

Holstein Journal

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International Dairy Week



**Master Breeder
profiles**

Type ABVs

**Mallagannee's
golden girls**

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"It's really all about providing the right tools to our customers so that they may be successful and profitable."

NATE ZWALD, ABS Global COO-Dairy

5 million units! In short, creating the right genetics from the right females helped our customers create 10 billion gallons of milk to help feed the world!

"It's really all about providing the right tools to our customers so that they may be successful and profitable," says Nate Zwald, ABS Global COO-Dairy.

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"Genus R&D is extremely proud of the role we have played in the success of Sexcel in the marketplace and the impact it has made in the industry."

ELENA RICE,
Genus plc Chief Scientific Officer.

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A world leader in applying science to animal breeding, Genus plc created the technology platform IntelliGen® Technologies, which powers Sexcel. This pioneering breakthrough is the most advanced since sexed semen was introduced.

"Genus R&D is extremely proud of the role we have played in the success of Sexcel in the marketplace and the impact it has made in the industry," says Elena Rice, Genus plc Chief Scientific Officer. "Our team looked at a problem and developed a solution for ABS customers through Sexcel. I look forward to the other problems that we will solve for bovine producers in the future!"

ABS Global has focused on our customers for almost 80 years and we have become a trusted supplier to producers around the world. We look forward to bringing even more innovation to the ever-changing dairy industry in the future!



In 1953, the world met Frosty, the first living calf born in the United States from frozen semen artificial insemination. Today, ABS is still at the forefront of genetics in the dairy industry.



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C o n t e n t s



11 All the news from IDW



25 Mallagannee's Golden Girls



40 IDW Youth Challenge winners

Holstein Australia looks ahead.....	5
Leading Holstein Australia into the future.....	6
AGM links to WA Dairy Discovery Day.....	7
SA Branch to celebrate its centenary	7
Help is at hand	8
Dairy digs deep for bushfire appeal.....	8
IDW champion “all silk and all milk”	11
Awards honour dairy industry stars.....	14
IDW visits home of Elmar Holsteins	17
Technical Update.....	20
Understanding Type ABVs	20
Eight new traits in April ABV release	22
Industry reviews priorities for National Breeding Objective	23
Sexed semen, A2 gain traction	24
Cow family: Mallagannee’s Golden Girls	25
New generation takes up the challenge	28
Master Breeders.....	30
Jordney Park	30
Leeuwin	30
Katandra Park	31
Segenhoe Park	31
Trip a great 21st birthday celebration	32
Cows, fun and friendship in East Gippsland	33
Last Word: Twins of different breeds	34

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COVER: IDW Grand Champion Holstein Show 2020 - Avonlea Reginald Jacobonia VG88, exhibited by B, J, M & N Templeton, View Fort Holsteins, with Holstein Australia President Patrick Glass and Matt Templeton View Fort Holsteins.

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Holstein Australia looks ahead

The final quarter of any financial year is when Board and senior management analyse the Association's performance year-to-date and look forward to the new financial year.

This year is no exception, with the added impetus of developing our new five-year strategic business plan with the input and direction of the SDC, BDCC and members.

Holstein Australia's future has been much to the fore in discussions of late. We have a new CEO starting later this year, namely Rohan Butler, who is familiar to members as our Genetic Improvement and Research Manager.

Rohan has been a key member of the senior management team and instrumental in ensuring that we have developed and evolved our core services, particularly in the genetics space, to better meet the needs of members and wider industry.

As President, it was incredibly satisfying to work through the required due diligence with the Board, Graeme and external consultants and find that the best CEO candidate was one who had grown and developed with the Association.

Graeme and Rohan discuss HA's future direction in this issue of the Journal.

COVID-19 and HA

As I write this, the global impact of COVID-19 is only just becoming apparent. HA has put in place steps to safeguard its office and field staff, and ensure that we can still provide essential services to members and the communities in which they operate that support their breeding programs and day-to-day operations. The situation is evolving rapidly. We will be communicating with members regularly as the situation unfolds.

Performance year-to-date

Under Graeme's stewardship members have come through tough times – drought, flood, fire and the 2106 export collapse – which obviously affected the

Association. He also guided us through our Governance restructure and has overseen measures to improve the efficiency of the way we do business. A tough remit.

At a time of great upheaval for the industry the measures he put in place have underpinned HA's financial stability and the way in which we deliver services to members has become ever more efficient.

Our services and financial performance year-to-date stand testament to this.

Year-to-date the Association has seen growth in utilisation of all core services. Registrations are up by 23%, Classifications by 11% and genomic testing by 58%. Quite an achievement if you believe everything you read about the dairy industry.

I would like to acknowledge our hardworking office and field staff who have made this happen, and in particular thank our members. In tough times it can be difficult deciding where your hard earned income is best spent. My take on these figures is that members value Holstein Australia's services, and perhaps more importantly, the return that investing in those services provides. An investment in the breed.

Holstein Australia in the field

Some members may recognise a familiar face at their farm gate soon. I'd like to formally welcome Simon Adams, our new Services Extension Officer, back to Holstein Australia after a few years away, including time with Saputo in a similar role.

The SDC identified the need for a field operative to work with members and Sub-branches, and as a bit of a trouble-shooter. A direct link between members and the Association. Make him welcome! He is there to support you.

Investing in the future

The Association is currently developing its next five year strategic business plan, the road map to Holstein Australia's future.

Where do we need to be in five years to best serve member needs? What do we need to do differently in order to get there? What steps have we taken already that we can build on?

These are the essential questions that were the focus of a recent workshop attended by the BDCC, SDC, Board and senior management. Early days, but as we flesh out the plan Holstein community, youth and pathways to herd ownership and new services that build on our current offering will be key pillars.

You'll hear more on this as we seek Sub-branch and member contributions.

WA for the National Awards Dinner

I am looking forward to visiting WA in September for our 2020 AGM and to celebrate the achievements of members at the National Awards Dinner. This month I enjoyed attending Australia's longest running Holstein bull sale in Boyanup, in its 60th year, and a WA Region Sub-branch meeting, so can report plans are well advanced.

Following the success of our first Online Showcase Sale last year, we are working on a second for WA, a great opportunity to highlight the value of Australian cow families.

Between now and then we will welcome our new CEO and find the right way to thank Graeme for his contribution. While not leaving us just yet, when he does, it will be with the Association in a far stronger position than when he took up the reins.

Graeme, of course, is at the head of a team that has achieved this, from our office and field staff to our SDC and BDCC member representatives, who contribute so much. It is harnessing this passion for the breed and belief in what we do, what you our members do day-in, day-out, that has provided us with such a solid platform for the future.

HJ

Leading Holstein Australia into the future

If you've picked up any of the dairy industry magazines, read Holstein Dispatch, or spoken with your neighbours, you'll know there are some changes at Holstein Australia.

We caught up with current CEO, Graeme Gillan, and CEO-in-waiting, Rohan Butler, to find out more.

Graeme, can you tell us a bit about the background to the changes coming up at HA?

Over the past year, the Board and I have been considering the future needs of HA against the backdrop of the rapidly changing dairy industry. During these discussions I advised the Board of my desire to step down as CEO. The time is right for me personally, and it is right for the Association.

One of my first tasks on joining the Association in 2014 was putting in place our current five-year strategic business plan, and we are coming to the end of that cycle. We are well advanced with developing the plan that will carry the Association forward over the next five years. My opinion was that it needed someone younger and with a more data-driven and information-based background to lead HA into the future.

And that person is Rohan. How was the decision arrived at?

The Board and I developed a wish list, the key attributes we were looking for in the person to lead the Association. We consulted extensively with outside experts, recruitment specialists. It became clear when we looked at the key attributes required, that these matched Rohan's skill set and experience, an opinion confirmed by our external consultations.

Rohan, a big vote of confidence from the Board and big shoes to fill.

Holstein Australia has been part of my life for 10 years now and it's a real honour to be appointed CEO. I'm coming to the role with the Association in a very good place, particularly important with the

likely impact of COVID-19. As part of our strategic business planning process we've looked at where we were in 2015, the challenges we faced and performance against the current plan, implemented under Graeme's stewardship.

The Association is financially secure. As part of the Governance restructure we removed a number of administrative layers, with great efficiency gains as a result. There are some challenges to address here, which will be an area of focus in our new business plan, particularly around the flow of information between HA and our member community. That said, I think the Governance changes voted through by members ensured the Association's survival and has resulted in an incredibly solid foundation on which to build. Still more work to do though.

Registrations, classification and genomic tests are all showing double digit percentage increases, we're on track to exceed the 90,000 heifers inspected for export last year and we've been able to invest in our new Services Extension Officer, Simon Adams. Having that presence in the field is incredibly important, and will I think become more so.

Looking to the future, what do you see as priorities for the Association?

A focus is certainly continuing the process of bringing the Association closer to its membership, engaging far more effectively with our Sub-branches and providing the support and resources they need on the ground.

Industry demographics are changing. We've got a lot of younger people coming through who actively want to get into or continue in the industry. We need to identify and develop effective paths to herd ownership for this younger demographic while building value in stock for established members. This is not only key to HA's future, but the future of the whole industry, and I see this as a real priority.

We've changed the way we deliver services to members over the last few years. We need to continually refine and improve this process, particularly with regard to changes in technology set against the backdrop of a more data-driven industry and the increasing understanding, acceptance and uptake of genomics. We really need to be a leader in this space.

And let's not forget the basics. Promoting Australian Holsteins, particularly in relation to exports. Its importance was really bought home to me on last year's Austrade mission to China. Export markets will always be variable and we need to start developing other markets that will help keep demand for excess heifers constant.

For now, as part of HA's senior management team, my focus is to work with our committees and members on our strategic business plan. With the input of members, this will form the framework to guide us through the next five years.

So for the moment it's business as usual?

My workload is probably going to increase over the next few months in preparation for starting my new role, but an organisation can only have one CEO, and that is Graeme until the new financial year.

I, along with Graeme and all at HA, will also be focusing on maintaining our member services safely and efficiently against the backdrop of COVID-19. We are in uncharted territory. I would hope that the community spirit we witnessed in the recent bushfires stands us in good stead.

Graeme, what does the future hold for you?

I'll be continuing my roles with DataGene and NHIA, and I'll be available to work with HA in a support or advisory capacity for the first half of next financial year if the new CEO thinks that will be of benefit to the Association.

After that, who knows. The dairy industry has been my life, and will continue to be for a few years to come, just perhaps in a different and less all-consuming way.

What I do know is that it's definitely time to hand the reins over to someone else. I think it is a real testament to Rohan and Holstein Australia, the depth of talent and expertise that we have nurtured internally, that the best person for the job came from within.

HJ

AGM links to WA Dairy Discovery Day

Holstein Australia and FARMWEST have joined forces to offer an exciting range of optional activities to supplement this year's annual general meeting (AGM) and annual awards night, including a tour of Bannister Downs robotic dairy and the hugely popular WA Dairy Discovery Day.

The event will be held in the first week of September at Bunbury, with the AGM and Annual Awards night on Thursday 3 September.

FARMWEST's Dairy Discovery Day will be held the day before giving members the opportunity to hear the latest developments in herd improvement. FARMWEST Discovery Day is a highlight on the WA dairy industry calendar, with a reputation for interesting topics and lively discussion with a practical perspective.



