

BREEDING FOR LONGEVITY

Holland is the absolute world leader, if we consider the number of cows reaching the milestone of 100 000 kg milk lifetime. In addition, Dutch cows also realise the highest average lifetime production (30 777 kg) world wide due to a breed leading lifetime of 2164 days which translates into an average of 3.7 lactations. Furthermore, average lifetime of Dutch cows increases by 1 month per year.

The dominant sire of long lasting cows is Sunny Boy, an icon of Dutch Holstein breeding.

To breed for longevity we need to focus on:

- Score for longevity
- Udder health and fertility
- Production – ultimately income comes from milk production
- Conformation – functional type supports production

Research done by Rene de Wit on 3 837 cows that have produce more than 100 000 kg milk had the following results:

- Only 25% have a final score of higher than 85 points
- 6% have a final score below 80 points

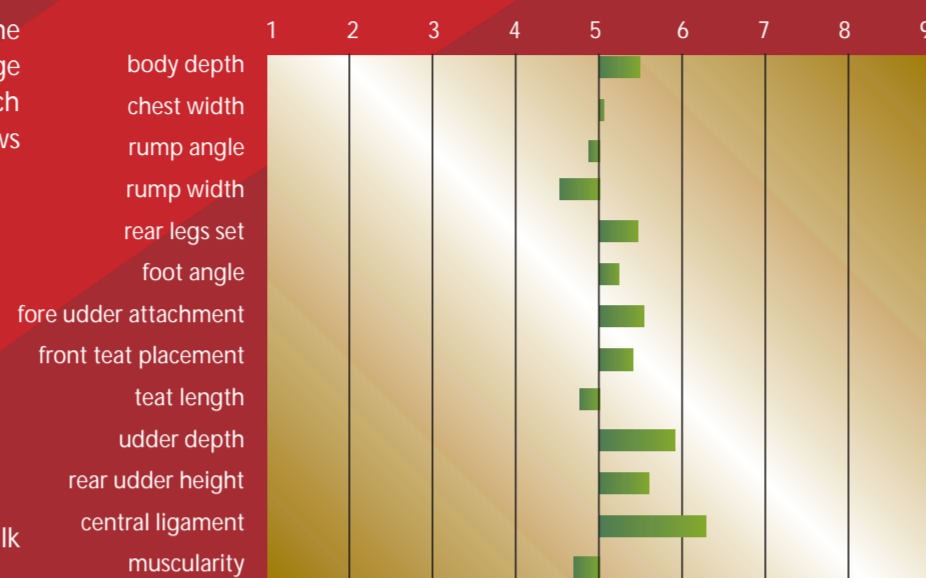
It is important to remember that many traits are intermediate and to select for the average is optimal, as seen in the linear of 100 000 kg cows.

Only udder traits need to be above the average to support high lifetime yields.

Research done by CRV also indicates a few other traits to be important inter alia, the following:
Persistence: A flat, persistent lactation puts a cow under much less stress while still achieving a high production.

Maturity Rate: This is a measure of how a cow improves over consecutive lactations relative to her contemporaries.

Body condition: Cows with a higher body condition are healthier, more fertile and live longer.



| Linear traits of long lasting cows (100 000 kg) |



| 14 cows with over 100 000 kg milk on 1 farm in Holland |

BFG NUUS

www.fleckvieh.co.za

Bavarian Fleckvieh Genetics het nou ook 'n Afrikaanse webwerf waar alle inligting beskikbaar is oor verskeie onderwerpe. Hier kan die kontak besonderhede van al Xseed se agente bekom word. Daar is ook skakels na die ander Xseed verskaffers se webblaaie. Verder is alle Fleckvieh KI bulle se inligting met foto's en teelwaardes beskikbaar deur slegs te klik op die betrokke bul se naam. Verskeie artikels, proefuitslae asook 'n fotoalbum verskyn op die webwerf.

BFG bestuur nou die wêreld se grootste Fleckvieh teelprogram

Munchen-Grub het hierdie jaar tot die grootste Fleckvieh KI stasie ontwikkel in Europa, met die oornam van Centar in Kroasië. Hierdie stasie het 75% van Kroasië se inseminasie mark. Intussen het Suid Tirol (Noord Italië) se Fleckvieh telers Genootskap ook by BFG aangesluit. Verder het die groep ook KI bulle op verskeie vastelande o.a in Suid Afrika, Australië, Argentinië en Kanada. Hierdie ontwikkelinge maak die genetiese poel vir al BFG se kliënte nou wyd oop.



