & Results

The science of genomics has gained significant traction.

Heatime™ & RuminAct®

A simple "plug&play" system to monitor oestrus activity and rumination. Now available in SA from Genimex.

Italië & Denemarke

Twee jong boere van die Oos Kaap vergesel ons na die twee lande.

Ayrshire Sires

Three bulls from Ayrshires Cattle Services.

Fertility & Profitability

Ken Bartlett discusses the driving factors behind excellent farm profitability.

Glynton Herd

The important role of Danish Jerseys in the Glynton herd since the early 1980's.

Select Sire Power

Jerry Emerich shares his insights & experience on Danish Jerseys during a trip to Denmark.

Bulle verskaf deur Genimex

Bespreek deur Poena van Niekerk & Britt Stanton, Genimex agente.

- Foreword -

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The 19th of April 2012 was a sad day for the staff of Viking Genetics as it was on this day that Q IMPULS was put down. In the words of Peter Larson, the Breed Coordinator for Danish Jerseys, "He was old and tired and Viking Genetics made the decision to lay the LEGEND to rest". Impuls was a phenomenal bull and certainly made his mark in the Jersey World, he dominated the lists in countries where he was used. We at Genimex are very grateful that we were able to market the bull in South Africa. Thankfully he was a good semen producer and we had access to many thousands of units of semen for which we easily found a market. Impuls will have many daughters in South Africa and his name will appear in pedigrees for years to come. I am pleased to announce there is still some semen in storage so for those that may have missed out or want to use more do not hesitate. NO the price will not go up as it comes to an end.

The question that remains to be answered is who will be the next "LEGEND" of the Jersey world and follow up on Q IMPULS? We can all speculate, but only time will tell.

Genimex will stay committed to supplying the right genetics at prices that are affordable to the dairy farmers of South Africa. We will not tie breeders up with fancy mating programs that are manipulated for the net gain of the semen supplier and are not really there in the interest of the dairyman. We have enough evidence to support our philosophy of breeders using large volumes of semen of the right bulls in order to achieve genetic gain. Just as the Impuls was used and duly made his mark. It is about improving the population with the emphasis on the economically important traits. Consider the following statement.

> *"Success in breeding dairy cattle is the sum of small efforts repeated day in and day out, year in and year out and never losing sight of the ultimate goal, PROFITABILITY"*

During the recent trip to Italy and Denmark I realized what devastation natural disasters can cause. Just consider the effect of the two earth quakes that shook Italy on the 20th and 29th of May 2012. The "wheels" of Parmesan (Parmigiano Reggiano) cheese are stacked 20 high during the two year maturating process and it was here that the problem arose. Many of these stacks collapsed due to the earth quakes. 633 000 wheels of Parmesan cheese were damaged. Damage caused by the earth quakes is estimated at €150 000 000.00 which include damage to product, plants and maturation facilities. For more information on this king of cheeses please go to www.parmigiano-reggiano.it it makes interesting reading.

Genimex is proud to anounce that we are now able to distribute a heat detection and Rumen monitoring system. The system known as Heatime™ and RuninAct® is a system that works on a tag that is fitted around the cow's neck that communicates via Infra Red with the ID units. It is a PLUG and PLAY system not needing fancy computers and computer programs and their associated problems. Just consider the value of being able to monitor the rumen activity of individual cows and the herd in total. One will not be able to diagnose what the problem is with the rumination of the cows but one will be aware that there is a problem.

Genomics and the sale of genoically proven bulls has for numerous reasons been actively persued by many of the semen suppliers in the industry. Many times genomic bulls have been used to bolster the line-up of some suppliers where their daughter proven line-up has not been so great. Genimex has avoided the importation of Genomic sires largely due to the fact that our sire line-up has been so good in both Holsteins and Jerseys. We have also maintained that why should we sell semen of Genomic bulls that are not a lot better than the daughter proven bulls that we offer. Genimex will in the near future enter the Genomic market but with a completely different approach and reasoning. We will every six months identify 5 of the top Genomic bulls from Denmark and sell them to interested breeders as a group. The breeder will need to take equal volumes of each of the bulls in the group and use it at random.

The reasoning behind this approach is to supply modern genetics with good genomic proofs. Being aware of the fact that the reliabilities of the Genomic proofs are still low and should one bull out of the group disappoint then the impact is limited. This approach will also help in building up the genetic links between Denmark and South Africa making the international proofs more reliable.

On the front cover of this issue of Milk & Honey is a very attractive photograph of the Drakensberg mountains taken on the morning of the 7th of August 2012. The heavy snow falls experienced during the nights of the 6th and 7th of August 2012 turned the Midlands of Natal into a winter wonderland but as with all extremes of weather, chaos ensued with roads being closed and farmers having to battle frozen water pipes and getting enough feed out to their stock. The positive was that the melting snow would certainly have assisted with the spring flush of grass.

On behalf of all at Genimex we wish you well and may you get your cows in calf in record time and with the right genetics that will ensure your financial wellbeing. We thank the South African dairymen and ladies that have supported Genimex over the years.
Chris Cloete.

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Q IMPULS 1998 - 2012

Die Jersey "LEGEND" vir meer as 'n dekade...

Q Impuls is waarskynlik die Jersey bul wat die grootste inpak op die wêreld Jersey populasie gemaak het. Nie alleen was hy 'n uitstekende keuse as 'n uitkruis stamboom nie (SKAE IDE X JAS BYG) maar was hy die leier wat proteien produksie aanbetref. Hy is baie intensief in die meeste Jersey lande gebruik en het Denemarke as 'n bron van top betroubare genetika finaal onderstreep.

Op 'n besoek aan **Denemarke** in 2006 het ons talle uitstekende dogters van Impuls gesien. Skielik het ons besef dat ons eensydige opsomming van Deense tipe linière, ons byna duur te staan gekom het. Die verrassing was dat dit juis hul indrukwekkende funksionele tipe was, wat ons twee keer laat kyk het. Die uiters streng Deense klassifikasiestelsel en geweldige klem wat hulle plaas op eienskappe soos veral bene en uierdiepte vereis beslis dat 'n mens 'n groter studie moet maak van jou keuses. Impuls se prestasies in Denemarke was ongelooflik en hy was vir baie lank die Nr 1 bul op hul lys. Sy ontleding in sy land van oorsprong spreek nou nog boekdele. Met meer as 14000 dogters is sy produksie ontleding as volg: + 1086 kg melk , bv % –0.12 en prot % + 0.06 met 'n kg bv en prot van 98 kg!

Die gevolg van hierdie besoek was dat meer as 40 000 dosisse van hom in **Suid Afrika** verkoop is. In 2011 word hy dan ook met ongeveer 900 dogters die Nr. 1 bul op die SA Sainet lys . Soos in Denemarke beïndruk die Impuls dogters in SA nie net met hul uitstekende proteien produksie nie maar is hulle aantreklike koeie met goeie liggaamsdiepte en veral lengte. Die uiers is hoog aangeheg met goeie vooruieraanhegting en speenlengte. Onlangse klassifikasies by John en Ceril Walker van Ouplaas Greyton sowel as by Manus Meyer naby Jeffreys Baai is 'n bewys van die hoë standaard van hul tipe. Drie en dertig eerste laktasie Impuls dogters het sopas hul laktasies by John Walker voltooi. Die gemiddelde produksie is as volg : **6226 kg melk BV 5.02 % PROT 3.94 %**

	Getal	Liggaam	Bene en Hoewe	Uier	Finaal
John Walker	47	83.8	84.8	84.7	84.5
Manus Meyer	67	83.2	85.3	84.3	84.6

In die **VSA** is Impuls reeds vanaf 2004 gebruik en in Feb. 2007 beklee hy die Nr. 2 posisie op hul ranglys. Vir meer as 5 jaar was hy nooit laer as die 7de plek nie - wat tans nog sy posisie is met meer as 23 000 dogters in sy ontleding!

Het jy dalk te min Impuls gebruik? - (Dalk glad nie) moet nie skaam wees nie – dis nie te laat nie, maar onthou semen voorraad is beperk! Die "Legend" se impak gaan nog lank met ons wees!

Johan Muller

Een van die pragtige Impuls dogters in die Cineraria kudde van John Walker

Koei regs: Cineraria 8273. 1ste lakt. 7701kg, bv 4.52%, prot 4.16%
Tipe: BV:86 B&H: 86 UIER: 86 FIN: 86
(Haar moeder: 1ste lakt. 5535kg, bv 4.5%, prot 4.0%.
Tipe: BV:83 B&H: 95 UIER: 77 FIN: 82)

Een van die mooiste suiwel plase in Suid Afrika – Ouplaas van Cyril en John Walker naby Greyton. Meer as 50 Impuls dogters in die kudde en nog meer is op pad!