HA's formal AGM will be on Thursday morning, with a sightseeing tour in the afternoon and the Annual Awards Dinner in the evening.

You won't want to miss Friday's tour to Bannister Downs, home to more than 2200 Holsteins, with a robotic dairy, on-site processing plant and tourist facility.



Stay tuned for more details, but here's a draft program for your diary.

Tuesday 1 September: HA board meeting and welcome dinner

Wednesday 2 September: FARMWEST Dairy Discovery Day and Dinner, Lighthouse Hotel, Bunbury

Thursday 3 September: HA AGM (video option), tour of local sights and Annual Awards Dinner

Friday 4 September: Visit Bannister Downs. Jointly hosted by FARMWEST and Holstein Australia.

More information: www.holstein.com.au, email enquiry@holstein.com.au or phone 03 9835 7600.

SA Branch to celebrate its centenary

Several events are being organised to celebrate the centenary of the South Australian branch.

The first of these will be on 11-15 May when John Gardiner, Avonlea Holsteins, will judge the SA Holstein Centenary Challenge where Holstein breeders from throughout SA can have their nominated milking females assessed.

A presentation evening combined with a commemorative centenary dinner will be held on Friday 15 May at The Bend Motorsport Park, Tailem Bend.

Many past and present SA Holstein identities will share a night of memories, nostalgia and comradeship. Brian Leslie, Pooley Bridge Holsteins, will recount his recollections of the SA breeders and industry identities who have left their mark on the Holstein breed.

All past, present and intending Holstein members and breeders are encouraged to attend this social function to celebrate the centenary milestone.

If you have any historical memorabilia relating to the past 100 years of SA Holsteins and for further information please contact Gino Pacitti, 0409 678 110 or mistybrae@bigpond.com

A brief history of SA branch

To celebrate the visit of the Holstein Foundation President, George Newman, from Queensland, as judge of the 1920 Royal Adelaide Show, a dinner was held with 11 SA Holstein breeders attending.

On Mr Newman's advice, the breeders decided to apply to form the South Australia Branch of the Holstein Club of Australia. Messrs Hawker and Shillabeer went to Melbourne a week later to

represent South Australia at a conference.

On their return, the first committee meeting of seven Holstein breeders was held on 17 November 1920 with Walter Hawker, Anama Holsteins, being elected as president.

A further 11 breeders were listed as foundation members of the club, each paying a one guinea subscription, thus the South Australian branch was formed.

– Mandy Pacitti (Misty Brae)



Help is at hand

Simon Adams has joined the Holstein Australia team as an extension officer. Based from his home near Warnambool, Western Victoria, he operates nationally.

Simon may already be known to some readers, as he's a former dairy farmer, has previously been a HA classifier and most recently was a farm services adviser with Saputo.

Simon is available to help on the ground with catching up on registrations, understanding classification, interpreting genomics results; and of course, supporting new and potential members.

Simon started in the role in January with on-farm visits members in Western Districts and meeting with the local Sub-Branch. He attended IDW to catch up with members from further afield and plans to visit different regions according to demand.

Simon said he was delighted to be back in the Holstein community.

"I sometimes forget how quickly word gets round in the dairy industry," he said.

"It's really been straight back into it for me, almost feels like I haven't been away. I've certainly been welcomed back into the Holstein community, and I'm looking forward to getting a little further afield in the coming months," he said.

Holstein Australia CEO Graeme Gillan said the extension officer role expanded the support HA already provided though the Member Services team based in Melbourne.



HA's new extension officer, Simon Adams, with Colleen Muir, Holstein Journal Advertising officer.

"Many of our members make regular use of our wonderful member services team, but in some cases, a bit more support is needed to help members catch up on a back log of paper work, or to understand how they can get better value out of HA services. The extension officer position will fill that gap," Graeme said.

Contact Simon on sadams@holstein.com.au or 0438 505 746

Dairy digs deep for bushfire appeal

Once again the people of the Australian dairy industry have shown their compassion and generosity, digging deep for those affected by this summer's horror bush fire season.

A Bushfire appeal co-ordinated by Global Impact Supremacy and Jersey Australia raised more than \$115,000 through a sale at IDW, a silent auction and other donations. Of this, \$50,000 came from the sale of 'the pick of the herd' donated by AFMH (Moxey/Leppington). Funds were donated to affected dairy farmers, including the Salway family who lost father (Robert) and son (Patrick) fighting fires at Cobargo, NSW.

Holstein Australia members, the Perich family, Leppington Pastoral Company, donated \$1 million to the NSW Farmers Natural Disaster Relief Fund to help rebuild bushfire-affected farms and restore local food and fibre production in south east NSW.

Dairy processors also contributed. Burra Foods donated more than \$50,000 to help those affected by Victorian bushfires and Saputo donated \$60,000 worth of products to Foodbank for distribution to fire affected families in NSW, Victoria and South Australia.

Brownes Dairy in Western Australia is donating 10 cents from the sale of 2- and 3-litre milk bottles to the Australian Red Cross.

There were of course many other donations, from people and organisations around the world. And the countless hours contributed by our heroic fire fighters and now recovery volunteers including BlazeAid. It was a devastating summer, with fires followed by floods, but it is heartening to know a spirit of kindness prevails.

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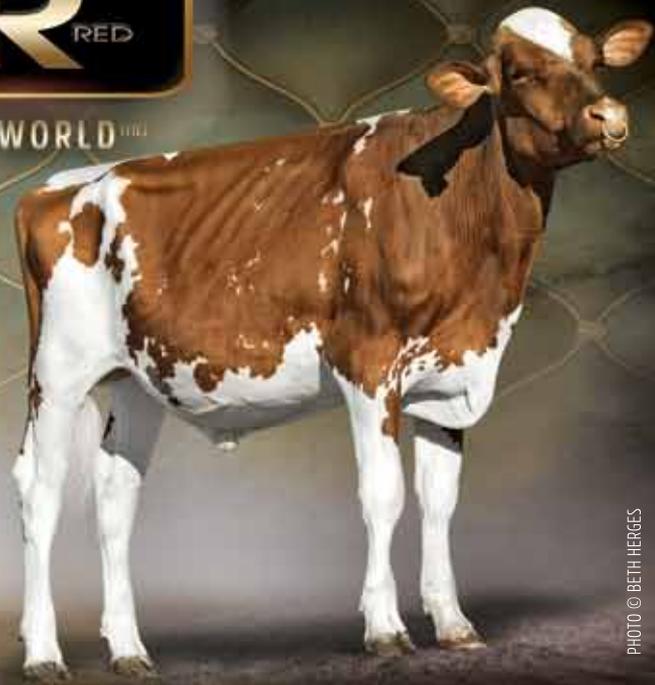


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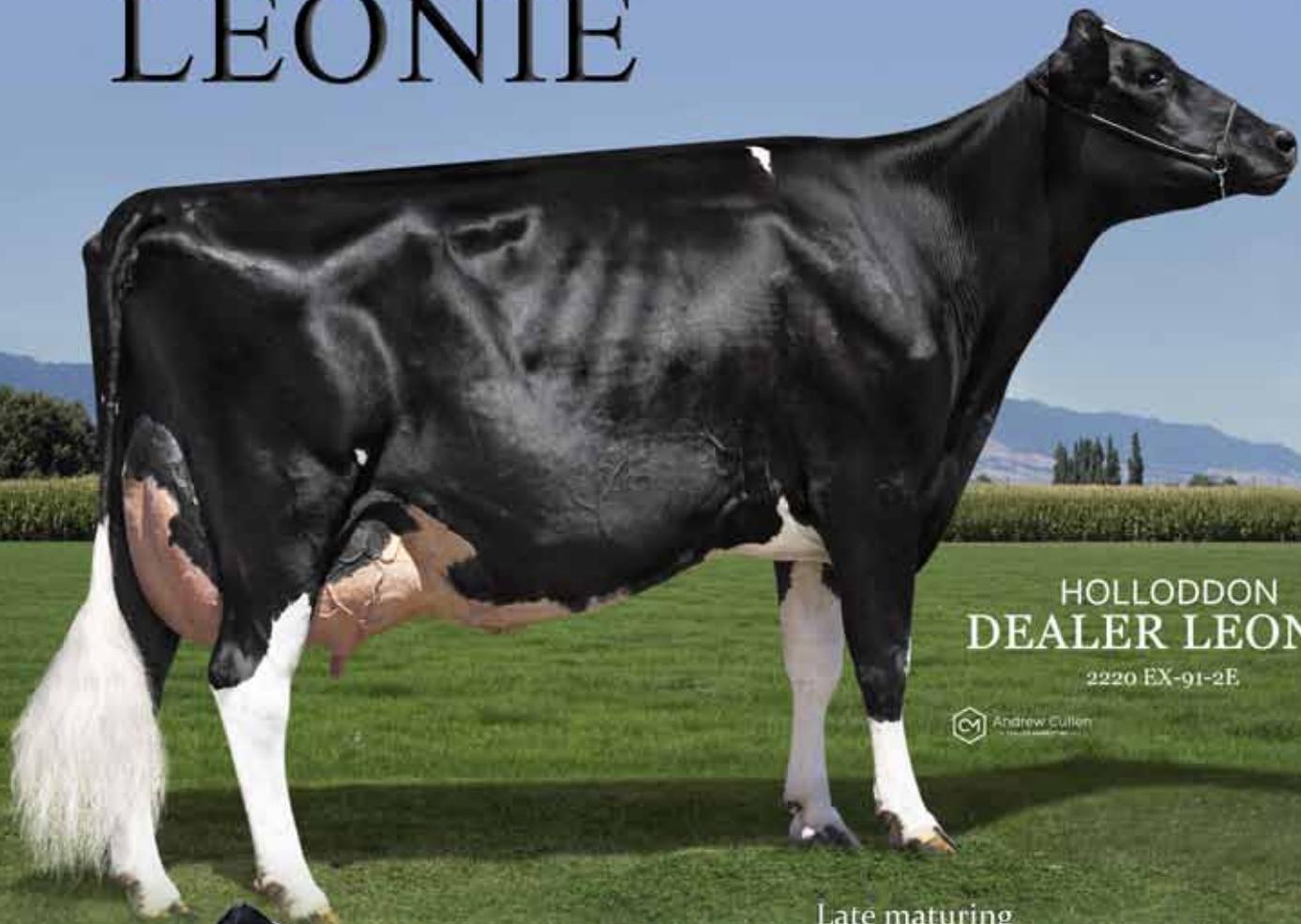
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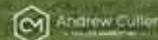
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MASTER BREEDER





IDW champion “all silk and all milk”

Showing impressive form on her fourth lactation, the stylish Regancrest Reginald daughter, Avonlea Reginald Jacobonia VG88 1xEP was selected by Canada's Brent Walker of Walkerbrae Farms, Ontario, as his Supreme Champion Holstein at International Dairy Week, before she was crowned Australia's Grand Champion Dairy Cow for 2020.

Jacobonia was exhibited by Gippsland dairyfarmers Matt and Nicola Templeton of View Fort Holsteins, South Gippsland. Her run for the title started with winning her 6-year-old class ahead of the Cinnamon Partner's entry, and 2018 Intermediate IDW Champion, Avonlea-YF Windbrook Cinnamon EX-91-1E 1xM 1xF 1xP.

