



news release

## Two wins are twice as nice

Meadows district Holstein breeders, Grant and Bronwyn Liebelt, have scored a rare double victory in the South Australia finals of the Semex Holstein Australia On-Farm Competition, the country's largest livestock competition.

Conducted by the breed association, Holstein Australia, in conjunction with leading artificial breeding organisation, Semex Pty Ltd, this prestigious competition attracts about 2,500 entries from 500 breeders throughout Australia each year.

Unlike traditional shows, cattle are assessed for their structural correctness on their home property. This unique format allows all breeders to compete on an equal basis, regardless of their location.

Each Holstein Australia sub-branch conducts its own competition during October, with the first and second placegetters "over-judged" in early November to determine a number of regional championships.

The SA section of the competition, which attracted 164 entries from 28 breeders, was judged by well-known breeder and livestock judge, Michael Hentschke of Glencoe, SA.

The Liebelts entered the Four Year Old Champion, Grantley Juror Bidy VG88, as well as the Mature Champion, Grantley Aeroline Sally EX-1E.

Grant Liebelt said the results were the first major wins in his herd's 30 year history. "We had the Reserve Champion Mature cow back in 2002 but we haven't entered since," Grant said.

"This year we calved a pretty good batch of heifers and had a good run with our classification results, so we decided to give it a go this year. We're thrilled to bits to win two championships. It makes the effort all worthwhile."

Grantley Juror Bidy is a Ked Juror daughter who is producing 40 litres a day at 3.6% fat and 3.4% protein five months into her lactation, while Grantley Aeroline Sally produced 12,500 litres in her last 366-day lactation.

She is by legendary Canadian sire, Oliveholme Aeroline, who quite aside from siring tens of thousands of quality cows throughout the world, is the sire of a number of influential sons, including Braedale Freelance.

“Sally completes seven generations of VG or EX cows,” Grant Liebelt said. “She is a granddaughter of Trogheda Ned Sharon VG89, who we purchased from the Taylor family. She was a show champion who produced some outstanding offspring.”

The Junior Two Year Old Champion was Paravale Convincer Eva, bred and entered by Jack Bramley of Paravale Holsteins, Yankalilla. She is the only daughter in the 120-cow Paravale herd of Balcombe Eva VG88, a Perfect Star daughter that came with the farm when Jack bought it in 2001.

A regular entrant and judge in the On-Farm Competition, Jack won the Four Year Old Championship several years ago with another cow he bought with the farm.

The Senior Two Year Old Champion was Sharon Roy Bim, bred and entered by Ian and Jill Williams of Sharon Holsteins, Victor Harbour. This Jordan x Donor x Stardom daughter traces back to Mylkana Bookmaker Betina VG85, purchased by the Williams almost 30 years ago.

Roy Bim calved in March at 23 months and is now producing nearly 30 litres a day with 3.2% fat and 3.2% protein to record a Production Index of 116.

Two other progeny of Roylane Jordan – Balara Roy Nancy VG85 and Balara Roy Rush VG85 – were Champion and Reserve Champion in the Three Year Old Class. Both animals were bred and entered by Dean and Bev Thorpe of Balara Holsteins, Meningie.

Out of a VG89 Jolt daughter, Roy Nancy traces back to the Rathjen family’s Glenjoy Holsteins, SA, while Roy Rush was last year’s Senior Two Year Old Champion.

Other successful breeders in the SA competition included C. & F. Mason, Jervois Holsteins, Tailem Bend; Misty Brae Holsteins, Myponga; and J. & L. Leese, Jolrae Holsteins, Narrung.

Now in its sixth year, the Semex Holstein Australia On-Farm Competition is acknowledged as one of the world’s great dairy judging events.

“This competition recognises the efforts of dairy farmers to improve their on-farm profitability by breeding quality dairy cows,” Semex General Manager, Jim Conroy, said.

“The sheer size of this event is a credit to the efforts of the hundreds of the Holstein breeders who enter each year and the numerous branch officials and judges who make it happen.”

Semex Pty Ltd is the exclusive Australian distributor of livestock genetics marketed by the Semex Alliance, the world's largest artificial breeding organisation.

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## **2006 SEMEX HOLSTEIN AUSTRALIA ON-FARM COMPETITION**

### **SOUTH AUSTRALIA SUB-BRANCH**

**JUNIOR TWO YEAR OLD 1st:** Paravale Convincer Eva, J. Bramley, Paravale Holsteins, Yankalilla, SA. **2nd:** Jervois Ladino Gretchen, C. & F. Mason, Jervois Holsteins, Tailem Bend, SA. **SENIOR TWO YEAR OLD 1st:** Sharon Roy Bim, I. & J. Williams, Sharon Holsteins, Victor Harbor, SA. **2nd:** Misty Brae Luckystrike Rita, Misty Brae Holsteins, Myponga, SA. **THREE YEAR OLD 1st:** Balara Roy Nancy, D. & B. Thorpe, Balara Holsteins, Meningie, SA. **2nd:** Balara Roy Rush, D. & B. Thorpe, Balara Holsteins, Meningie, SA. **FOUR YEAR OLD 1st:** Grantley Juror Bidy, G. Liebelt, Grantley Holsteins, Meadows, SA. **2nd:** Jolrae Nobel Queenie, J. & L. Leese, Jolrae Holsteins, Narrung, SA. **MATURE 1st:** Grantley Aeroline Sally, G. Liebelt, Grantley Holsteins, Echunga, SA. **2nd:** Glenjoy Leader Lillium, V. Johnston & J. & L. Leese, Narrung, SA.