DNA PROVEN
REALITY & RESULTS

by Mike Wilson - Product Manager (Premier Sires)

In New Zealand genomic technology has been used commercially under the banner DNA Proven. Unlike other developed dairy nations, where genomics programmes have been funded by industry and Government, DNA Proven and the genomic technology behind it has been funded solely by LIC.

Because of this, DNA Proven is only available to LIC users. This has understandably created differentiation and tension in the market, with opposition coming from organisations that do not have access to the science. The purpose of this article is to offer some clarity and provide readers with the reality of LIC's development in genomic technology. The article also offers results that support LIC's continued focus and investment in the science.

Internationally, the science of genomics has gained significant traction - commercial applications of the technology are being used by every developed dairy nation worldwide.

In 1994 our research and development department started a gene discovery initiative aimed at improving the rate of genetic gain. LIC has been investigating, researching, testing, and developing genomic technology for the sole purpose of increasing on-farm profitability. Until 2008 progeny testing was the only way to accurately evaluate the merit of a sire.

The utilisation of progeny test information to identify elite sires has provided more than 60 years of consistent genetic gain across the national herd. However in the 90s it became apparent that to increase the rate of genetic gain in the national herd a new method of evaluating the merit of elite sires was required.

On paper, increasing genetic gain in any breeding programme is straightforward: simply increase the number of sires tested (selection intensity), and decrease the time taken before those sires are used on farm (generation interval).

The biggest barrier to progress was the generation interval. If elite sires could be identified for use as yearlings rather than 5-year-olds, the generation interval would be dramatically shortened, and the rate of gain increased. Improvements in DNA analysis provided the exciting prospect of being able to derive the necessary information directly from a blood or tissue sample.

The theory is now reality, but it has taken 17 years and $25million to get genomics to its current state. Genomic selection has for the first time allowed LIC to evaluate the merit of many more sires, ensuring that the most-elite sires are used on farm in the shortest timeframe possible.

We no longer have to rely on the inaccuracies of parent average to establish a young sire's merit: Genomic selection has provided 20-30 percent more reliability than parent average alone, and has been shown by Interbull to be a better predictor of merit compared to parent average. LIC now tests nearly six times more sires annually, using the very best of these on farm four years earlier.

Preliminary estimates put the increase in genetic gain, attributed to genomic selection, in the order of 20-30 percent. With the potential for such significant genetic gain, the question should be asked: 'why aren't other nations moving into genomic selection technology'?

For example, the USA, Canada, Ireland, France, and Holland are using genomic information in their official evaluations. Even our neighbours across the ditch now recognise genomic data in the calculation of their national breeding objective!

However, the ability to leverage international advances in this area is limited, mainly due to the specific nature of each country's dataset. These datasets are generated from many years of daughter production information, which vary from mostly total mixed ration & grain feeding (in the Northern Hemisphere and Australia), to predominately pasture-fed (in New Zealand). Most other countries also use quite different strains of cattle to New Zealand, so that presents additional problems relating to transportability. Genomic selection tools only work well when applied to livestock type and the environment in which the animals were farmed when the data was collected. In short, we can't apply our technology to overseas markets, just as overseas markets can't reliably apply their technology in New Zealand.

With the lack of ability to leverage from other countries, the New Zealand dairy industry must face up to the challenge of achieving genomic selection on its own. LIC has accepted that challenge. For the past 17 years LIC has committed (and will continue to commit) the time, resource, and finance needed to achieve this task.

This year alone LIC has invested more than $5 million in generating bigger datasets by screening more animals in greater detail. The purpose is to improve and enhance our genomic selection techniques for all DNA Proven customers, thus increasing the BW and profitability of the national herd.

In 2010, DNA Proven customers used in excess of 1 million inseminations. Those inseminations will potentially create 200,000 milking daughters. The DNA Proven daughters are expected to possess BWs that surpass daughters brought about through conventional progeny testing.

With hundreds of thousands of DNA Proven daughters set to start milking over the next few seasons, LIC remains resolute and confident in the DNA Proven product.

In 2010 we asked ourselves the question, how accurate are genomic evaluations?

To demonstrate the accuracy of our predictions, without having to wait three years for daughters to come into milk, LIC picked teams of bulls from the group that was just about to receive their first progeny test data. Three breed teams of 16 bulls each were published in the LIC Board papers in July 2010. They now have a complete lactation progeny test.

The predictions were made using genomic data, but the outcome is based solely on traditional progeny test information, with all genomic data stripped out. Also, the Relative Economic Values are unchanged so that the updated values enable a true comparison.

We have monitored these bull teams to see how accurate our predictions were, and the results are outlined below.

	Prediction July 2010	Progeny Test May 2011	Difference
H-Fr	173.6	158.6	-15.0
Jersey	143.2	139.1	-4.1
KiwiCross	163.9	165.0	+1.1
Average	160.2	154.2	-6.0

The figures and graphs (following page) show two breeds with single digit movements, and an average movement of just 6 BW units. From these results I would suggest that significant journalistic liberty has been taken in recent press, which point fingers at "drops" of 80 to 100BW units across the board.

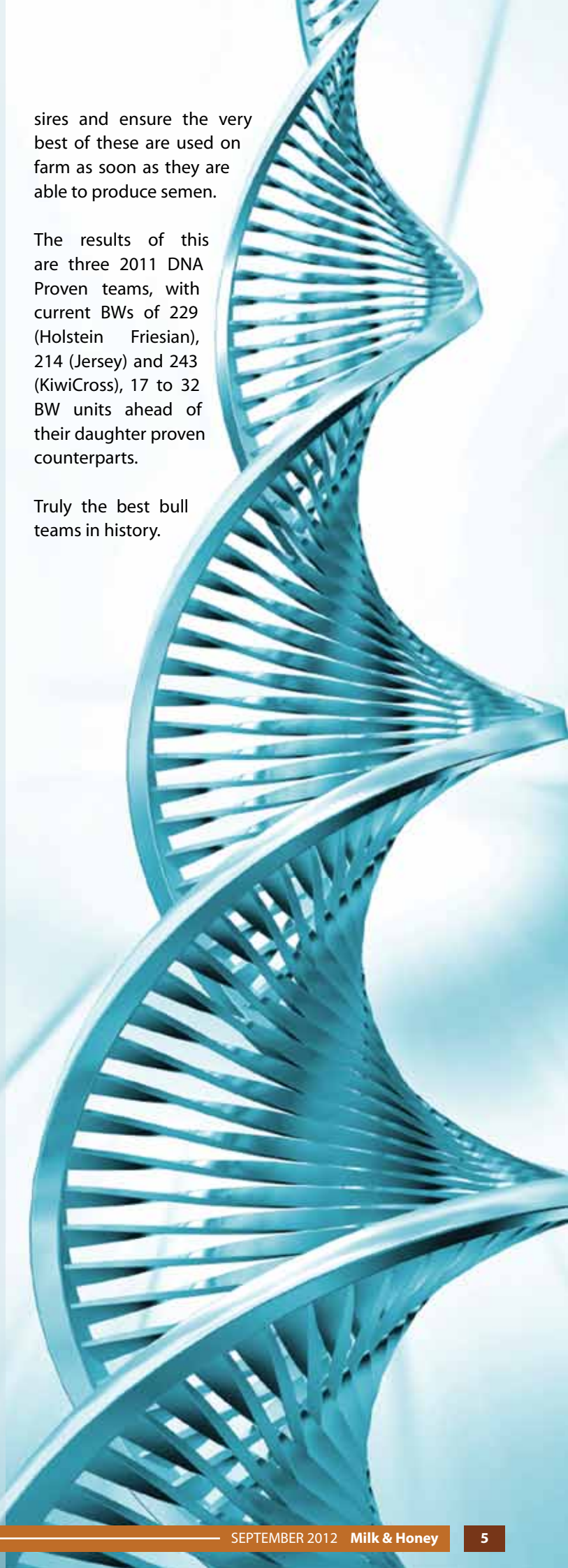
The 80 to 100 BW units are far from "drops" in a sire's proof but more simply the difference between conventional (Parent Average) evaluations and LIC's genomic evaluations, which on average have reliability's 20-30 percent higher than parent average. We should expect to select bulls that deviate from parent average, and with continued use of genomic selection this deviation will increase (once again ensuring that the very best sires in the industry are made available on farm).

The reality and the results speak for themselves:

The reality is that to increase genetic gain on farm LIC needs to accurately evaluate the merit of many thousands of young sires and ensure the very best of these are used on farm as soon as they are able to produce semen.