“What a beautiful group of dairy cows,” Brent said of the very strong line-up of 6-year-olds. “The best way to describe this class is WOW!”

Brent's top two were very refined dairy cows with strong heads, long necks and open frames, but in a close placing, he gave Jacobonia the advantage over Cinnamon for her balance of rear udder and overall length from head to tail.

“This black cow is ‘all silk and all milk,’” he said. “She is soft hided and just a lovely dairy cow.”

Other challengers for the Senior title included the youthful, well balanced 4-year-old, Arrowlea Atwood Candy-ET EX-90-1E exhibited by Maxmount and Smethurst Park Holsteins. The 5-year-old exhibited by Tony and Kathy Hogan,



IDW Senior Champion Holstein Avonlea Reginald Jacobonia VG88, exhibited by B, J, M & N Templeton, View Fort Holsteins, and Reserve Senior Champion Avonlea-YF Windbrook Cinnamon EX-91-1E exhibited by the Cinnamon partners.

IDW Premier Holstein Awards

Premier Holstein Sire: Walnutlawn Solomon, Semex

Premier Sire Red & White: Cycle Jordy Red, ST Genetics

Premier Breeder: JH & CJ Gardiner, Avonlea Holsteins, Cardinia, VIC

Premier Exhibitor: The Gordon family, Gorbro Holsteins, Cohuna, VIC

Fairvale Bradnick Josie 118 VG88, showed the clean bone and textured udder that had earned her the Intermediate Champion title at the 2018 NHD Victorian Winter Fair. Then representing the mature cows was Ross Easterbrook's 2019 Semex

OFC State Final winner, Eclipse Atwood Princess EX-90-1E 2*.

It was a difficult decision, but Brent could not go past Jacobonia's extreme dairyness and superior mammary system.



IDW 2020 Holstein 6-year-old in-milk class.

“We can all have an opinion – but today the ribbon goes out to my opinion, and this six-year-old cow, to me, is a true dairy cow,” he said tapping the stylish all black Jacobonia as his Champion. “I really believe when you talk about dairyness, this cow does it all – a tremendous, tremendous cow.”

Brent then called in his second placed 6-year-old, Avonlea-YF Windbrook Cinnamon as Reserve with his 4-year-old winner, Arrowlea Atwood Candy receiving an Honourable Mention.

Bred by Master Breeders, John and Cherie Gardiner, Jacobonia is a descendant of Australia’s all-time leading star brood cow, Wairori Pugent Jacobonia-IMP-ET VG88 43*. As Premier Breeders for 2020, the Gardiners also bred the Reserve Champion Holstein, with Cinnamon representing another iconic Avonlea cow family, the Connies. In a remarkable connection, Cinnamon is a granddaughter of Avonlea Robthom Connie 2nd EX-93-3E 13* 1xEP 1xM 1xF who was also owned in partnership by Matt Templeton when she won Champion Cow at IDW in 2009.

Matt has a great deal of respect for John

IDW National Holstein Show 2020

JUDGE: Brent Walker, Canada
Grand Champion: Avonlea Reginald Jacobonia; B, J, M & N Templeton, Tarwin, VIC
Senior Champion: Avonlea Reginald Jacobonia, B, J, M & N Templeton, Tarwin, VIC; **Reserve:** Avonlea-YF Windbrook Cinnamon-ET, Cinnamin Partners, Blighty, NSW
Honourable Mention: Arrowlea Atwood Candy-ET, Maxmount & Smethurst Park Holsteins, Poowong North, VIC
Senior Best Udder: Mario Park Atwood Midas-ET, MD & JE Polson, Oxley Island, NSW
Intermediate Champion: Elmar Solomon Jessica 5-ET, Elmar Holsteins, Leitchville, VIC; **Reserve:** Lightning Ridge Beemer Camilla-IMP-ET, Busybrook Holsteins, P Smit & G Fullerton, New Zealand;
Honourable Mention: Coomboona Pety Satin, B, J, M & N Templeton, Tarwin, VIC
Intermediate Best Udder: Lightning Ridge Beemer Camilla-IMP-ET, Busybrook Holsteins, P Smit & G Fullerton, New Zealand
Junior Champion: Cherrylock Chassitys Innocence, Cherrylock Cattle Co, Tallygaroopna, VIC
Reserve: Cherrylock BH Apple Cider-RED, Sun Vale Holsteins, G Hargraves, D&M Schirm & F&D Borba, Cashmore, VIC; **Honourable Mention:** Rusty Red Jordy George-RED, Judson Jennings, Chapple Vale, VIC

and his Avonlea herd, and is very grateful for the opportunity to purchase such a special cow.

“John is a super person to deal with,” Matt says. “He’s not afraid to sell the good ones and likes seeing good cows go to the right people – particularly young people.”

Jacobonia first caught Matt’s eye while walking through the stalls at Tatura Park at

IDW in 2019. Though he had not intended to buy a show cow that day, “cows like that don’t come around very often.” A deal was done, and Matt and Nicola took ownership of Jacobonia, yet out of respect, they exhibited her under the Avonlea prefix that year where she placed second in a strong five-year-old class.

For the past 12 months, Jacobonia has run with Matt and Nicola’s View Fort Holsteins herd on 130 hectares at Tarwin Lower in Gippsland, Victoria. Together with Matt’s parents Bruce and Jan, the pasture-based system milks 250 cows grazing year round with a strong focus on moderate sized, open ribbed dairy cows with strong rumps and good udders. Recently mated to sexed semen, the Templetons hope Jacobonia will calve again in the spring to the udder specialist Delta Lambda.

“We mostly breed for balanced, functional cows,” Matt said. “We’re not after extremes or trying to breed show cows. We try to show an even team of cows and pick our team on cows we like.”

The quality and evenness of the View Fort team was acknowledged by the judge with the Templeton’s winning the IDW Exhibitors Pen of Three.

“You need to put a lot of work into the cows at home to have them ready for a big show, and there’s a great deal of satisfaction when you achieve a good result.” Matt said.

Intermediate Champion

When Brent selected Elmar Solomon Jessica 5 -ET VG87 as his Intermediate Champion, she became the third family



Intermediate Champion Holstein Elmar Solomon Jessica 5-ET VG87, exhibited by the Hore family, Elmar Holsteins.



member from four generations to win a Champion title at International Dairy Week, proving again why Elmar's Jessica family is among the most potent bloodlines in the Holstein breed.

The junior 2-year-old comfortably won the opening class of the milking Holsteins, using her beautiful balance and cleanliness to beat herd mate Elmar Crush Lulu-ET GP83 in second. Bred by two-time Master Breeders, the Hore family from Leitchville in Victoria's North West, Jessica is sired by the IDW 2020 Premier Sire Walnutlawn Solomon, out of the Hore's 2017 IDW Grand Champion, Elmar Goldwyn Jessica 11-ET EX-92-3E 3* 2xEP.

Jessica's main challenger for the title came from the Junior 3-year-old Lightning Ridge Beemer Camilla-IMP-ET VG89, entered by the New Zealand syndicate of Busybrook Holsteins, P Smit and G Fullerton. A Pol-Butt MC Beemer daughter from the world renowned Camomile family, Camilla was a hot favourite, having recently been named South Australia's State On Farm Challenge Champion. However, despite Brent naming Camilla as his Intermediate Holstein Best Udder, he could not go past Jessica's superior locomotion, strength of pasterns and depth of heel.

"There's a young junior 2-year-old here today that puts the whole package together," Brent said of his Champion.

"She's youthful, wide chested, long through her neck, beautifully uddered and with a beautiful, beautiful leg to her. She's just a real picture of a young cow."

Honourable Mention went to the Templeton family for their Senior three-year-old entry, Coomboona Pety Satin VG85, with the judge describing the grand daughter of Misty Springs Shottle Satin-ET VG as a super milk cow. "Every hair on her body drips with milk," he said.

Junior Champion

Exhibited by Brad and Jess Gavenlock, Cherrylock Chassitys Innocence-IMP-ET added the 2020 IDW Junior Champion Holstein title to her already impressive list of accolades, including Junior Champion at Sydney's Royal Easter Show and the NHD Victorian Winter Fair 2019.

She is sired by the Canadian sensation Val-Bisson Doorman from an Atwood daughter of the renowned Regancrest S Chassity EX-92 24*.

The dry 2-year-old impressed the judge

IDW Red & White Holstein Show 2020

Grand Champion: Rusty Red Liner Georgie-RED, Judson Jennings, Chapple Vale, VIC

Senior Champion Cow Red & White: Rusty Red Liner Georgie-RED, Judson Jennings, Chapple Vale, VIC; **Reserve:** Mitch Chipper Beauty-IMP-ET-RED, Mitch Holsteins & TPM, Bamawm, VIC; **Honourable Mention:** Rusty Red Barbie Georgie-RED, Sun Vale & Rusty Red Holsteins, Cashmore, VIC.

Intermediate Champion: Cairnsdale Absolute Red Delight-RED, Menzies Farms & M & N Templeton, Tarwin, VIC; **Reserve:** Bluechip EV Shesaawesome Apple-ET-RED, Cherrylock Cattle Co, Tallygaroopna, VIC; **Honourable Mention:** Rusty Red Diamond Becky-ET-RED, Ricky Nelson, Irrewillipe, VIC.

Junior Champion: Cherrylock BH Apple Cider-RED, Sun Vale Holsteins, G Hargraves, D&M Schirm & F&D Borba, Cashmore, VIC; **Reserve:** Rusty Red Jordy George-RED, Judson Jennings, Chapple Vale, VIC; **Honourable Mention:** Lightning Ridge Avalanche Lotto-ET-RED, D Patten & F & D Borba, Sale, VIC

Sheri Martin Memorial Youth Showmanship Competition

Junior Champion Handler (8-10 years): 1st - Indiana Cole; 2nd - Scarlett Bawden; 3rd - Alexis Yarrington

Primary Champion Handler (11-13 years): 1st - Anna Dickson; 2nd - Matilda Cole; 3rd - Matilda Rundle

Intermediate Champion Handler (14-17 years): 1st - Abbie Hanks; 2nd - Angus Fraser; 3rd - Mitchell Atkins

Senior Champion Handler (18-20 years): 1st - Cally O'Shannessy; 2nd - Jaxon Gillam; 3rd - Nathan Smith.

with her extreme size, scale and capacity. "This heifer is extremely long," Brent said, "She's a big heifer - but she's beautifully refined for a heifer with this much capacity. To me she's the definition of balance."

The 2-year-old's width of chest and muzzle gave her the advantage over the Reserve Champion Holstein and Red and White

Intermediate Champion, Cherrylock BH Apple Cider-RED exhibited by the Sun Vale Holsteins, Hargraves, Schirm and Borba partnership.

The Honourable Mention Junior Holstein exhibit went to the Reserve Intermediate Red and White, Rusty Red Jordy George-RED exhibited by Judson Jennings. **HJ**



IDW Grand Champion Red & White Holstein Show 2020 - Rusty Red Liner Georgie-RED EX-92-4E, exhibited by Judson Jennings, Rusty Red Holsteins.

Awards honour dairy industry stars

People working in herd improvement look forward to the NHIA dinner, held every year at IDW. It's an opportunity for fellowship and community with people who share our passion for breeding dairy cattle.

It is also an opportunity to celebrate success and recognise the contribution of people who have made a difference to herd improvement in Australia.