Poena vleisbulle

Twee van BFG se top poenabulle is nou beskikbaar in Suid Afrika. **Steinadler PP** was verlede jaar Suid Duitsland se Reserwe kampioen (ZLF) in Munchen. Hy het 'n kalwings gemak van 124 en 'n vleiswaarde van 127. Nog 'n PP bul is Heraldik PP. Hy het die ongelooflike vleiswaarde van 132 en boonop 'n kalwingsgemak van 101.



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We would like to welcome Louisa Hallat as our consultant in the Western Cape.



The seed Times

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RELIABILITY

What is reliability?

A production or type proof is an estimation of the true genetic merit of an animal. Reliability tells us how accurate that estimation is.

Why is reliability important?

The reason we artificially inseminate cows and progeny test bulls is to achieve a more predictable result in terms of the offspring resulting from a particular mating. In other words we look to reduce risk. The higher the reliability, the lower the chance that a sire's proof is going to change when more information is added. Higher reliabilities will prevent unexpected disappointments.

What determines reliability?

The reliability of a proof is determined by the quantity and quality of the information the proof is based on. In addition, the heritability of the trait plays a role. Traits with low heritability eg. Fertility and longevity, require far greater numbers of daughters to achieve a reliable proof. (see table below.)

daughters	heritability of trait									
	0.10	0.20	0.30	0.40	0.50	0.60	0.70	0.80	0.90	0.99
20	34%	51%	62%	69%	74%	78%	81%	83%	85%	87%
40	51%	68%	76%	82%	85%	88%	89%	91%	92%	93%
60	61%	76%	83%	87%	90%	91%	93%	94%	95%	95%
80	67%	81%	87%	90%	92%	93%	94%	95%	96%	96%
100	72%	84%	89%	92%	93%	95%	95%	96%	97%	97%
200	84%	91%	94%	96%	97%	97%	98%	98%	98%	99%
400	91%	95%	97%	98%	98%	99%	99%	99%	99%	99%
800	95%	98%	98%	99%	99%	99%	99%	100%	100%	100%

reliability

When the information from a large number of daughters is included in a sire's proof, the reliability of the proof is high. The number of herds also plays a role in determining the reliability of the information – the more herds the better. Also important is the number of herd mates to which the daughters of this sire are compared. Again, the more the better. Ideally you want the daughters to be spread among a large number of herds.

The accuracy of data is of crucial importance. It has been found that in certain countries, up to 25% of calves born, are incorrectly identified. This means that 1 out of 4 calves in the bulls proof are not his own, resulting in a dramatic change in a bulls proof (either negative or positive). The bull's true genetic potential is only realized when he adds second crop information and achieves a reliability of 99%.

Reliable genetics

CRV is known as the reliable source. A minimum of 100 daughters in 100 herds has always been the standard and nowadays the average first crop sire in the top 100 NVI has 143 daughters in 129 herds. This translates into an average reliability of around 90% for their production proof. CRV wants to push the number of 1st lactation daughters up to more than 170 daughters to increase reliability of secondary traits.



| Meine Siebenga CRV Director and dairy farmer - known as "Farmer John" |

The quality of Dutch-Flemish bull proofs is further enhanced by the fact that the dairy industry in the Netherlands and Flanders is extremely well organized eg.

- 100% of all cows are identified and registered
- 85% of all cows are milk recorded;
- 50% of first lactation cows are classified.

Why use reliable genetics?

Using sires with low reliability increases risk and may result in an unexpected result-

- If we used a bull to improve rump angle and it turns out with more information that he breeds high pins, we do not achieve progress for the particular trait that we selected him for.
- No improvement in the next generation may result in significant financial loss especially if we consider traits such as production and longevity.

OLYMPIC PRODUCTION FIGURES

	Daughters	Herds	Milk	% fat	% Prot	kg fat	kg Prot
Feb 2005	114	105	1 163	-0.32	-0.05	21	35
May 2009	16 898	6 436	1 279	-0.39	-0.07	19	37

Remember that we live with great or poor breeding decisions for at least ten years either through the cow herself or her immediate offspring.