The results of this are three 2011 DNA Proven teams, with current BWs of 229 (Holstein Friesian), 214 (Jersey) and 243 (KiwiCross), 17 to 32 BW units ahead of their daughter proven counterparts.

Truly the best bull teams in history.



THE JERSEY LEGEND

Q IMPULS HAS DIED

On 19 April 2012, at the age of nearly 14 years, the Legend was layed to rest.

Production records

Q Impuls has been the most influential Jersey bull worldwide. Q Impuls produced nearly 600.000 doses of semen of which nearly 50.000 were sexed. He is used in all Jersey populations worldwide and as sire of sons in all major Jersey breeding programs worldwide. Two NZ Jersey bulls have produced the same amount or more semen, Okura Manhatten and Van der Fits Fjord, but none of them has had the same international influence as Q Impuls.

Q Impuls is topping National hit lists all over, topping Interbull hit lists and he is one of the most popular bulls for sexed Jersey semen worldwide!

Q Impuls has thousands of daughters in many populations, especially the Danish and the American.

Currently Q Impuls ranks #1 in Canada, #5 in South Africa and #8 in USA, with more than 23.000 daughters in his American production proof and more than 14.000 daughters in his Danish proof.

Q Impuls, - you will be impressed!

Q Impuls breeds tall daughters of very good type, good F&L, shallow udders, good temperament and longevity. Q Impuls is among the worlds best for protein production (both volume of milk and high protein percentage). Second crop daughters show that when Impuls has been combined with good udder pedigrees, you get some of the best offspring ever seen!

Q Impuls, the Outcross with Danish, Canadian and NZ genetics

Q Impuls has been an outcross bull to nearly all others but the Danes, as he carries very little American genes. He is an SKAE Ide x JAS Byg x FYN Haug x SKAE Strib x FYN Tved.

Gene distribution: 6% NZ-, 25% Canadian- and 69% Danish genes. The Canadian genes comes from the World famous Paternal Grandsire J Imperial (A little American in him). In the other 3 grandparent lines, you find FYN Haug and two times SKÆ Hede, both FYN Tved sons.

A sire of sons in all leading Jersey populations worldwide

We are seeing impressive results of Q Impuls being used as sire of sons. In the American population, nearly half of the top bulls carry Q Impuls genes and the bull is getting very influential as maternal grandsire as well. Sons are coming with proofs in both Australia, South Africa, New Zealand, Canada and Great Britain.

Q Impuls was the first bull with sexed semen on the international market

To start production of sexed semen Q Impuls was moved to Cogent UK's facilities in England, in 2004, together with Q Zik. The two Danish Jersey bulls were the first to be marketed with sexed semen, on the international market. Q Impuls was pleased with the stay at Cogents, so he stayed there till he died.

Q Impuls was born in the herd of Jens Munch, Serridslev, - the same herd also bred JAS Byg.

With Kind Regards
Peter G. Larson
Breed Coordinator - Danish Jerseys

VIKING GENETICS INTERNATIONAL

HEATIME™ WORKS WITH COWS!

Lydia Henriette Lauridsen and Anders Fogh, Dansk Kvæg

The reproduction results for "first calf" cow herds using Heatime™ has been analyzed similarly to heifers (see article "Heatime™ finds heifers in heat"). The effect of Heatime™ is on a lower level than that for heifers, however, the gain of using Heatime™ with the "first calf" cows in this article is probably underestimated, as the starting date of using Heatime™ is unknown.

A Shorter insemination period with the same pregnancy percentage

In herds using Heatime™ in the year 2008, the interval from first to last insemination was on average reduced by 18.0 days from 2006 to 2008. In herds without Heatime™, the interval was only reduced by 7.6 days during the same period. This means that by using Heatime™, the interval is shortened a little less than half a cycle.

The numbers of inseminations do not differ much in the development from 2006 to 2008 for Heatime™ or reference herds.

Cows in herds using Heatime™ are tested for pregnancy much earlier

In Heatime™ herds the period from last insemination to the pregnancy test date was reduced by 14.6 days during 2006-2008. In the reference herds only eight days were reduced in the same period. The results indicate that the farmers believe that Heatime™ finds the heats, so if the cows have not had an increased activity during two cycles, it is assumed that the cow is pregnant and therefore the cow is tested as soon as possible.

Regarding days from calving to first insemination, the number of days increases by 6.1 within the Heatime™ herds, while it only increased approximately one day for the reference herds. This also indicates that the farmers believe that Heatime™ finds the heats and therefore they do not need to start just as early after calving as before.

Prerequisites for this study

This study has used data from 47 herds using Heatime™ while the reference group represents 1,967 herds. The herd numbers are supplied by Mosegården.

Table 1. The average of qualities for Heatime™ herds and reference herds among "first calf" cows in 2006 and 2008 respectively.

		2006	2008	Difference
Days from first to last insemination	Heatime	52.0	34.0	-18.0
	Reference	49.3	41.7	-7.6
Numbers of inseminations	Heatime	2.07	2.08	+0.01
	Reference	2.03	1.98	-0.05
Days from last insemination to pregnancy test	Heatime	69.2	54.6	-14.6
	Reference	81.5	73.5	-8.0
Days from calving to first insemination	Heatime	75.7	81.8	+6.1
	Reference	76.7	77.8	+1.1

HEATIME™ FINDS HEIFERS IN HEAT

Analysis shows that by using Heatime™, more than a half cycle can on average be gained in the period from first to last insemination.

Heatime™ is an activity measurer for heat observations of heifers and cows. The use of Heatime™ has increased tremendously since its introduction in 2007 and it is therefore important to examine whether Heatime™ actually has an effect on the reproductive efficiency in herds in which it is applied. Heatime™ is marketed in Scandinavia by Mosegården A/S and distributed in Denmark by VikingDanmark and in Sweden by Viking Genetics.

In a study conducted by The Danish Cattle Association, the reproduction results from herds using Heatime™ have been compared with reproduction results from all other herds (reference herds). In order to evaluate the effect of using Heatime™, it is important to know the reproduction results of the herd before installation. Moreover, it is also important to know the general development in all herds, since it cannot/must not be attributed to the activity measurer. The development of all herds from 2006 to 2008 is studied closely. The Heatime™ systems were installed in late 2007 or during 2008.

The reproduction goals studied are: Age at first insemination (starting age), period from first to last insemination and number of inseminations. These characteristics reflect both the ability of the heifer to show heat and the ability to conceive when inseminated.

Prerequisites for the study

In the study, data from 2017 Danish herds were used, of which 91 herds used Heatime™. In each of these herds, there were at least 20 first inseminations per year among heifers.

Only the periods in 2008 where the Heatime™ herds used the activity measurer are included. Since Heatime™ was often only used in parts of 2008, the results have afterwards been adjusted accordingly, as the reproduction results vary over a year. For the Heatime™ herds, the period "before" is 2006, while the period "after" is two months after delivery of the activity measurer. For the reference herds, the periods are 2006 and 2008.

Information about the herds which used Heatime™ has been provided by Mosegården.

Heatime™ shortens the insemination period by 12 days

In Heatime™ herds a significant decrease of 14.5 days from first to last insemination was observed, while in the reference herds it was only a couple of days. Heatime™ in this survey shortened the period from first to last insemination by 12days compared to the reference herds.

The number of inseminations per pregnancy in the reference herds increased slightly from 2006 to 2008, whereas the number of inseminations per pregnancy in the Heatime™ herds was reduced a little. Heatime™ thus, does manage to reduce the number of inseminations.

In 2008, 23.3% sexed semen was used in the Heatime™ herds while the reference herds used 16.2% sexed semen at the first insemination. Since the pregnancy percentage in general is lower when using gender-sorted semen, it means that the real effect of Heatime™ regarding days from first to last insemination and number of inseminations are slightly underestimated in this study.

If the insemination period is compared to the number of inseminations it means that by using Heatime™, more potential heats are used for inseminations.

The starting age for the Heatime™ herds is on average 16.2 months which is about a half month lower than that of the reference herds. In general, the starting age in the reference herds decreased by 0.3 months from 2006 to 2008, whereas in the Heatime™ herds the starting age decreased by 0.2 months. The spread of starting age has also been examined. In Heatime™ herds, the spread of starting age declined slightly, whereas there was no change among the reference herds. Thus, Heatime™ has no impact on the start of heifers.