Young Person Achiever Award

Miranda Clark received NHIA's new Young Person Achiever Award, for her role in increasing the acceptance and understanding of genomics among Australian dairy breeders. Since 2015, Miranda has worked for both Holstein Australia and DataGene providing

seamless support though the genomic testing process.

In presenting the award, NHIA director, Paul Douglas said Miranda played a vital role in the creation of Australia's genomics system. "Miranda is a bit of an unsung hero. She has been involved in genomics since the early days and played an important role in the evolution of our system, particularly in streamlining the genomics system and the complex data channels behind it; to make it user friendly, increasing its acceptance and understanding," Paul said.

Miranda said she was surprised and honoured to receive the award. "I just come into the office every day and do my job, but it is great to be recognised. Genomics was really new when I was at university and I found it fascinating. I knew immediately it was the area of animal science I wanted to get into," Miranda said.



NHIA Director, Paul Douglas presents Miranda Clark with the 2020 Young Person Achiever Award.



Diamond STP for the Boss

A legendary cow with a beautiful temperament, Ambrewlea Boss Iron July classified EC-91-5E recently.

She received Holstein Australia's highest cow award, a Lifetime Diamond Superior Total Performance (STP) award which recognises excellence in classification, production and longevity. Owner, Brett Cirillo (Western Districts, Vic) said Ambrewlea Boss Iron July is 16 years old, on her 12th calf and just keeps on keeping on. "In December's herd test she did 47 litres of low cell count milk," he said. Her lifetime production on 11 recorded lactations tallies at 117,350 litres of milk, 3533 kg protein, 4494 kg milk fat.

Family tree

Corra Lea Lexy July
GP81 (03/09/1986)



Corra Lea Sexy July
GP80 (28/09/1991)
(Corra Lea S.W.D. Lollipop)



Corra Lea Lofty July
GP80 (19/08/1997)
(Fustead B-Star Blastoff-ET)



Ambrewlea BossIron July
EX-91-5E (24/08/2003)
(Boss Iron-ET)



Peter Williams from DataGene with Anthony Shelly, Genetics Australia.

Laurie Wells Meritorious Service Award

This year NHIA renamed the Meritorious Service Award in recognition of the outstanding contribution made by Laurie Wells over many decades.

The Laurie Wells Meritorious Service Award was made to DataGene's Peter Williams and NuGenes' Gerard Daniel.

Peter Williams, DataGene industry liaison officer, has devoted his career to the herd improvement industry. After completing a science degree, he joined VAB as a sire analysis where he worked closely with Laurie Wells. They were instrumental in bringing a series of bulls to the Australian market that had a profound impact on Australian genetics. Peter's influence continued when he moved to RAB and ABS and more recently through his roles with ADHIS, now DataGene.

Gerard Daniel and two others founded NuGenes in the early '80s. It has expanded to operate across Victoria and some of NSW and is a leader in an industry dominated by multinationals. He has held positions on a variety of industry organisations including NHIA. Gerard is respected for his outstanding work ethic, exceptional mentoring of young people and his ability to think outside the square.



Susie and Gerard Daniels, NuGenes, with Peter Semmens, ST Australia.

The legendary Laurie Wells (1931-2007)

George Laurence Wells, better known as Laurie, was a pioneer of dairy mating services in Australia and a mentor to many of the industry's past and current leaders. This year, the NHIA Meritorious Award was renamed in his honour. Anthony Shelly from Genetics Australia talks here about the Legendary Laurie Wells.

Laurie was devoted to dairy breeding and herd improvement his entire life. Growing up on a dairy farm on the outskirts of Bacchus Marsh, his annual highlight was a week at the Royal Melbourne Show where he had front row seats to watch dairy cow judging. As an adult he had a dairy farm for a number of years before joining VAB (which became Genetics Australia).

Laurie joined VAB as a farm hand, but held a variety of roles during his 26 years with the company. His photographic memory and knowledge of dairy cows saw VAB establish what was probably Australia's first mating service – the VAB Herd Evaluation Service (HES). And Laurie was the ideal person to lead the service. The role took him to commercial dairy herds around Australia offering mating suggestions that took into account weaknesses of individual cows and inbreeding; this was long before computerised records and mating programs. Laurie's advice resulted in rapid improvement in production and type of cows in commercial herds.

His influence was not just in developing herds but also in developing people. Many of the top names in today's herd improvement industry were encouraged and mentored by Laurie from a young age.

After visiting the Leslie herd in Gippsland, Laurie came back to VAB with a cassette of a very young Brian Leslie who had recorded a mock auction using VAB sire catalogues. Laurie was impressed and followed Brian's career with great pride, remaining close friends all his life.

Jacqui Biddulph, is now a WA dairy farmer but started her career as the Australia's first female sales representative in the AI industry. She describes Laurie as a patient teacher, willing to impart his dairy cow



Laurie Wells

knowledge and show the quality of cows in commercial herds.

Rob Derksen, Genetics Australia Export Manager says Laurie taught him a great deal about assessing cows and identifying progeny test daughters to photograph for bull catalogues. He describes Laurie as having an infectious enthusiasm for quality cows and the first person in the Australia to get commercial dairy farmers interested in their cows.

Laurie worked with VAB sire analyst Peter Williams (now with DataGene) to import a young bull from the USA called Caenarvon Cleitus JUDGE, a bull that had a profound impact on the Australian dairy herd over many years.

Laurie's uncanny ability to evaluate and recognise good dairy cows received worldwide recognition in 1987 when he was awarded first place in the Hoards Dairyman Cow Judging photography contest where he placed ahead of more than 80,000 entries from 37 countries.

Despite, retiring due to ill-health, Laurie continued his interest in dairy cattle, often attending IDW, critiquing the judges to see if they placed the cows in the right order. To this day he is missed by his colleagues, industry representatives, semen resellers and the many dairy farmers he regularly visited.

Holstein Australia competitions and awards

Distinguished Service Award

Recognises sustained commitment over an extended period to HA, both within and beyond the member's designated role.

Closing date: 30 June 2020

Winner announced: AGM (September)

HA contact: David Jupp

Email: djupp@holstein.com.au

Phone: 03 9835 7600

Semex-HA All-Australian

A national photographic competition that recognises excellence in conformation and showing.

Closing date: 30 June 2020

Winner announced: AGM (September)

HA contact: Head Office

Email: dworth@holstein.com.au

Phone: 03 9835 7600

Master Breeder Award

Recognises the long-term achievement of individuals who have bred at least 300 registered animals over a minimum of 20 years.

Closing date: 30 June 2020

Awards announced: AGM (September)

HA contact: Head Office

Email: enquiry@holstein.com.au

Phone: 03 9835 7600

MASTER BREEDER



Cow of the Year

Recognises all-round excellence in production, classification, breeding and overall contribution to the Australian Holstein breed.

Closing date: 31 May 2020

Winner announced: AGM (September)

HA contact: Head Office

Email: enquiry@holstein.com.au

Phone: 03 9835 7600

IDW Youth Challenge

A competition involving all aspects of the show ring (clipping, judging and handling) and teamwork.

Timing: held at IDW 2021

Winners announced: IDW 2021

HA contact: Head Office

Email: enquiry@holstein.com.au

Phone: 03 9835 7600

Semex-HA On-farm competition

Unlike conventional livestock judging events, cattle are assessed for their structural correctness on their home property.

Closing date: Each Sub-branch conducts its own competition in spring. The winners are then 'over-judged' to determine regional or state champions, with the results announced at events held in each state during November and December.

Winners announced: Holstein Journal (Summer)

Contact your local Sub-branch or Head Office

Email: enquiry@holstein.com.au

Phone: 03 9835 7600



IDW visits home of Elmar Holsteins

More than 100 IDW visitors took the opportunity to visit Elmar Holsteins and hear the Hore family's journey to intensive dairy production. Sophie Baldwin reports.

Elmar Holsteins can trace the history of their family farm back 100 years; back to the 1920s when it was first established by Martin and Elsie Hore on 65ha near Leitchville in northern Victoria.

Steve and Deanne are the third generation of the family to farm the land. To ensure there will be a future for the fourth generation – daughter Kelsie and sons Marty and Brady – they recently constructed a 150m by 45.5m cow barn.

The building of the barn might have taken a leap of faith at the time, but now with a year under their belt, they are happy with the decision and the positive impact it has had on cow health, management and production.

The farm has come a long way from the days when the couple started share farming with Steve's parents Geoff and Rosa in 1992, milking 120 cows in an old seven a side double up herringbone.

Twenty one years ago, when herd numbers hit 250, Steve and Deanne made their first big infrastructure build – a 44-unit rotary. At the time they had a young

family; Steve was trying to play football and they were spending at least six hours a day milking.

The decision to build the barn was just as considered and came about after a few deciding factors.

"We were at IDW trying to show cows. It was stinking hot and we were going backwards and forwards from Tatura to the farm to keep an eye on things and we just thought to ourselves something has to give, or this is going to kill us," Deanne said.

The rock feed pad they built with deregulation money back in 2000 to feed 300 cows was getting too small as herd numbers approached 400 and the maintenance to keep the rock base in good order especially during wet conditions, had become tiring.

"Our system was old set and starting to become a lot of work. We knew we wanted something we could flood wash and keep clean and something that involved a shade to keep the cows cool in summer," Steve said.

This was made even more evident when they stood out in the hot sun one day measuring up and area for some concrete. "We thought no matter what we do, if we don't build a shed the cows are going to be hot after 10am anyway," Deanne said.

With a good 10-15 years of farming left in them they decided to invest now and start seeing the benefits rather than waiting.

The couple looked at various options and ways of building a shed but soon worked out the cheapest way to erect the shed was a greenfield site.

Sorting out shed sizing and purpose was next.

They had done a lot of research, visited different dairy set ups both in Australia and on overseas travels which had given them an indication of what worked and what they wanted.

They decided against a shade shed after talking to people about management issues surrounding wet weather and feed troughs.

"We saw one facility barn in France, and we decided that was the way to go and it was amazing what we could recall when the time came to build our own," she said.

The first quote that came was so high it initially scared them off the idea, but

More than 100 IDW visitors attended the tour of Elmar Holsteins. Photograph: Kelsey Hore



after some tweaking and other quotes they ended up settling with Integra Engineering from Swan Hill who were good to deal with.

The summer heat makes the environment too dry to maintain a complete compost system, so the loafing area is a dry manure/compost pack and scarified twice daily at milking time.

Automation

The barn is as automated as possible to reduce workload and simplify management.

The shed has a concrete centre feed alley with fans and sprinklers for cow comfort.

“One of the major concepts for us was to operate the barn with the least number of variables as possible and to make it as simple to operate as we could. We didn’t want to have to remember to turn a light on or the sprinklers off,” Deanne said.

The lights automatically come on at 4.30 to wake the cows up each morning and in the colder months they stay on from 5pm to 9pm at night to create more light. Steve and Deanne have found this increases appetite and has helped cycling with the winter calving cows.

A temperature probe activates the sprinklers and fans with the duration determined by temperature fluctuations. The air flow created by the fans assists cow comfort during the long hot summers and during winter helps dry the manure/compost pack.

The alley is automatically flood washed



Steve Hore (in grey shirt) with the team from Orchar Orchard’s Profit-a-Bull Genetics Team who organised the IDW farm tour: (from left) Peter Barwick, James Peck, Paul O’Laughlin, Ben Warnett, Steve Hore, Ben Pedretti, Rick Orchard.

three times a day and the Lely Juno is programmed to push feed back 15 times in a 24-hour cycle to increase feed intake and help maintain a clean environment.