RIEBEEK B7097 MARANTE

Donante x Sinatra x Ronald x Fatal x Celsius x Marilyn
(Mascot) x Miss-Fay-Ark M Rotate Mary

One of the most famous and successful cow families in Holland are the Barnkamper Marilyns. They have produced a number of good bulls, but they have also been extremely successful in the female line.

After a visit to Holland, Niekie Serdyn of Riebeek Wes, imported Sinatra embryos from this prolific family. A very good Sinatra daughter Riebeek Marilyn 8000 was born from these embryos. She completed a first lactation of 14606 kg milk with 3.75% Butterfat and 3.41% protein. She scored udder 89 and final 89.

She was mated to the Australian Donor son, Donante and produced the bull Marante. Marante is backed by 13 generations of VG and EX dams.

Out of Marilyn 4 (Celsius) the family produced the proven bulls Donjuan (Lord Lily) and Bestkept (Wallace). Out of the original Marilyn cow the Alta Genetics bull Bingo was bred. The high ranking Patron Sabre sons Support in Holland and D Sammy in Denmark was also bred from this family.

His sire **DONANTE (Donor x Showtime)** remains one of the most profitable ABV sires at the top of the available bull list in Australia. Now at **130 APR**, excellent workabilities and **112** for both Overall Type and Mammary, he is a world class sire which improves protein kilograms.



| Marilyn 32-The grandam of Marante |



| Riebeek Marilyn-Dam of Marante |

KLEINKAMMA OBAMA

Red Ribbon x Berretta x Hermitage

In die groot weidingskuddes word deesdae baie gepraat van die ideale "weidingskoei". Obama se ma is 'n toonbeeld van die ideale "weidingskoei". 'n Koei wat goed aangepas is vir die omstandighede waaronder sy moet presteer. Dit stel haar in staat om goeie produksie te handhaaf sonder om gesondheid in te boet.

Willie du Plessis, die teler van Obama, se minimum kriteria vir 'n weidingskoei is soos volg:

1. Goeie produksie. Die minimum waardes vir 'n volwasse Jersey koei 5000 kg melk met 4.5 BV% en 3.7% Prot.
2. Sy moet langsewendheid toon. Minimum 5 laktasies.
3. Gereeld kalf. Verkieslik tussen kalf periode van onder 365 dae maar onder 380 is goed.
4. Goeie uiergesondheid. Dus lae SST.
5. Goeie bene en hoewe om te kan stap en wei.

6. Goeie algemene gesondheid.

Obama se ma voldoen aan al hierdie vereistes. (46814kg melk in 9 laktasies met 'n 351 dae TKP. BV% wissel tussen 4.44 en 4.68. Prot% wissel tussen 3.58 en 3.99.) Teelwaarde vir SST is 0. Sy word vir die eerste keer geklassifiseer in haar negende laktasie toe sy reeds ouer as 10 jaar was en punt 88 vir liggaam, 97 vir hoewe en bene, 89 vir uier en 90 finaal.

Sowel sy vaar, Red Ribbon, as die se vaar, Homestead Ernest, is bekend as van die beste bulle vir uiers in NZ.

Obama sal moeitvrye weidingskoeie met bogemiddelde langsewendheid teel.

SCHOONGEZICHT SNOW LINDT

Iatola x Action x Montana x Alf x Lester x Squire

The first Iatola bull at Xseed Genetics out of a cow family with generations of good type, strength and production in the pedigree. Rob Slater's opinion "this is the best Snow family lineup ever". A lineup of show cows featuring multiple lactations with an almost Berretta free bloodline. With Lilly, Liana and Lynda behind this dam you cannot but succeed in breeding special progeny from this bull.

Every one of these cows featuring high up on past SAINET lists with Snow Lindt at present having the third highest SAINET index (122). This dam is one of 6 "dream cows" in the Schoongezicht herd, and will not disappoint through her son.

It makes for exciting breeding of strong, dairy cows with exceptional udders and solid productions.

He will be every bit as good as the chocolate he is named after!!



| Schoongezicht 05155 Action Snow Lindy - Lindt's dam |

SCHOONGEZICHT ROB ROY

Country x Jace x Lester x Magic

The dam Jaces Lass was "Kaastrand" Grand Champion of 2008. She is a combination of a dairy strength, milking ability and show winning looks. A SAINET of 120 puts her 4 points behind the top cow on the March 2009 list. She has a Final Score of 94 with 92 for udder.