Heifers calve earlier

Although Heatime™ does not affect the starting age but reduces the insemination period, this will of course affect the calving age. For the Heatime™ herds the calving age decreased by 0.7 months, while the reference herds only decreased by 0.4 months. Furthermore, the calving age for the Heatime™ herds as starting point is lower than that for the reference herds.

Considered overall, Heatime™ herds improved significantly regarding number of days from first to last insemination in relation to the reference herds, while the number of inseminations was reduced slightly. The conclusion is that Heatime™ is good at detecting heats, whereas the optimal insemination time cannot be improved much by using Heatime™. It is of course important to notice that the heifers are only inseminated when the inseminator is in the stable and not neces-sarily when the Heatime™ system shows the optimum time!

Heatime improves herds with poor reproduction

Motivation for using Heatime™ is twofold. Firstly if reproduction results in the herd are not satisfactory and secondly if good reproduction is achieved but one would like to save time. As a rule of thumb, a good heat observation usually takes about ½ - 1 hour daily.

The following tables present the performance activities between 2006 and 2008 for Heatime™ and Reference herds.

Table 1 presents performance activities of all herds in the study highlighting a net reduction of 12days which Heatime™ brought about in the performance activity 'days from first to last insemination'. Analysing performance activities of the top and bottom third herds presented a different picture.

Table 2, top third ie herds averaging less than 21 days in 2006 from first to last insemination held performance level for this activity, whereas the reference required 6.9days extra, resulting in a net advantage of nearly 8 days in favour of the Heatime™ herds

Table 3 which analyses herds in the bottom third of the study, those which require more than 33days from first to last insemination, show Heatime™ improving this performance activity by 23.5 days, a net gain of 9.7 days over that achieved by the reference herds.

Lydia Henriette Lauridsen and Anders Fogh
(The Danish Cattle Association)

Tabel 1. The average of qualities for reference herds and Heatime™ herds

Performance Activity	Herds	2006	2008	Difference
Days from first to last insemination	Heatime	33.0	18.5	-14.5
	Reference	28.1	25.6	-2.5
Number of inseminations	Heatime	1.75	1.72	-0.03
	Reference	1.65	1.67	+0.02
Starting age, months	Heatime	16.2	16.0	-0.2
	Reference	16.8	16.5	-0.3
Calving age, months	Heatime	26.6	25.9	-0.7
	Reference	27.0	26.6	-0.4

Table 2. Average for herds with less than 21 days from first to last insemination

Performance Activity	Herds	2006	2008	Difference
Days from first to last insemination	Heatime	16.3	15.5	-0.8
	Reference	14.6	21.5	+6.9
Number of inseminations	Heatime	1.47	1.63	+0.16
	Reference	1.44	1.60	+0.16
Starting age, months	Heatime	16.5	16.6	+0.1
	Reference	17.2	16.9	-0.3
Calving age, months	Heatime	26.2	26.3	+0.1
	Reference	26.9	26.9	0.0

Table 3. Average for herds with more than 33 days from first to last insemination

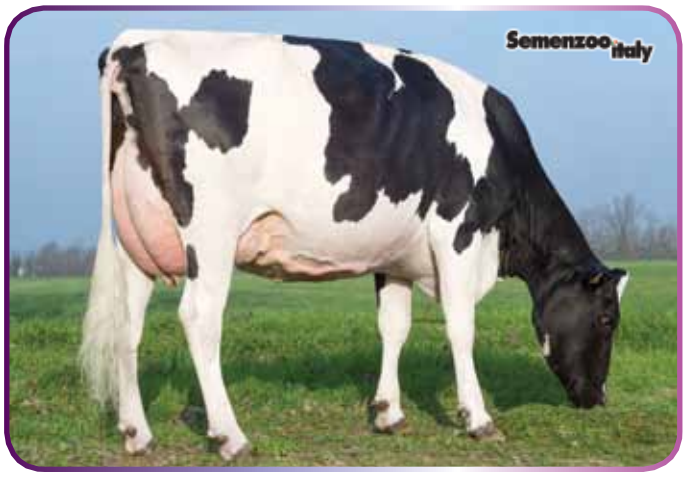
Performance Activity	Herds	2006	2008	Difference
Days from first to last insemination	Heatime	44.1	20.6	-23.5
	Reference	43.8	30.0	-13.8
Number of inseminations	Heatime	1.88	1.76	-0.12
	Reference	1.86	1.74	-0.12
Starting age, months	Heatime	16.2	15.8	-0.4
	Reference	16.6	16.4	-0.2
Calving age, months	Heatime	26.9	25.7	-1.2
	Reference	27.3	26.6	-0.7

HOLSTEIN LINE UP

by Britt Stanton

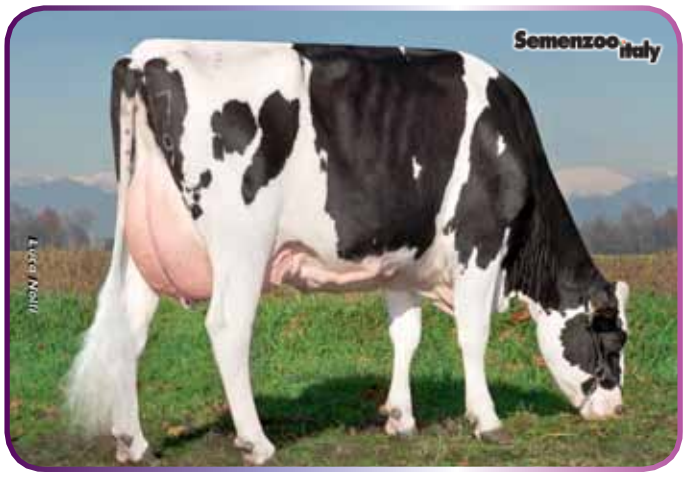
ZANI BOLTON MASCALESE - Bolton x O-man x T.Adam

NEWS JUST IN… Top Price of C$80 000 paid at the Rocky Mountain Sale for a first choice MASCALSES from Ms Chassity Cash, the dam of the TOP 10 GTPI bulls in the world. Zani Bolton Mascalese has caught the attention of the Holstein world by not only being the No 1 bull in Italy, but also the No 3 proven bull in Canada and the best proven bull in the USA. From the Zani-herd, home of the famous Italian show cow Zani Bolton Viola, we find an above average cow family as proved by Mascalese's high records. At 2105kgM 77kgF 69kgP top productions can be expected & with very good scores for SCC and longevity, Mascalese will prove to be farmer favourites. The daughters of Mascalese are tall, stylish & long bodied with incredible dairy strength and ideal rumps. Very high (+4.09) wide (+3.67) rear udders with strong attachments and tremendous veination will make these daughters a pleasure to milk. Mascalese will be an ideal mating on the Shottle and Allen bloodlines.



END-STORY - O-man x Jocko x Luke

A story that has no end in sight,it started on a farm in western France in the herd of Eric Raimboud. With a different pedigree going back to an Ex Hurtgen-Vue Marathon grand dam, End-story is not your typical O-man son. He has the O-man production, percentages & calving ease scores but with one notable exception … a solid type proof. With an overall confirmation of +2.43 type and +2.42 udder this makes End-story an O-man with a difference. Very good production (+1260kgM) with exceptional percentages for fat (+0.23%) and protein (+0.13%) make him a popular choice. End-story daughters have strong front-ends, with a lot of capacity and correct rump structure. The udders are well attached with very good rear udder height (+3.3) and slightly longer teats (+1.1). The daughters of End-story are not excessive in stature; they are strong sty-lish cow that will perform under most conditions.

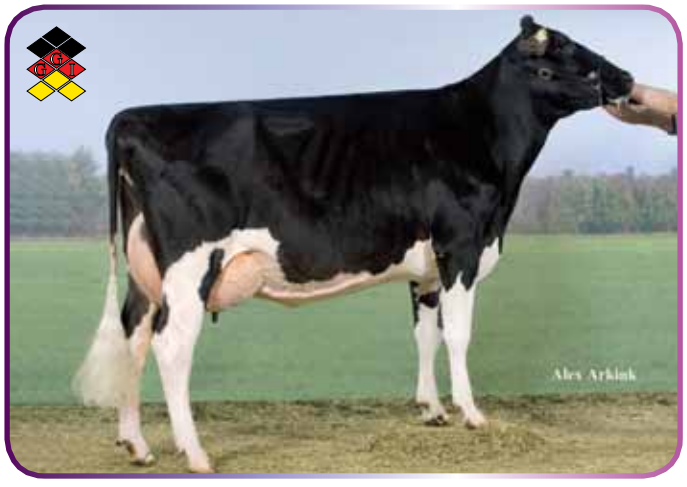


GO-FARM ARTES - Goldwyn x Marshall x Formation

Artes bred by one of the top Italian herds, Go-Farm, is a sire proving to be popular in many herds around the world. Coming from a family with 9 generations of VG/EX cows, Artes offers a complete package true to his pedigree. Daughters of Artes are tall, open ribbed, powerful cows with very good feet and legs (+3.55). The exceptional rear udder height (+5.54), width (+4.40)& ligament (+4.51) puts Artes in high demand. These fancy daughters will produce volumes of milk (+1376kgM) with low SCC and very good longevity.