The farm currently milks twice a day and while they wouldn’t rule out milking three times in the future, it is not something the Hores are considering at the moment.

‘Not in our lifetime’ they joke, but down the track if they are looking for additional milk, Deanne concedes it might be an option they can look at rather than increasing herd numbers.

Herd numbers are currently sitting around 450 year-round, with a goal to get to 500. The couple consider this a sustainable and achievable number for their business, the fodder they can grow and a flat milk curve.

System changes

Cows are managed in two herds (the fresh/high producing cows and late-lactation cows), each housed on different sides of the shed. All cows are fed the same mix in the barn; the diet variation occurs in the dairy.

The cows are fed a fresh mix each milking which has added an additional labour unit to milking time and that person looks after the scarifying of the shed and herd management.

“We can finish milking and basically know the cows are fed and looked after until the next milking comes around,” Steve said.

Deanne said the biggest change has been the cows’ routine. There is little variation and the cows always seem to be sitting in their comfort zone.

“It is always a four-minute walk to the dairy and that never changes. They know they go from the barn to the dairy and back to the barn where their food is waiting for them. They are very content, fully fed and comfortable in their new environment,” she said.

The establishment of the barn has changed the feedbase. With the herd no longer grazing pasture, the focus has turned to producing bulk cereal, protein and maize crops.

“We now take the feed to the cows and we utilise our land asset to grow quality feed, particularly those crops we can ensile. We will always be in the market for additional hay, but our goal is to ensile as much fodder as we can which is our greatest asset,” Steve said.





This season the business has focused on growing as much maize as their water allocation allowed.

"We budgeted on a 50% allocation and anything else is a bonus. Our next challenge will be to work out what to do for autumn.

"If it doesn't rain and we don't get any more allocation increases, a good autumn break will have a huge impact on what can happen next spring, not only for us but the entire district," Steve said.

The big picture is to eventually have a 12-month feed buffer to take away some of the seasonal and current water unpredictability in northern Victoria.

On the positive side there is enough fodder to get the herd through to October as it currently stands.

Impact

With a full 12-month season under their belt in January, the family can now assess where they are and what the barn has actually done. Data has proven cows calved within the system have peaked higher and longer with better components.

There was a 20-25% production increase this summer which they attribute to sun protection, temperature comfort and better-quality home-grown silage.

"The temperature control definitely adds to production gains, but we can't attribute that figure solely to that. Our silage the year before wasn't as good a quality as we would have liked so we have picked up some gains there."

Winter reproduction rates have improved and there has been a significant improvement in general herd health with less metabolic and feet and leg issues. Post health calving has also improved.

There will always be refinements which will continue to improve profitability and cow comfort, but Steve and Deanne are happy with where things are sitting.

Future

The gains the family has seen in the last 12 months have prompted them to bring forward construction of a second shed for transition and fresh cows. These cows are currently housed outside the shed, and the Hores expect a new shed to bring additional health and production benefits. There will also be a place to house the very



Steve and Deanne Hore are the third generation to run Elmar Holsteins and have secured the future for the fourth generation by building a barn to house the herd. Photograph: Kelsey Hore

important show cow team which currently resides in a hay shed when show time approaches.

Steve said the hay shed is comfortable, but he would like to see an area set aside for the show team in the new shed.

Both Steve and Deanne believe they have a sustainable dairy model moving forward.

"We love this area and we don't want to leave. We have adapted our system to take us forward in a changing environment and the barn has exceeded our expectations in what it has achieved," Steve said.

There was talk of automating the dairy to reduce a labour unit but so far, the family has decided to stick with the way it is.

"We love our cows and we can't see ourselves not keeping an eye on them like we do now. We sometimes just walk down to the barn to check on the cows and we find ourselves stuck there taking in how content they are – it is a very rewarding feeling," Deanne said.

The proud family connection for the Elmar herd looks set to continue well into the future.

Show success

Success at IDW 2020 gave the family a great start to the year.

Steve said a highlight was seeing Brady and Marty stand side by side and secure first and second place in the strong two year in milk class with Elmar Solomon Jessica 5-ET (1st) and Elmar Crush Lulu (2nd).

Elmar Solomon Jessica 5-ET went on to win Intermediate Holstein Champion and Intermediate Interbreed Champion.

"These are two new cows we haven't shown before. Jessica 5 is even more developed than her respected mother Jessica 11 who was IDW champion cow in 2018," he said.

She is one of the best young cows we have ever developed, and I am looking forward to seeing where she goes." **HJ**

Understanding Type ABVs

Type – or conformation – affects a cow’s functional performance in the dairy herd, so many dairy farmers consider type in their breeding decisions. Australian Breeding Values (ABVs) for type are a tool for breeding for improved type. This article from DataGene explains how to use Type ABVs.

DataGene publishes Type ABVs for 22 individual, or ‘linear’ traits. These are aligned with the traits assessed during classification by breed associations. Dairy farmers are often more interested in a group of traits which combine to affect a cow’s functional performance in the herd. An ABV based on a combination of traits is referred to as a ‘composite’ trait. DataGene publishes ABVs for five composite type traits: Mammary System, Feet & Legs, Dairy Strength Rump and Overall Type ABV which is a combination of all traits. Type ABVs are expressed against the breed average which is set at 100. For many traits, an ABV of greater than 100 indicates an animal that is better than the breed average for that particular type trait. Take for example, fore udder attachment. A stronger fore udder attachment is desirable because it has a strong association with longevity. The ‘ideal’ is therefore very strong fore attachment.

✓ *To improve this fore udder attachment: choose bulls with an ABV of greater than 100.*

The same applies to the composite traits (Mammary System, Feet & Legs, Dairy Strength, Rump and Overall Type).

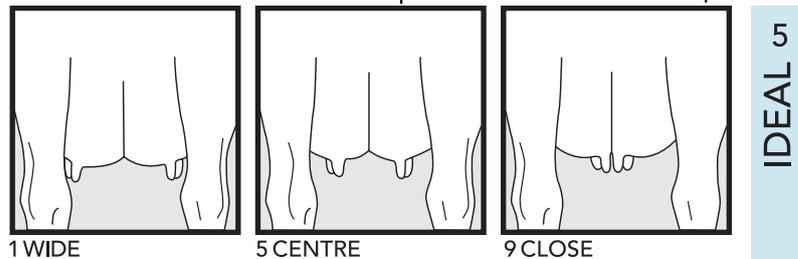
Intermediate ideals

More is not always better. For some traits the ideal is an intermediate score. An example is rear teat placement, which refers to the placement of rear teats relative to the centre of the quarter. Rear

Key points

- DataGene publishes Type ABVs for 22 linear traits and five composite traits.
- From April 2020, five composite traits will be available: Overall Type, Mammary System, Feet & Legs, Rump and Dairy Strength.
- Breed organisations set the trait ideals and weightings (relative emphasis) for type ABVs.

REAR TEAT PLACEMENT teat placement from centre of quarter



teat placement affects the ease with which cups can be attached in the milking shed. Neither extreme is desirable: cups are difficult to attach if rear teats are too close or too wide. The ideal position is intermediate. A bull with a Rear Teat ABV of 100 is breed average.

For traits with an intermediate ideal, consider the ideal for that trait and the direction for breeding in your herd/cow.

- ✓ *To breed to widen rear teat placement: select bulls with a Rear Teat Placement ABV of less than 100.*
- ✓ *To breed for closer rear teat placement: choose bulls with a Rear Teat Placement (Rear) ABV of greater than 100*

Holstein traits with an intermediate ideal include udder depth, teat placement (front and rear), teat length, stature, chest width, body depth, bone quality, rump angle, Thurl, foot angle and rear leg side view.

Type information used for ABVs

The flow chart outlines information used to calculate type ABVs. Classification data plays an important role. During classification each individual trait is assessed against the ‘ideals’ which are set by breed associations. The classification result for an individual trait is referred to as a linear score.

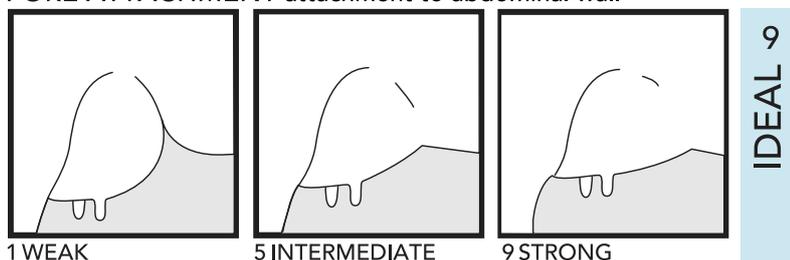
Linear scores are combined to calculate composite scores. The term weighting refers to the relative emphasis of each trait in a composite. Holstein Australia’s website provides the ideals and for individual traits and their weightings in composites.

The table shows the linear traits that contribute to each composite type ABV.

Indices

Overall Type, Mammary System, Udder Depth, Pin Set are included in Australia’s

FORE ATTACHMENT attachment to abdominal wall





Eight new traits in April ABV release

DataGene's release of Australian Breeding Values (ABVs) on 14 April includes eight new or updated traits, giving breeders even more information to work with. Of these, three are related to health and the rest related to type (see separate article on type):

1. Mastitis resistance (new)
2. Gestation Length (new)
3. Calving ease (updated – with genomics)
4. Overall Type (updated)
5. Mammary system (updated)
6. Dairy Strength (new)
7. Feet and Legs (new)
8. Rump (new)

The three new or updated health ABVs add extra tools to dairy farmers' kits for improving animal health and welfare. While management practices have a major impact on animal health and welfare, breeding can contribute to improvements.

Calving Ease

The updated Calving Ease ABV includes genomics which means that most Holstein bulls, including young genomic bulls will receive a Calving Ease ABV. Farmers will have more Holstein bulls to choose from if they want to ensure their cows and heifers calve easier. The update has also improved the reliability of this ABV.

The Calving Ease ABV reflects the ease at which a bull's progeny is born. It isn't a measure of how easily his daughters will calve. This means a bull's Calving Ease ABV is most relevant for the calving outcome from a specific mating (rather than long term genetic gain).

Calving Ease ABV is expressed as a percentage of normal or easier calvings in mature cows. The higher the number, the easier the calving. The breed average is 100. Bulls in the top 10% for calving ease have an ABV of 103 or more.

✓ *To improve the Calving Ease from a mating, select bulls with a Calving Ease ABV of at least 103. If breeding replacements from this mating, use a Good Bull (high BPI).*

Gestation Length

The Gestation Length ABV gives farmers a new tool for managing late calving cows. It identifies bulls whose calves are born earlier than their expected due date. This means cows calve earlier or are in-milk more days before re-joining, giving them more time to recover after calving. Using the Gestation Length ABV on later calving cows is a way to tighten calving patterns and avoid culling or induction.

The Gestation Length ABV is expressed as the number of days of gestation more, or

less, than an average of 0. Every 1 ABV is about 1 day shorter gestation.