Jace added strength and power to a youthful Lester dam that is in her sixth lactation. She has a SAINET of 114 and scores of 90 Final and 91 for udder.

Country will provide extra security on an already high, wide rear udder, while maintaining high production levels. Lester will stamp his authority on this pedigree.

A package of high SAINET figures, excellent type and good productions to satisfy any dairyman's needs.



| Jaces Lass - Rob Roy's dam |

PROVEN POWER OF PIERRE



After nine years, one of AmBreed's finest and most successful Holstein-Friesian bulls is still a popular sire with dairy farmers casting his influential bloodlines even deeper into the New Zealand dairy herd via his sons.

The proven power of Top Deck KO Pierre is currently realised by 31,545 daughters in 3117 herds across the country (April 2009). His progeny also make their mark overseas, particularly in Australia where Pierre has proved an attractive outcross to Donor bloodlines and currently holds the 13th spot on their APR overall index for Holsteins (340 daughters).

Pierre entered AmBreed's progeny test program in 1999 via the company's joint venture scheme with the New Zealand Holstein-Friesian Association. Since being introduced to the domestic market as a Spring Forward (early graduate) bull in 2002 his popularity has soared with farmers. With 78 and 43 daughters in his first-crop production and type proofs respectively (2003) his daughters gained appeal for their high protein and components, combined with exceptional udders and farmer likeability score.

Five years later Pierre holds a respectable 37kg protein and has nearly doubled his score for farmer opinion while ranking 10th in the breed for NZMI (New Zealand Merit Index). He scores above breed average for virtually all production and type traits (3.7% protein, 4.6% fat) and belongs to the small but elite group of bulls in the country that score +0.94 or more for udder overall.

Knockout son

Pierre's pedigree marked him for success from the outset. His Dutch sire Etazon Knockout was a bull under-used in New Zealand, but fortunately a limited number of Knockout sons were proven and it was Pierre who rose to the top to continue the Knockout legacy.

On the other side of the pedigree is an exceptional cow family that has also gone on to make a big impact on the national dairy herd through its sons. Pierre's dam Kapawai Mstplan Praire VG89 is the matriarch of the cow family which is known for high components. Praire produced 397kg P 3.98% and 458kg F 4.56% at 6 yrs old. The maternal grand dam (sired by Nowerland Bell Masterplan) is an EX daughter of Australian Valiant son Elmer ('Vale').

Not only his daughters, but also his sons are further enhancing Pierre's reputation. He is currently represented in the number 2 position on the RAS list by his son Mint Edition. Furthermore he has 10 sons in the Top 50 RAS list in New Zealand.

It is interesting to note that of the 10 top BW bulls in New Zealand, 6 have AmBreed sires and 1 a CRV sire showing the current influence of AmBreed in New Zealand's dairy industry.



| South African bred daughter - Hillock Pierre |



| New Zealand bred daughters of Pierre |

Ayrshire Bulls



| PATCH daughter |



| PATCH |



| TRIP daughter Jacobsen 124 |



| TRIP |

<< PATCH

Challenge, sire of Patch and Trip had a huge influence in the New Zealand Ayrshire population. At one stage 40% of all two year old Ayrshire heifers calving that particular year were sired by Challenge. This was due to a breeding value of 27 kgs of protein, making him the trailleader in the breed. Patch and his Sire have similar scores for traits other than production (TOP), but Patch has significantly better scores for rear udder and capacity. Much like his sire, Patch sires levels rumps. The maternal grand sire is Southwind Vigor. Daughters of this bull were very fertile. The maternal great grand sire is Kotare Future Jazz who ended his career with over 11000 daughters in his proof.

<< TRIP

Also a son of Challenge. The maternal grand sire (Ngarangi Impressario) is one of the "greats" of the Ayrshire breed in NZ. He had outstanding scores for temperament and likeability and bred very capacious cows with a slope to the rump. He bred sound udders and they stayed in the herd for a long time as evidenced by the 366 days for longevity and 410 days for residual survival. Trip has a great all-round proof with a super udder score and capacity combined with good longevity. Breeding a slope to the rump in combination with extreme calving ease and udder health makes this bull an interesting choice for farmers looking for hassle free cows.