DUNAR - Duplex x Champion x Elton Dante

From a deep German cow family, the different pedigree of Dunar makes him a popular choice with farmers. The daughters show good dairy strength and capacity while walking on good feet and legs. Dunar daughters have well attached udders above the hocks. His production (+947kg) with excellentprotein(+45kg&+0.13%)andgoodhealthtraitsmakes Dunar an easy choice to use.



TOC- FARM DUP GLAUCO - Duplex x Allen x Progress

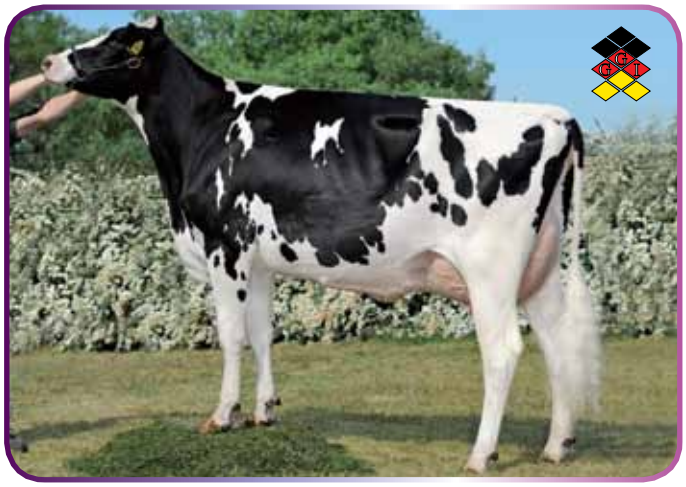
The combination of Duplex and one of the most talked about "show type" families in Europe, Toc-Farm Allen Amyly, has produced one of the best type bulls available today in Glauco. His dam Amyly was not only the 2007 National Champion but also voted the World Champion in the Holstein International photo contest. Fresh again at 9 years of age, Amyly has produced 4 sons Glauco, Goldfish, Goldsun and Freespirit, which show the same tremendous stature, strength and udder attachments that made her have great show appeal!! The daughters of Glauco are tall (+3.19), strong (+3.66), deep bodied (+3.68) open ribbed (+3.71) cows with good feet and legs. The rear udders are high (+3.66), wide (+3.91) with extremely well attached fore-udders (+4.22). With the added bonus of having high longevity (107) and fertility (103) scores, Glauco will breed the type we would all like to milk!! Glauco is the perfect mating on BW Marshall, Goldwyn, O-man and Shottle lines.

SABBIONA SPALLETTI - Goldwyn x Storm x Demand

From the herd of the world famous Sabbiona Skywalker comes a bull that should answer every dairy farmer's needs. Backed by the well know cow Sabbiona Cruda Ex93, who has graced many show rings in Italy, produced sons for AI (Goldfarm& Slepp) and is currently in her 7th lactation … we have the perfect combinations of type, production and health traits in Spalletti. With over 1000kg of milk with exceptional fat +60kg (+0.22%) and protein +40kg (+0.05%), Spalletti is following in his dam's footsteps who has an average of 4.73%F over 6 lactations. The daughters are tall, open ribbed (+3.78) deep cows with very well attached udders. With high (+3.36), wide (+4.42) rear udders and strong fore udders (+2.39) these daughters are very pleasing to the eye and will easily be part of any show string. With high health traits for SCC (111), longevity (106) and fertility (102), Spalletti is the bull to fit any profit orientated breeding program.

GOLDBOY - Goldwyn x Juror Ford x Metro

A Goldwyn son with a different pedigree, Goldboy has the type and production to meet every farmer's needs. His top producing dam EX90 Ford MeyMadlen combined with Goldwyn has produced this top ranking son. The daughters of Goldboy are stylish with a lot of strength in the front-end, they also show correct rump structures which makes for easy calving. Goldboy is producing daughters with high feet and leg scores. Good volumes of milk (+694kg) come from very well attached udders with a positive score on teat length. With one of the highest scores for Fitness traits (RZFit 134) and low SCC score (RZS 119) Goldboy is a true all-rounder. He is suitable for use on heifers.



JERUDO (red) - Jerom x Rudolph x Valiant Tab

From Germany who has the largest registered Red Holstein population in the world, the out-cross pedigree of Jerudo has made him an international sire of sons. The family of Jerudo is renowned for longevity and several cows have produced over 100 000kg. This is seen in the production of his daughters (+974kg) with very good solids and percentages, especially for fat (+57kg & +0.19%). The daughters of Jerudo are medium sized with good capacity, depth and strength. With a good rump structure his daughters calve easily. The udders are well attached and carried above the hocks. The health traits for longevity, fertility and udder health make Jerudo and easy choice and combined with his unique pedigree, a bull well worth using.

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DEENSE BULLE WAT 'N VERSKIL IN JOU KUDDE KAN MAAK

deur Poena van Niekerk

DJ HOLMER (Q Hirse (Hibiscus X Fyn Haug) X Lemvig X Jas Bregne) is 'n uitstekende uitkruis bul wat gaan help om die intelings koëfisient in jou kudde af te bring. Holmer is uitstekend op sy sekondere eienskappe soos DOGTERVRUGBAARHEID, UIERGESONDHEID en KUDDELEEFTHEID. Hierdie is die eienskappe wat bepaal of 'n koeie winsgewend is of nie. Hy teel ook uitstekende UIERS. Holmer is 'n bul wat met baie goeie welslae op dogters van Loui 260, Headline, Jace (of Jace seuns), Dale, Gannon, Restore, Riley en Zuma gebruik kan word.

'n DJ Holmer dogter

DJ ZUMA (Zik X Lemvig X Skae Ide) is heelwaarskynlik die volgende Impuls, Berretta of Lester. Die bul se dogters oorheers alle koei en verslyste en daar word in spanning gewag vir sy eerste seun om 'n ontleding te kry. Zuma is 'n bul wat baie sterk op sy sekondêre eienskappe is met uitstaande produksie en uiers. Die ontleding wys dat die Zuma dogters nou is in die bors. Hulle is weliswaar nouer as wat die May, Impuls of Artist dogters is. Hulle laat my egter baie aan die Berretta dogters dink. Zuma kan gebruik word op dogters van Gannon, Dale, Grieves, Legal en Impuls.

'n DJ Zuma dogter

DJ BROILER (Jas Bungy (bloedbroer van Impuls) X Lemvig X Jas Hot) is 'n bul wat baie sterk dogters teel met hoë persentasies vastestowwe en lang kuddeleeftheid. Die volwasse Bungy (vaar van Broiler) koeie in Denemarke is indrukwekkend en staan glad nie terug vir die Impuls dogters nie. Dit is ruim koeie met uitstekende suiwelvorm en sterkte deur die bors. Broiler sal uitstekend werk op alle Iatola dogters en kleindogters asook alle Action seuns se dogters.

'n DJ Broiler dogter

DJ MAY (Q Mirage (Mister T) X Lemvig (Lester) X Fyn Tannic (Shadewell Fascinator) is die leier op die gebied van uiers en dogtervrugbaarheid. Die May dogters is groot sterk koeie met goeie produksies. May is die bul wat dit vir jou moontlik gaan maak om net een bul in jou fles te hê. Dit is die beste "all rounder" huidig beskikbaar. Gebruik May met welslae op dogters van Headline, Iatola, Impuls, Jevon en Loui 260.

'n DJ May dogter

THE "TYPE" I LIKE...

GRACE-VALLEY FORD'S CORAL

by Britt Stanton

Life has a strange way of always bringing you back to your roots and the things one loves … after many years of not having cow poop under my shoes I have been brought back to my roots – cows. Walking through the stalls at the Holstein Nationals 2012 brought back so many memories of people and beautiful cows. There are always cows that stick in your mind and become reference points for the "type you like". For me one of my all-time favourites has to be Esperance Mtoto Naomi. Thanks to Jacques Naude I had the chance to visit Naomi in June, at eleven years old she still stands out in the herd. While at the Nationals I added another cow to my "favourites" list … Grace Valley Ford's Coral. A daughter of Italian bull Alzi Juror Ford, Coral with an impressive list of show winnings over the past few years, went on to be the 2012 National Aged Cow, Best Aged Cow Udder and Honourable Mention in the final class.