✓ *To reduce the Gestation Length of a mating, select bulls with a Gestation Length ABV of less than 0.*

Mastitis Resistance

The new Mastitis Resistance ABV makes it easier to directly breed for improved mastitis resistance. It is available for all breeds, including young genomic bulls. The Mastitis Resistance ABV draws upon three sets of information: 305-day somatic cell count, udder depth and clinical mastitis records. This combination delivers an ABV that directly targets mastitis, whereas the Cell Count ABV has been used as an indirect selection criterion for mastitis resistance.

✓ *To breed replacements with improved mastitis resistance, select bulls from the Good Bulls Guide with a Mastitis Resistance ABV of greater than 100.*

The new/updated health ABVs were developed by DairyBio, a joint initiative between Agriculture Victoria, Dairy Australia and the Gardiner Dairy Foundation. We also thank farmers, herd test centres and software providers who supply data used in genetic evaluations. **HJ**

More information: DataGene 03 9032 7191 or enquiries@datagene.com.au or www.datagene.com.au.



DataGene is publishing three new or improved health-related breeding values in its April ABV release, including a gestation length ABV.

Industry reviews priorities for National Breeding Objective

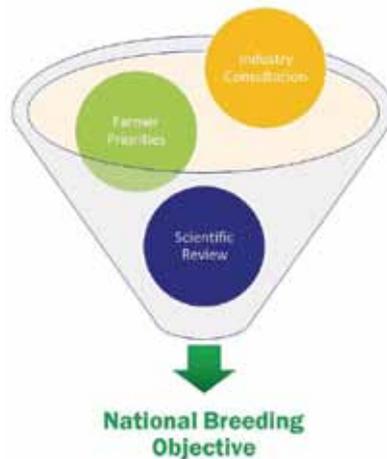
Every five years DataGene works with the farmers, scientists and industry to review and refine the collective breeding priorities of the Australian dairy industry. DataGene refers to this as a review of the National Breeding Objective (NBO).

The NBO is expressed through the three indices published by DataGene: Balanced Performance Index (BPI), Health Weighted Index (HWI) and Type Weighted Index (TWI).

The review is an opportunity to check that the weightings of the traits in the indices are still relevant, accurate and based on robust science.

Michelle Axford from DataGene said the review was about halfway through a 12-month process, with the first industry consultation phase nearing completion.

"A key part of the industry consultation was a survey which was open to anyone in the industry. We were delighted to receive more than 340 responses to the survey and an analysis of those results is now under way," she said.



Some of the themes explored through the survey included Fat : Protein ratio, updating the base, multiple indices, and the relative emphasis on longevity, fertility and possible inclusion of additional traits in the indices.

The next step will be an options paper, based on the survey results and scientific analysis. This will be discussed with

groups such as the Genetic Evaluation Standing Committee, breed associations and interested groups. Once any changes are agreed upon, DataGene's algorithms will be updated and tested, with the view to rolling out in the December 2020 ABV release.

Members have their say

Bushfires didn't stop the Corryong discussion group in Northern Victoria from having their say. MurrayDairy organised a meeting of the Corryong discussion group at the Hogg family's (Adejama) home to discuss breeding priorities and the NBO review. Peter Williams from DataGene gave the group an overview of the review process and options on the table for the future development of the BPI, HWI and TWI. Like the Hogs, many of the members were directly affected by the fires. **HJ**

More information: DataGene 03 9032 7191 or enquiries@datagene.com.au or www.datagene.com.au.



Members of the Corryong discussion group, many affected by bushfires, met at the Hogg family home to discuss breeding priorities and the National Breeding Objective (NBO) review. The burnt trees in the background show how close the fire came.

Sexed semen, A2 gain traction

Sexed semen sales in Australia increased by about 13% last year, with 200,000 units sold representing about 10% of the Australian dairy semen market, according to the National Herd Improvement Association of Australia's (NHIA) 2019 Semen Market Survey.

This year was the first the survey reported on sales of A2 and polled sires. A2 sires represent nearly half (49%) total semen sales, reflecting the high demand for A2 products by dairy consumers and premium paid for A2 progeny. Polled semen sires represent 5.4% of total semen sales, probably a reflection of the limited (but growing) number of high genetic merit polled bulls currently available.

While total sales declined 10.9% (from the record 2,196,456 doses sold in 2018 to 1,957,221), export sales increased by 7.8% (from 263,940 to 284,658 units).

NHIA Chief Executive Officer, Stephen Carroll, believes external factors are responsible for the overall sales decline.

"The downturn in the market, the drought and the knock-on effect on water and fodder costs has had a significant impact on the number of dairy cows being joined. Factor these higher input costs alongside the declining national dairy herd and I don't think the headline figures are a surprise.

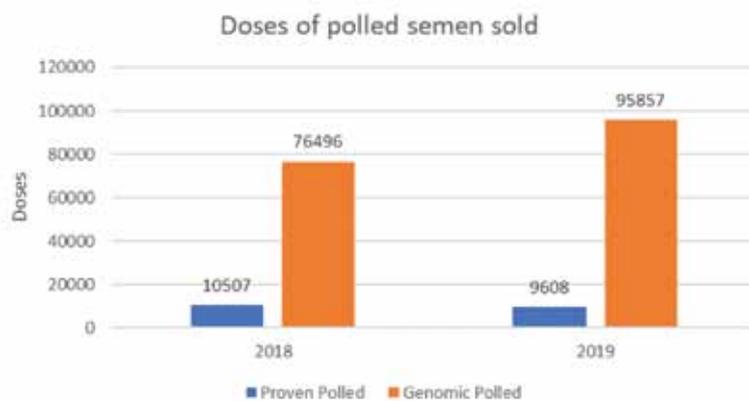
"After the milk price crash in 2016 we saw many people clearing out their tanks leading to a drop off in sales, and I think we are seeing a similar pattern repeated."

An increase in sales of beef semen by 12.1% to 280,539 units mirrored the 12.8% increase in sexed semen sales to 201,356 doses.

"If you look at sexed semen and beef semen sales together, I think it highlights that Australian breeders are working smarter. The growth in both markets is something I expect to see continue.

Targeted breeding strategies

"The reliability of sexed semen is now at a very high level and we are seeing breeders across the board focus on the top end of their herds with these products. With the current strong export market many breeders are also using sexed semen



While sales of polled semen doses are on the rise, they represent 5.4% of total Australian semen sales reflecting the limited (but growing) number of high genetic merit polled bulls currently available.

around the mid-point of their herds as well. And don't forget that animal welfare, particularly in relation to bobby calves, is also a driver.

"With what I would call more targeted breeding, the increase in beef semen sales is to be expected. Sexed semen top end, beef semen bottom end is a breeding strategy that works for many people. At the other end of the supply chain there is an increasing demand for dairy-beef cross animals and meat which is reflected in these figures."

Export trends

Export sales have now increased year-on-year from a low of 127,998 doses in 2016 to 284,658 in the period covered by the latest NHIA survey.

"Developing an export market in any field takes a lot of time and effort. Since 2015-2016 there has been a 122.3% increase export sales of Australian semen. We are certainly becoming a more significant player in the international market, with the long-term investment approach of our export focussed members starting to pay dividends. Overseas buyers are starting to take note of Australian Breeding Values," says Stephen.

The annual Semen Market Survey is based on data supplied by NHIA members, including ABS Australia, Agrigene, Alta Genetics, Genetics Australia, LIC/CRV, Semex, ST Genetics Australia, Total Livestock Genetics, Viking Genetics and World Wide Sires. Dairy and beef semen sales are reported separately. **HJ**



NHIA's Stephen Carroll says export sales of Australian semen have more than doubled since 2015.

Mallagannee's Golden Girls

The Superior Total Performance (STP) award recognises all the attributes of a great Holstein cow – superior production, conformation, reproduction and longevity. The award has four levels – the Standard (6 lactations), Silver (8 lactations), Gold (10 lactations) and Diamond (12 lactations). Only a truly superior performer can achieve the ultimate STP status

In Victoria's North East, at Mick and Astrid Yea's farm, a pair of sisters have reached the Gold STP milestone. These golden girls, Mallagannee Luckystrike 1566 EX-91-2E STP(Gold) 3xM 3xP LIFE 5 and Mallagannee Dottie VG87 STP(Gold) 4* LIFE 3, are still active in the Mallagannee herd and edging closer to the exclusive Diamond STP.

Mallagannee Holsteins is a family-run operation at Dederang, 40 km south-east of Wodonga in the Kiewa Valley. Mick and Astrid milk 120 registered Holsteins with their daughter Kirralee and son Bill on their 65 ha property of fertile hills along the banks of the picturesque Kiewa River. 'Mallagannee' is derived from a local Aboriginal word meaning 'place of tall pines', referring to a small island off the property along the House Creek.

With an average 770 mm annual rainfall, the Yeas grow a combination of annual and perennial clover and rye pastures providing fodder for the herd with a small amount of cereal hay bought in and some pellets fed to the milking herd in the bale. An additional 70 ha of neighbouring land is leased for rearing young stock and growing hay, with a small amount of irrigation from a spring-fed dam.

Kirralee has taken charge of the breeding program at Mallagannee, with the opportunity to work with a better type registered Holstein acting as a key driver in developing Kirralee's interest in dairy. "Dad started registering the cows in 2005 when a friend told him they would be worth more when they sell them. We started to classify and breed better cows, which got me interested in breeding," Kirralee says.

Her interest was encouraged by Master Breeders Terry and Helen Williams who had retired to the North East after their



The Yea family, Mallagannee Holsteins: Bill, Mick, Astrid & Kirralee Yea.

Marion Dale Holsteins dispersal. "Terry played a big part in getting me interested. He taught me about showing and introduced me to other show people."

Terry introduced Kirralee to Erin Ferguson, with the two quickly forming a friendship that now sees Kirralee regularly working as part of Erin's professional show crew. She has since worked directly with several IDW Champions, including the 2016 IDW Champion Paringa Fever Opa EX-91-1E, 2017 Champion Paringa Braxton Parry EX-92-3E and 2017 Reserve Champion Elm Banks Seaver Donna EX-92-3E.

Kirralee is also heavily involved in her local North East Holstein Sub-branch as secretary, organising the annual On Farm Challenge (OFC), and competing with her own cows at local shows when she can.

"The shows and OFC are a great excuse to work closely with the cows," Kirralee says. "You put a lot of work into breeding them so it's nice to be able to let other breeders see them and appreciate them."

Kirralee aims to combine solid type with production to produce 'the perfect cow'.

"I want functional cows with good components," she says. "Overall type is most important, with good udders. And I like the pretty ones – life's too short to milk ugly cows."

Not afraid of using older proven bulls, Kirralee has been using the Semex fertility

and health specialist Amighetti Numero Uno quite heavily over the past year, along with his son Rocky Mountain Lottomax.

"I went on a farm walk in 2018 organised by Semex and saw quite a few Unos," Kirralee says. "They were very consistent with really good udders and high components. For me, a bull doesn't need to be the latest and greatest – he just needs to be a good bull!"

The success of the Mallagannee breeding program is obvious in their growing number of Lifetime Production and Superior Total Performance awards.

"Every time we classify, I look through the lists for potential STP cows," Kirralee says. "For me, the STP is a celebration of the cow and her body of work."

Jenny

Mallagannee's most prominent family originates from a neighbour's cow that came to the Yeas' care in 1984. At the time their neighbour was only calving once a year, and asked Mick to milk a young cow that was calving out of season. The cow returned to the neighbour the following year, however the Yeas retained the heifer calf, which Astrid named Jenny.

Jenny had several daughters at Mallagannee, the most prominent being a pair by Mittabong Roderick, Mallagannee Roderick 1264 (herd name 'Emma') born in 1991 and Mallagannee Roderick 200

Australian Holstein Cow Family

(herd name 'Laura') born in 1988. Though it is believed that Jenny's background was from a stud herd, Kirralee has been unable to trace the record of her sire, and so Jenny remains a grade with her daughters established as Appendix 4.

Descendants of Jenny's daughter Emma include the Excellent lifetime producer Mallagannee Luckystrike Simone EX-91-1E 1xM 1xP LIFE1, and the influential Mallagannee Figaro 1560 VG86 1xM.

"The Figaro set up a fairly dominant line in our herd," Kirralee says. "All her line have beautiful udders and are great herd cows."

A Braedale Icefyre daughter of the Figaro, Mallagannee Altalce Shiraz VG86 STP 1xM 1xF LIFE 2, was the dam of the successful OFC cow, Mallagannee FarmDealer Champagne VG87. A granddaughter of Champagne, Mallagannee Steadfast Moscato GP83 is an exciting young cow who is showing great potential as she moves towards her second lactation.

Jenny's other Roderick daughter, Laura, produced the Rockwood Park Buck Rogers daughter, Mallagannee Robs 1324, who is the dam behind Mallagannee Marlin 1458.

"It's a shame we weren't classifying back then, because the Marlin was a beautiful cow," Kirralee says. She was the dam of Mallagannee's golden girls Mallagannee Luckystrike 1566 and Mallagannee Dottie.

Brandy

Mallagannee Luckystrike 1566 EX-91-2E STP(Gold) 3xM 3xP LIFE 5 (farm name 'Brandy') is still fit and vital at 15 years old, boasting a lifetime record already exceeding 120,000 litres. She has produced seven lactations exceeding the 10,000 litre benchmark, with a top lactation as a 5-year-old of 11,975 litres, 3.3% 390 kg protein, 3.5% 420 kg fat PI 113.

Her sire, Kenron Lucky Strike, was the breed leading type sire of his generation, producing daughters like Brandy with exceptional dairy strength and udder



Mallagannee Luckystrike 1566 EX-91-2E STP(Gold) 3xM 3xP LIFE 5 (BRANDY), at 14 years – Highest pointed cow, North-East Sub-branch OFC in 2012.

quality. Despite her superior type, Brandy didn't make it to any shows, but has been a highly successful OFC cow, consistently winning her class for the North East Sub-branch, and was highest pointed cow for the North East OFC in 2012.

"I don't think Brandy would have liked the shows anyway," Kirralee says. "She's pretty bossy and I reckon she'd just drag me around the showgrounds."

The sub-branch includes an extra OFC class known as the Veterans Class, that has a minimum requirement of 8 years or over with minimum 7 lactations to qualify.

"Brandy has won the veterans class two or three times now," Kirralee says. "It was introduced a few years back when Gary McAinch was judging. He wanted to acknowledge the older cows, so offered some sponsorship for an extra class. It's pretty respected in our area."

Brandy is now dry, due to calve to sexed semen for an eleventh lactation in May 2020 to the type and health trait specialist at Viking Genetics, VH Sparky.

Brandy's best daughter, and a herd favourite at Mallagannee was the Braedale Icefyre daughter, Mallagannee Altalce Blackberry 1639 EX-90-2E STP LIFE 1. Like her dam, Blackberry was a big production cow, finishing with a lifetime total of 78,000 litres with multiple lactations over 10,000 litres.

In 2012, Elmar's Steve Hore placed Blackberry first in the 4-year-old class in the North East OFC, with her dam Brandy first in the Mature class. In the South Eastern State Finals, judge Rob Anderson named Blackberry as his top cow for the Northern Region, and Reserve in the State for the 4-year-old class.

Blackberry produced two daughters at



Mallagannee Altalce Blackberry 1639 EX-90-2E STP LIFE 1. – Highest pointed cow Northern Region OFC State Finals & Reserve Champion 4-year-old in 2012.



Mallagannee. Mallagannee McCormick Blueberry VG87 produced a top lactation of 760kg milk solids, and scored VG89 for mammary and EX-91 dairy strength as a young cow, while Mallagannee Petrone Blackberry 2 GP82 produced the exciting 2019 born Mallagannee Uno Blackberry 3.

Uno Blackberry was among a group of heifers Kirralee has had genomically tested to help for culling and mating selections. Her results boast an impressive udder composite score with extreme scores for fat percentages and kilograms, health and fertility.

"She also has the type and silkiness her grandmother Ice Blackberry had," Kirralee says.

Dottie

Born in 2007, Brandy's sister Mallagannee Dottie VG87 STP(Gold) 4* LIFE 3 is in her eleventh lactation. Her high production levels, reliable reproductive performance and consistent calving intervals has allowed her to generate a lifetime record of 106,302 litres, 3,271 kg protein and 3,599 kg fat with a remarkable 10,232 litre 305-day average over her 11 lactations.

Her daughter by Manna Farm Dealer, Mallagannee FarmDealer Delcine VG88 won her class in the North East OFC as a 2-year-old and 3-year-old, and is on her sixth lactation with a lifetime total to date of 54,100 litres, 1,755 kg protein and 1,900 kg fat.

"If I could clone just one cow it would be Delcine," Kirralee said. "I really like everything about her. She calves regularly, milks well – and looks good."

Unfortunately, one area Delcine has not been successful is providing heifer calves, so Kirralee has used her Misty Springs Supersonic son, Mallagannee Supersonic Lotto, as a natural herd sire.

"I got fed up having no heifers from Delcine – so I kept a bull calf. We've got



Mallagannee Dottie VG87
STP(Gold) 4* LIFE 3.

some calves being born by him now and they look pretty nice."

Another daughter of Dottie, Mallagannee Frederick Dutchess VG87 STP, is one of Mallagannee's highest litreaage cows. Exceeding 12,000 litres last lactation, Dutchess has amassed a lifetime record of 75,184 litres from just six lactations.

"Dutchess herd tested at 51 litres per day as a 3-year-old!" Kirralee said, attributing much of her extreme milk yield to her sire, Cogent Frederick. Her ability to manage the extreme yield however is a quality Kirralee attributes to her cow family.

"Dutchess has really, really good udder texture. She's always at the top of the herd test for litres, yet can do it without batting an eyelid. The whole family has really good udder texture."

To balance her great volume ability, Kirralee has crossed Dutchess to component specialists including Manna Farm Del Santo and Country Road Canbee. She is due again in April to Amighetti Numero Uno.

Her daughter Mallagannee Canbee Empress VG87 1xM has inherited her dam's award-winning production potential, with a 4-year-old lactation of 11,345 litres, 730 kg milk solids PI 106, while a 2-year-old daughter of Empress, Mallagannee Bento Baroness has calved recently and showing great promise.

Also showing great promise is a 2019 born Crackholm Fever daughter of Dottie, that Kirralee hopes is "as good as the Farmdealer". Unfortunately, Dottie did not hold to the AI service this season, however a Charolais bull has run with the herd as a mop up, and Kirralee is hopeful Dottie will calve for the twelfth time in the Spring.

"Dottie is still very robust and milking really well. If she can make it to her twelfth calf she could be our first Diamond STP cow," Kirralee says. "It's a pretty special award – I'd really love for her to get it." **HJ**

Family tree

JENNY (grade cow) 1984



Mallagannee Roderick
200 App4 06/05/1988
(Mittabong Roderick)



Mallagannee Robs
1324 App3 28/04/1994
(Rockwood Park Buck Rogers VG)



Mallagannee Marlin
1458 App2 08/04/2000
(Elite Mascot Marlin)



Mallagannee Luckystrike
1566 EX-91-2E App1
STP(Gold) 3xM 3xP LIFE 5 18/05/2005
(Kenron Lucky Strike)



Mallagannee Altalce Blackberry
EX-90-2E STP LIFE 1 16/04/2008
(Braedale Icefyre EX)



Mallagannee Petrone Blackberry 2
GP82 02/12/2015
(Welcome Super Petrone)



Mallagannee Uno Blackberry 3
04/05/2019
(Amighetti Numero Uno)



New generation takes up the challenge

This year's International Dairy Week (IDW) Youth Challenge was judged by a new generation – three of Australia's representatives at the 2019 European Young Breeders School - Zoe Hayes (Llandoverly Illawarras), Julia Paulger (Adadale Holsteins) and Ricky Nelson (RJ's Holsteins).

As past competitors and passionate supporters of dairy youth, the trio were excited by the opportunity to oversee a competition that had played such an important role in developing their showing skills. They judged in front of a large crowd of sponsors, breeders, family members and supporters. Fourteen teams, representing 140 youth members from across Australia and abroad, put their showmanship skills to the test in the Holstein Australia Youth Challenge.

Showing great consistency, confidence and skill across all three categories, the Western District's Cobden AB Youth Team finished as overall winners for 2020. The Western District's youth group entered two teams for the 2020 Challenge, sponsored by Cobden AB and ST Genetics. Led by team managers, Cally O'Shannassy and Emma Castles, along with parent helpers Jo Dickson and Angela Tweddle, the teams were a combination of local and interstate youth members, most of whom

Holstein Australia sponsors the IDW Youth Challenge in recognition of the role it plays in encouraging the next generation of Holstein breeders. The format is designed to encourage team work, leadership and public speaking skills while developing expertise in animal husbandry and fitting.

Thank you to the many sponsors, parents, members and volunteers who contribute to the Holstein Australia Youth Challenge each year. Particularly Justin Johnston and Mandi Pacitti from Holstein Youth; Brent and Kim Mitchell, Mitch Holsteins, and Mel McNair for training and providing heifers for the challenge; Daryl and Maria Collins transport; Stu Lockhart from DLS as MC; Heiniger Shearing and Daryl Holder from The Cattle Shop; and the International Dairy Week organisers for hosting the event.

Youth Challenge results

1st: Cobden AB (Western Districts)

2nd: New Zealand Jerseys

3rd: Gippsland Holstein Youth

4th: ST Genetics (Western Districts)

Awards

Clipping: Winner - Andrew McCrae;
Encouragement – Jake Rundell.

Showmanship: Encouragement – Rylee Yarrington

Junior Judging: Encouragement – Sienna Ross



were participants at the Western District Youth Camp earlier in the year.

"We put a post on facebook calling for kids to be part of our team," Cally said. "We have a lot of kids in our sub-branch, but we also had replies from WA and SA. We didn't have any try-outs, so we spread the kids out by their skills and experience to make up the two teams."

Each participant was given a role within their section, with a designated leader in each category. Despite having little previous experience working together, the senior members showed tremendous leadership and were a great support for the younger members of the team.

"Some of the kids were a little nervous, but they got lots of encouragement," Cally said. "Most knew each other from the youth camp, and it was a great to see them use some of the techniques they had learned."

A past participant of the Youth Camp, Cally returned as a mentor for the younger members, and attributes the camp to her success in the Junior Judging, leading her Cobden AB team to win the section with a score of 92.

With the support of Youth Camp mentors Vaughn Johnston and Rob Walmsley, Cally continues to gain confidence in her judging, winning the VASA Junior Judging State Finals at Royal Melbourne in 2016.