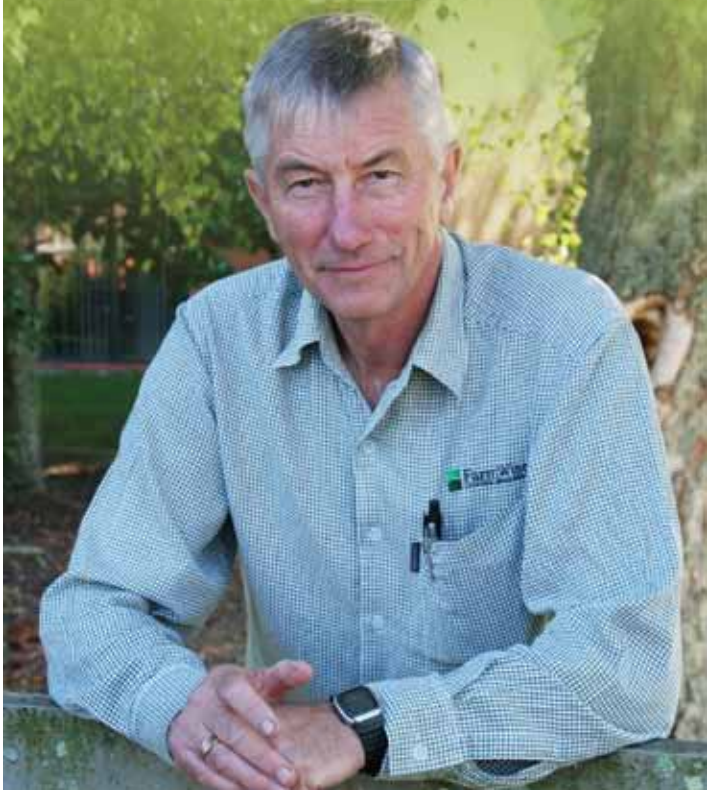
Coral may not be the tallest cow in the ring but you are drawn to her incredible capacity, dairy strength and overall correctness. Looking at her well attached udder, still above the hock one would not believe that 6 lactations of milk have flowed through it. With 5 of these lactations exceeding 10 000kg and an ICP of 409 days, Coral is the type we should all be striving for. According to owner and breeder, Kevin Lang, Coral has not produced as many daughters as he hoped for but there is a Million and Fever daughter in the herd. To Kevin and his team … Congratulations on breeding a truly great cow to add to my "favourites" list and I am sure to many others who saw her at Nationals.

Mtoto's Naomi & Ford's Coral - still doing it with style ….
ITALIAN STYLE !!!

Grace-Valley Ford's Coral

DRIVING FERTILITY & PROFITABILITY

by Ken Bartlett
Farmwise Consultant



EXCELLENT FARM PROFITABILITY consists of many factors. The ones you can control are:

1. Knowing your cost structure.
2. Matching your calving period to your grass growth curve.
3. Good feed allocation to ensure minimal feed supplementation.
4. Good herd fertility.

If we look at factor 4, we need to ensure that young stock reach their target weight, which is based on a Holstein Friesian mature weight of 550 Kg.

- 3 months weaned 100 Kg
- 6 months 165 Kg (30% of mature liveweight)
- 12 months 275 Kg
- 15 months (mating) 330 Kg (60% of mature Liveweight)
- 18 months 400 Kg
- 22 months (calving) 495 Kg (90% of mature liveweight)

Weigh them, don't guess the weights

The benefits you get are:

- More heifers in calf.
- More compact calving.
- After calving, more heifers cycling early.

For mature cows, calve them at BCS 3.25 plus

Benefits:

- Calving to first services - 57 days.
- 42 day pregnancy rates – 63 days.
- You can target a three week submission rate of 90% with a six week in calf rate of 78% and an empty rate of 6% or less.

Irish trials show the right cows (NZ genetics) are superior to all other strains in grassland systems in:

- Production.
- Reproduction.
- Efficiency production to live weight.
- Total services per cow.

A 22 month calving target liveweight (90% of mature liveweight) is recommended (instead of 24 month or calving date). The nutrient demands of the rapidly developing foetal calf in the final two months before calving (equivalent to 0.5kg liveweight per day) suggest that the requirement for heifer growth should be minimal in this period. Using the target at 22 months gives a 'cushion' in case little or no heifer liveweight growth is achieved in the final 2 months leading to calving.

EIGHT INGREDIENTS OF THE HERD FERTILITY CAKE

CALVING PATTERN

A desirable calving pattern has at least 87% of the herd cal-ving in the first six weeks with few late cows. This will improve the following reproductive performance substantially, providing cows the time they need to get back in calf. A tight calving pattern will give more days in milk.

HEIFER MANAGEMENT

Reproductive performance of the replacement heifers is directly related to liveweight at mating and calving. Heifers must be reared to achieve liveweight targets from birth to calving otherwise their first calving may be delayed, their liveweight at calving will be too low and their fertility during their next mating period reduced. Production from poorly reared heifers will be lower than expected.

BODY CONDITION AND NUTRITION

Effective management of body condition and nutrition over the whole season improves herd reproductive performance, cow health and milk solids production. Cows in body condition score (BCS) of 3.25 – 3.5 at calving will have substantially better reproductive performance than cows in lower BCS. These BCS targets must be achieved to ensure cows are in BCS 2.75 – 3.0 at planned start of mating.

As losses of >BCS 0.5 can be expected in early lactation from calving to mating, having cows at the optimum BCS at calving will ensure better submission and pregnancy rates.

HEAT DETECTION

Good heat detection has a major impact on overall herd reproductive performance. Accurate heat detection is the key to ensuring semen is not wasted and cows conceive at the

right time. Continuous assessments of current practices are critical, with training of staff and accurate use of heat detection tools the key to good heat detection. Spending time with herd between milking is always time well spent!

DEALING WITH NON-CYCLERS

Non-cyclers will prevent you obtaining a target 78% six week in-calf rate. This is because non-cyclers depress both of the two key drivers of six week in-calf rate, which are:

- Three week submission rate.
- Conception rate to first insemination.

Both of these drivers are important but the three week submission rate has a bigger impact because it is more readily influenced by your management during that first three weeks of artificial breeding.

Identifying and treating non-cyclers early (before the planned start of mating) will give them the best possible chance of getting in calf in line with the rest of their herdmates.

GENETICS AND ARTIFICIAL BREEDING PRACTICES

Conception rates are reduced substantially when semen is not stored and handled correctly or when the insemination technique is unsound. Reviewing and re-training will have a noticeable increase in conception rates by improving insemination practices. Choose sires and mating programmes that will achieve the goals you have set for your herd and farm.

BULL MANAGEMENT

Good bull management means running adequate numbers of healthy, fertile, well-grown bulls with the herd, thereby reducing the stresses caused by heat, over-working or dominant animals. Good management and handling of bulls to minimise the risk of injury to people and animals. Running and rotating the appropriate number of healthy, active bulls of the right size and breed for your goals will get more heifers and tail-end cows in calf.

COW HEALTH

Cows that suffer health problems at the time of calving or in early lactation can suffer reduced reproductive performance.

Common health problems include giving birth to twins or stillborns, difficult calvings, retained foetal membranes, vaginal discharges, lameness, ketosis and mastitis. Health problems can reduce the cows' feed intake, so result in loss of BCS, can increase stress infection so putting pressure on the cows' immune system. These pressures will result in a reduced in-calf rate of the animal.

Keep cows in top condition health wise for maximum pregnancy rates.

DANISH JERSEYS IN THE GLYNTON HERD

By Peter Durham

Glyn and Yvonne Durham

Danish Jerseys have played an important role in Glynton Jerseys since Glyn Durham first imported the bulls Fyn Tved and Fyn Index in the early 1980's.

At that time South Africa had been through a period of serious limitations on imported semen. As a result the herd had a lot of Generator based breeding which was as a result of the local bulls available at the time. Glyn decided to do a world tour to determine which Jersey populations would offer the type of genetic improvement Glynton needed. He went so far as to purchase semen from the top ranked bulls from each country he visited. This resulted in him bringing in Spronslea Hi Lindan and Tarnhowe Red Lindan from New Zealand, Ruscot Star Career and Elenco Glen Lad from Australia, Fyn Tved, Fyn Index and Skae Jib from Denmark, Minifordias Gamboge from Jersey Island, Meadowlawn Bright Spot from Canada and Braircliffs Brave Soldier and A Nine Top Brass from the USA.

These bulls were then used across the herd and their progeny assessed. As a result of this, it became obvious that the Genetic Pools that Glynton would use in the future would primarily come from the USA and Denmark. The combination of A Nine Top Brass onto Fyn Tved daughters proved to be a particularly good breeding combination at the time. Fyn Index daughters in turn proved to have outstanding longevity.

Some of the early impacts that the Danish bulls made were Glynton Index Ida who was sold at the National Sale and her Berretta son Jack made an impact in SA along with her other male descendants, Alf Illustrious and Jace Isis.

In addition on an International basis, Glyn's relationship with Professor John Wilk of the University of Tennessee and his suggestion to John to use Danish Bulls in the University Herd resulted in the breeding of Index Maid, the dam of Haug Maid who was later bought by Eric Silva of the Sunset Canyon Herd. We all know the resultant impact of this cow on the Jersey Breed.

ARDMORE CROWN NAPIER

DATE OF BIRTH: 23/1/2003

PEDIGREE:

Meikle Laught Triple Crown **X** Blackaddar MM Patrick **X** Monteith Star Jewel

PRODUCTION PROOF

Milk	168	**Rel %**	96
Fat kg	8.9	**Prot kg**	3.6
Fat %	0.03	**Prot %**	-0.03

Somatic Cell -17

PTA2010 (8/12)

Daughters (UK)	126
Herds (UK)	45

PTAT2010 (8/12)

Daughters	66
Herds	27

proudly imported and distributed in South Africa by

Daughter of Crown Napier

Daughter of Crown Napier

TRAIT		-2	-1	0	1	2		VALUE
A Type Merit	Poor						Excellent	1.8
Mammary	Poor						Excellent	1.7
Legs & feet	Poor						Excellent	0.9
Dairy Strength	Poor						Excellent	-0.4
Stature	130cm						154cm	-0.9
Chest width	Narrow						Wide	-0.5
Body depth	Shallow						Deep	-0.6
Angularity	Coarse						Open rib	-0.3
Rump angle	High pins						Low pins	0.9
Rump width	Narrow						Wide	-0.1
Rear leg side	Straight						Sickled	0.5
Foot angle	Low						Steep	-1.2
Fore udder attachment	Loose						Tight	2.4
Rear udder height	Very low						Very high	1.5
Udder support	Broken						Strong	2.2
Udder depth	Below hoc						20cm above	-0.3
Front teat placement	Outside						Close	2.7
Teat length	Short						Long	-2.6
Rear teat placement	Apart						Close	N/A
Teat position side view	Close						Apart	-0.2
Temperament	Poor						Good	0
Ease of milk	Slow						Fast	-1.6

CASTERN TORNADO

DATE OF BIRTH: 7/9/2005

PEDIGREE:

Mccornick Nelson ET **X** Bankend Lord Ontario **X** Waxham Winning Streak

PRODUCTION PROOF

Milk	217	**Rel %**	84
Fat kg	9.2	**Prot kg**	7.3
Fat %	0	**Prot %**	0

Somatic Cell 1

PTA2010 (8/12)

Daughters (UK)	28
Herds (UK)	17

PTAT2010 (8/12)

Daughters	18
Herds	14

proudly imported and distributed in South Africa by

Daughter of Tornado

Dam of Tornado

TRAIT		-2 -1 0 1 2		VALUE
A Type Merit	Poor		Excellent	-0.2
Mammary	Poor		Excellent	-0.1
Legs & feet	Poor		Excellent	-0.1
Dairy Strength	Poor		Excellent	1.1
Stature	130cm		154cm	1.2
Chest width	Narrow		Wide	2.5
Body depth	Shallow		Deep	1
Angularity	Coarse		Open rib	0.4
Rump angle	High pins		Low pins	-1.6
Rump width	Narrow		Wide	0.6
Rear leg side	Straight		Sickled	-0.8
Foot angle	Low		Steep	2.1
Fore udder attachment	Loose		Tight	2.6
Rear udder height	Very low		Very high	1.7
Udder support	Broken		Strong	-0.2
Udder depth	Below hoc		20cm above	-0.2
Front teat placement	Outside		Close	-0.1
Teat length	Short		Long	1.2
Rear teat placement	Apart		Close	N/A
Teat position side view	Close		Apart	-0.8
Temperament	Poor		Good	N/A
Ease of milk	Slow		Fast	N/A

changue tryst

CHANGUE TRYST ET

DATE OF BIRTH: 9/12/1998

PEDIGREE:

Ardrossan EV Kates Trident **X** Changue Headmaster **X** Wheatrig Lena's Commander

PRODUCTION PROOF

Milk	372	**Rel %**	99
Fat kg	10.2	**Prot kg**	9.5
Fat %	-0.08	**Prot %**	-0.05

Somatic Cell 10

PTA2010 (8/12)

Daughters (UK)	1007
Herds (UK)	184

PTAT2010 (8/12)

Daughters	271
Herds	70

proudly imported and distributed in South Africa by

Daughter of Tryst

Daughter of Tryst

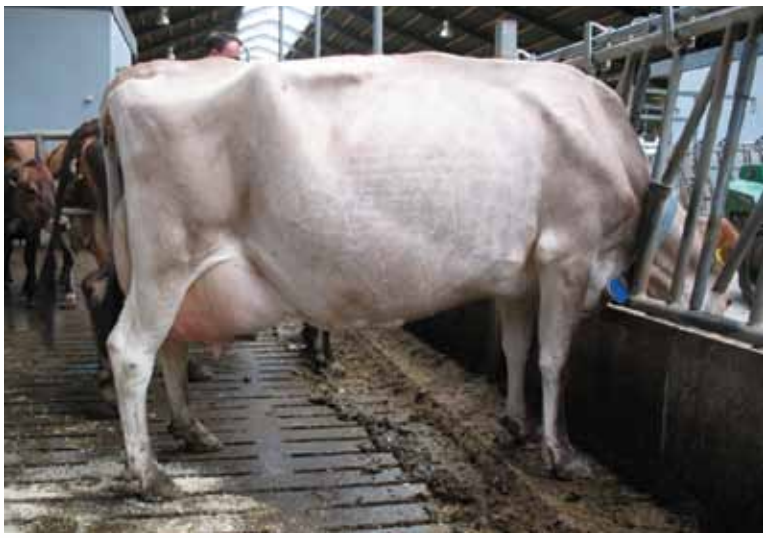
TRAIT		-2	-1	0	1	2		VALUE
A Type Merit	Poor						Excellent	0.2
Mammary	Poor						Excellent	0.2
Legs & feet	Poor						Excellent	0.4
Dairy Strength	Poor						Excellent	1.2
Stature	130cm						154cm	0.8
Chest width	Narrow						Wide	0.5
Body depth	Shallow						Deep	1.4
Angularity	Coarse						Open rib	1.6
Rump angle	High pins						Low pins	-0.5
Rump width	Narrow						Wide	1
Rear leg side	Straight						Sickled	1.7
Foot angle	Low						Steep	-0.4
Fore udder attachment	Loose						Tight	-0.4
Rear udder height	Very low						Very high	0.8
Udder support	Broken						Strong	1.6
Udder depth	Below hoc						20cm above	-1.2
Front teat placement	Outside						Close	-0.2
Teat length	Short						Long	0.5
Rear teat placement	Apart						Close	N/A
Teat position side view	Close						Apart	1
Temperament	Poor						Good	1.5
Ease of milk	Slow						Fast	1.7

A NEW DAY IS DAWNING FOR
SELECT SIRE POWER JERSEY CUSTOMERS

Jerry L Emerich, Dairy Coordinator

In April I had the privilege to represent Select Sire Power on a trip to Denmark to inspect the Danish Jersey cattle population. The conclusion is that a new day is dawning for Select Sire Power Jersey customers.

In addition to visiting the Viking Genetics bull station in Assentoft, we had the opportunity to view nearly 3500 Jerseys on 11 farms over four days. I must say one comes away with a great appreciation for the Danish Jersey cow. The farms were very efficient ranging in herd size from 100 cows to over 600. All were housed in free stalls or bedding pack barns. Robotic milking units are becoming very popular and we even saw farms utilizing robotic alley scrapers and feed pushers.



Zuma daughter.

May daughter.

Danish Jersey exceed for economical traits

The Danish Jersey selection program is based upon Nordic Total Merit (NTM), which places heavy emphasis on components, udder health, fertility and longevity. With over thirty years of selection pressure, the Danish Jersey excels in these economically important traits. Danish Jersey sires exceed most USA Jersey sires in these traits, resulting in many of them ranking at or near the top of the USA Jersey JPI list.

One misconception I sometimes hear is that the genetics from outside North America produce small cattle that lack eye appeal. This could not be further from the truth with Danish Jerseys. In Denmark they select for two year olds that are 49" – 52" tall and weigh about 1000 lbs. This is very similar to the USA Jersey.

Comments of actual Danish Jersey sires

Following are some comments based on inspected daughters of the Danish Jersey sires that are currently available through Select Sire Power.

DJ Zuma is the #2 NTM and #5 JPI sire available. Peter Larson of Viking Genetics feels Zuma will have a greater impact on their cattle population than Impuls has. We saw a handful of the first crop daughters who are now in their 3rd and 4th lactations. In addition, we saw many second crop daughters with the oldest calving over the next several months. The Zuma's are silky hided dairy cows with a tremendous amount of depth and spring of rib. They possess shallow udders with very correct teat placement. Use Zuma to add outcross total performance to your Jerseys!

DJ Broiler is a high components outcross sire that can best be used on a frail, narrow milk cow that needs improvement in substance, hoof shape and udder quality. We saw two first crop Broiler's that were scored VG-86 and VG-88 as young cows, which impressed our group.

Without question the best type cows that we saw during our visit were the **DJ May** daughters. May is definitely not being utilized enough by our customers! When compared to the current high type sire in the USA, Tequila, May is 108 CFP (combined fat and protein) higher! Use May to add front end, capacity, long smooth fore udders that are held well above the hock and to add style.

Don't be afraid to recommend Danish Jersey genetics to your customers. They are one of the best kept secrets of the cattle breeding world!

TWEE JONG BOERE SE EERSTE BESOEK AAN ITALIË EN DENEMARKE

deur Johan Muller

Dit is baie belangrik dat ons op 'n jaarlikse basis lande soos Denemarke en Italië besoek om ons te vergewis van nuwe ontwikkelinge, asook die besigtiging van nuwe genetika. Daar is egter 'n verskil tussen die twee jaarlikse besoek met 'n groep kliente, as 'n studietoer waar ons baie reis en tot 10 plase op 'n dag besoek om soms na slegs een dogter van 'n bul te kyk. Dit is baie leersaam en gee ons eerstehandse inligting oor hoe om die liniêre te interpreteer. Dit was 'n ideale geleentheid om twee jong boere uit die Oos Kaap saam te nooi en bloot te stel aan die industrie.

Nick Oosthuizen, die seun van Karel en Hilda Oosthuizen van Zoetgeneugd in die Sondagsrivier omgewing, is verantwoordelik vir die bestuur van een van hul suiwel plase. Hy is in beheer van die Holstein kudde en hierdie was sy eerste besoek aan Europa. Hercu Venter bestuur sy ouers, Hennie en Irma, se Holstein en Jersey kudde op die plaas Kuswag naby Boknes.

Die besoek aan Italië was eerstens om hul stelsels van nader te bekyk asook dogters van individuele bulle te besigtig. Ons het hoofsaaklik die streke van Modena en Parma besoek. 'n Groot familie onderneming was besoek wat bestaan uit twee uitstekend bestuurde kuddes. Die eerste was 'n groot kommersiële kudde met ongeveer 800 koeie. Die kudde het uiters moderne fasiliteite en is deur 'n Indiese familie (2 broers en 'n dogter), bestuur. Die onderneming het ook 'n fasiliteit wat krag verwek uit mis en kuilvoer. Die tweede kudde was die vertakking waar slegs aandag gegee word aan stoetteling. Ons het net weer besef hoe groot die stoetbedryf in Europa is en het ons verskeie bulmoeders wat duisende euros werd is, is besigtig.

Nageslag van die volgende bulle is in kommersiële kuddes gesien. Fibrax (Step x Tugolo) Active (Iron x Manfred) Arden (Sam x Mtoto) Glauco (Duplex x Allen) en Berryhill (Shottle x Marshall).

Fibrax, met meer as 3700 dogters in sy ontleding, het ons veral beïndruk met uitstekende uiers en medium grootte koeie. Fibrax kan op verse gebruik word en het 'n baie goeie bottervet en proteïen ontleding. Die Active dogters het veral goeie agteruiers en met 'n hoë betroubaarheid, met meer as 2300 dogters, bly hy 'n goeie keuse veral op verse. Die Arden dogters was beslis kleiner koeie en is 'n uitstekende keuse vir weidingstelsels met ook positiewe vastestof afwykings. 'n Sterkpunt is beslis besonderse uiers. Glauco en Berryhill is definitief bulle wat met vrug in stoet kuddes gebruik kan word. Met effens laer produksie en ongelooflike tipe is daar nie geen twyfel dat hulle 'n merk in die skouringe gaan maak nie. Glauco veral het ook 'n uitkruisstamboom wat hom nog meer gewild sal maak. Daar was ook tyd om meer van die Italiaanse kultuur te ervaar. 'n Besoek aan 'n fabriek waar Parmesan kaas vervaardig word, 'n Parma ham fabriek sowel as 'n besoek aan 'n wynkelder in die Alba omgewing, was beslis iets wat ons nie sal vergeet nie.

Giuseppe Beltramino, Hercu, Nick en Enrico Dadati (Bul analitikus CIZ) tydens 'n besoek aan 'n Parmesan kaasfabriek.

Middel bo: Verversings word geniet tydens die besoek aan die kudde van Knud Toft Andersen. Bo: Dit was ook belangrik om die Ferrari museum te besoek.

Hercu en Nick saam met Giuseppe Beltramino in 'n wyn kelder in die dorpie van Barolo.

Die egte Parmesaanse kaas. So 'n kaas weeg 36kg.

In Denemarke het ons meer as 15 plase besoek met die uitsluitlike doel om dogters van die volgende bulle te sien. DJ Zuma (Q Zik x Lemvig) DJ Holmer (Q Hirse x Lemvig) DJ Hulk (Q Handix x Lemvig) DJ Lix (Q Lor x Q Zik) DJ Izzy (Q Impuls x Q Zik).

Verskeie Zuma dogters van sy "second crop" was besig om te kalf. Hierdie bul is uiters gewild in Denemarke en ons kon sien hoekom. Hy teel uiters goeie suiwel tipe koeie met besonderse bene en uiers. Hy gaan beslis 'n uitstekende opvolger vir Impuls wees.

DJ Holmer is 'n interessante bul wat veral in groot kommersiële kuddes baie gewild gaan wees. Baie hoë ontledings vir sekondêre eienskappe soos dogtervrugbaarheid (117), uiergesondheid (124) en lanklewendheid (119) maak hom 'n definitiewe keuse. Dit is ook een van die min Hirse seuns beskikbaar. Goeie uiers is 'n sterkpunt.

Daar is verskeie goeie Hulk dogters in die kuddes en sy gesamentlike bottervet en proteïen ontleding van 163 kg, maak dat hierdie bul in 'n klas van sy eie is. Hulk is 'n bul wat op laer produksie koeie met goeie middelstelle en uiers, met vrug gebruik kan word. Dit is dan ook waar die Dene hom gebruik en daar is geen twyfel dat die bul hulle gaan help om hul teeldoelwitte te bereik nie.

Die Lix dogters was miskien die hoogtepunt. Pragtige uiers met veral hoë agteruiers en goeie aanhegtings het ons beslis beïndruk. Hulle is effens groter en sterker as die Ziks. Hy is 'n goeie keuse om veral vastestowwe en uiers te verbeter.

Net soos met Zuma is daar baie Izzy dogters wat nou kalf. Hulle het ons veral beïndruk met hul funksionele uiers en goeie sterkte. Izzy teel goed gebalanseerde koeie met goeie proteïen produksie en 'n Impuls seun wat miskien meer aandag van ons Jersey boere moet kry. Moet hom nie mis nie!

Dit was weer eens 'n baie suksesvolle toer en dit was vir my en Chris 'n voorreg om twee jong manne saam met ons te gehad het. Ek is seker dat hulle die waarde van die toer nie gering gaan skat nie en nog baie jare die voordele daaruit sal put! (Ons het natuurlik saans te vroeg na hul sin gaan slaap!).

'n Glauco toets dogter in haar werksklere.

Van die eerste "second crop" Zuma dogters wat in melk kom.

Nick, Johan Muller, Peter Larson, Ander Levering (President van die Deense Jersey Genootskap) en Hercu by 'n Izzy dogter.

Peter Larson, Jorn Mikkelson, Mette Mikkelson, Hercu en Nick.

We dedicate this edition of Milk & Honey to

Q Impuls

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A Q Impuls Daughter.

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