"A couple of years ago, I couldn't even hold a microphone," Cally said. "I'd never seriously thought about doing it, but Vaughn and Rob knew I liked to talk, and really encouraged me to give it a go on the microphone. I also learned a lot about assessing cows on their confirmation."

Cally has been participating in the Youth Challenge at IDW since she was 8 years old, and 2020 was the first time in 10 years she has been part of a winning team.

"We work really hard each year, and it's really exciting to be part of a winning team, she said. "The Youth Challenge is a great way to encourage kids who love working with cows."



IDW Youth Challenge Winning Team 2020 – Western District Cobden AB team. Back row: Abbey Hanks, Leah Dickson, Sam Hall, Cally O'Shannassy, Lora Schulz. Front row: Matilda Rundle, Hannah Gleeson, Chloe Gleeson, Shae Tweddle, Connor Tweddle.

Overseeing the clipping section was renowned cattle fitter and handler Zoe Hayes. Actively involved in her family's multi Premier Breeder herd, Llandoverly Illawarras, Zoe has been an enthusiastic participant of youth events, tours, shows and camps, and a past competitor of the Youth Challenge at IDW and Sydney Royal. "Youth events are really important to our industry," she said. "They support the passion and keenness in the kids, at a time when they have a real willingness to learn. The kids look up to other breeders as role models and are willing to listen and learn to better their skills."

Zoe represented Australia at the 2019 European Young Breeders School in Belgium where she placed 3rd in the clipping section, 3rd for handling and a commendable 7th overall against the 173 participants from 17 countries. For this challenge, her role was to assess the teams on their show preparation skills, animal husbandry and welfare, teamwork, attitude and safety.

"All the teams did a fantastic job, showing great attention to detail and care with their heifers," Zoe said.

For the clipping section, Zoe placed the Cobden AB team and Gippsland Holsteins equal first with 89 points, followed by North West Holsteins and the Shoalhaven team on 87.

"My top teams stood out for their teamwork and final presentation," Zoe said. "They showed skill in using their equipment, blending the hair really well to show off the qualities of the heifer and minimise any faults. They presented their heifers at her best potential, working quickly and carefully with everyone in the team contributing to the final result."

In the Showmanship section, judge Julia Paulger selected the New Zealand Jersey team as a clear stand-out with an impressive 97 points, followed by the Cobden AB team with 86 and the North West Holstein Sub-branch on 85.

For the Junior Judging, overjudge Ricky Nelson gave his top marks of 92 to the Cobden AB team, with the Gippsland Holstein team a close second on 89 with the ST Genetics team on 88.

Finishing among the top in all three categories, the Cobden AB team finished first overall, ahead of last year's winners, the New Zealand Jersey team in second place, followed by Gippsland Holstein Youth and the ST Genetics team. HJ



Clipping winner Andrew McCrae and encouragement winner Jake Rundell with judge Zoe Hayes.



Judging encouragement award winner, Sienna Ross, with judge Ricky Nelson.



Parading encouragement winner, Rylee Yarrington, with judge Julia Paulger.



IDW Youth Challenge Judges 2020 – Ricky Nelson (Junior Judging), Julia Paulger (Parading), Zoe Hayes (Clipping).



Jordney Park

Rod and Libby Swayn, Jordney Park, Nalangil, Victoria

Farm: We have a family farm: Rod is full-time; Libby works off-farm except weekends; sons Thomas (16) and Mathew (15) help as needed. A casual milks 3 to 4 times a week.

Breeding goals: Historically our breeding goals have always centered on high type with strong feet and legs. We have a strong focus using genomic profiles for fertility

Farm facts

Farm size: 75 ha, with 100 Ha leased
Herd size: 110 milking herd
Females bred: 586
EX: 10 F VG: 197 F
SBC: 20 STP: 18
Production awards: 25
Lifetime production awards: 10
Points required: 586; Earned: 753

and medium size with good functional traits to best suit our operation.

An animal bred that you are proud of: Jordney Park Spot Ivy has been a fabulous brood cow in our herd. With eight

daughters, 10 lactations, STP 5* LFP 3, classifying EX-90-3E all from a home bred bull.

Cow families: Five main families have influenced our herd from the beginning: the Ivys, the Cols, the Roses, the Marthas, and the Alices; all from Ian Cribbe's herd. Whilst building numbers we purchased selectively and subsequently registered the Polly, Maltilda and Dulcie families through our own breeding program. Recently we purchased some young stock to help form new families.

What do you enjoy about dairying? For us, our breeding has always been a hobby rather than a commercial goal. We have had the long-term view and derived a lot of satisfaction and pride seeing our breeding choices and herd development build from low classification and production. Although it is nice to have cow families with the big names, we would encourage young breeders to use the appendix and now genomic systems to breed their own cow families rather than buy in top cows. It is immensely rewarding to see your own cow families classify highly and breed onto the next generation.



Mathew, Libby, Rod and Thomas Swayn at the AGM 2019.

Leeuwin

Bob and Jacqui Biddulph, (Leeuwin), Cowaramup, WA

Farm: We started dairying in 1995 with Bob's parents, Eric and Maureen. We grew the business from 230 to 620 cows and from one to two dairy farms, which we operated for nearly 20 years. We recently downsized back to one farm, milking 420 cows. The entire herd is fully registered. We have three permanent staff. Registration and classification is a great way to focus and track our breeding goals, check our progress over lines of heifers that enter the herd each year. There are often additional financial benefits from excess stock we put into the export market.

Breeding goals: We are committed to progeny testing bulls under Australian conditions, working with Genetics Australia for 25 years. We aim to produce animals that are long lasting and productive for our grazing/concentrate feeding systems. We concentrate on achieving well-structured udders and functional animals with capacity and good legs and feet (for travel). We focus on using teams of high genetic merit sires and use every bit of data we can get our hands on to drive breeding and

Farm facts

Farm size: 330 ha home farm, 71 ha run off
Herd size: 420 cows
Females bred: 1523
EX: 3F VG: 224F
SBC: 48 STP: 48
Production awards: 148
Lifetime production awards: 61
Points required: 1523; Earned: 1544

culling decisions. We average 81+ points across 150+ 2-year-old heifers, which ensures we will end up with long lasting functional, productive cows. We have been fortunate to have bred six EX cows, all from

Australian AI sires. One of the 'fun' parts of dairying is seeing young cows come into the herd that improve on their dams.

Cow families: Four families have produced significant numbers of quality offspring into our herd. The Flavias are from our first registered maiden heifer purchased in 1975 from Sam Fry (Bushlands). The Tuftie, Blanch and Nutmeg families, were starter animals from other WA breeder herds.

If we are going to milk cows every day, we want to make sure they are pleasant to handle, decent to look at and easy to manage in the paddock and in the dairy.



Jacqui and Bob Biddulph with their black and white family 2019.



Katandra Park

**Don and Lorelle Fry (Katandra Park),
Brunswick Junction, WA**

Farm: In November 2006 Don Lorelle and Don's parents Peter and Jenny sold the original Katandra family farm in Benger. After an 18 month break, Katandra restarted 10 minutes south in Brunswick on 101 ha milking platform with a 121 ha run off block milking 140 cows. Running the farm has transitioned to Lachlan and Corbin Fry, two of Don and Lorelle's three sons.

Our breeding goal has been profitable cows that are balanced and suited to the environment. Health, production and type traits are key. One of our memorable cows was Katandra Park Million Astra, EX-4E. She was our first cow to classify Excellent and reach 100,000L lifetime production at the same time. A more recent notable cow is Katandra Park Shottle Odamay, EX-91-2E. She was Champion Mature Cow 2017 WA Semex OFC, produced more than 13,000 litres at 5 year and classified EX. We love those sorts of cows!

Cow families: Don and Lorelle purchased the foundation cow, Bushlands Roybrook Omo, VG87, from Don's great Uncle – Sam Fry (Bushlands) first stage dispersal sale in 1988. Flushed extensively, she provided

Farm facts

Farm size: 222 ha home farm 162 ha leased
Herd size: 400 cows
Females bred: 1451
 EX:13 F VG: 341 F
 SBC:33 STP: 31
Production awards: 95
Lifetime production awards: 35
Points required: 1451; **Earned:** 1462

the stud its first Excellent cow, collecting 14 Star Brood Cow points along the way. The Bonnie family was founded by Wellstrand Telmatt Bonnie, VG-87.

Both the Omos and the Bonnies have been a very consistent for type and production over many generations. Other home-grown cow families that have been good to us over the years have included the Maries, Perfections, Bos, Abbas & Blythes.

Recently we have brought into some more new well-known and respected cow families, including the Lulus, Roxys, Blackroses, Sharlenes and Cretonnes which we are looking forward to developing in the future.



Back: Tyson, Don, Corbin and Lachlan. Front: Laura and Lorelle Fry.

Segenhoe Park

**David and Glenyce Johnston, Boorcan,
West Victoria**

Farm: Segenhoe Park was established in 1976 at Wingham, NSW. In 1984, we moved to West Gippsland, working on a number of farms before settling on our own 67 ha property at Boorcan in West Victoria in 1998, where we started with 60 cows. Once setup at Boorcan, David worked Off farm for Total Livestock Genetics from 1999 till 2013.

Breeding goals: My aim is a functional low maintenance cow with calving ease. When looking at bulls, chest width, leg set, fore udders, rump angle and teat placement are the first things I look at. I focus on improving on every cow that is why our herd is very consistent.

We are very satisfied that 40% of our herd is by home bred Holstein bulls. For the past 16 years, we have joined our heifers to Holstein bulls. I think if the heifers can't

Farm facts

Farm size: 78 ha with 120 ha leased
Herd size: 200-year-round milkers
Females bred: 719
 EX: 9F VG: 271F
 SBC: 30 STP: 50
Production awards: 2
Lifetime production awards: 4
Points required: 719; **Earned:** 844



Master Breeders Glenyce and David Johnston.

give birth to their own breed, then I am not breeding the right shaped animals.

Cows and families: We have 10 cow families and the depth of cow families are a big part of what we have achieved.

Foundation families came from the Pansys (Melrn), the Roxys (Hanoverhill), the Mins and Glorys (Avonlea), the Rosalies, Lorraines, Marlas and Rosettes (Fremont), the Sharps (Plana – Onkavale), the Beautys (Plana – Wellstrand).

Standout cows to date include Segenhoe Park (SP) Bossy Rosalie EX-90-5E-STP SBC Lifetime 1; SP Samuelo Rosette EX-92-2E; SP Talent Glory EX-90-3E; and SP CO Lorraine EX-90-2E.

The depth of cow families are a big part of what we have achieved to date.

I want to acknowledge several mentors who passed on their passion and knowledge for breeding: Doug and Zandra Polson (Oxley Vale), Dulcie and Eric Boyce (Brundell), Harley and John Gardiner (Avonlea) and Phil Malcolm (Wiabuna).

Trip a great 21st birthday celebration

Derbyshire's Catherine Bunting, Holstein UK's exchange winner, talks about her Australian adventure, which began on her 21st birthday.

Following a long flight from the UK, I arrived in Melbourne on 3 January, travelling to Willy and Lisa McKay's Linsand-V Holsteins, home to 200 cows that calve in both spring and autumn. They live in the paddocks all year around and they had just started feeding silage as the summer grass was decreasing.

One of the highlights of my stay was meeting Australia's first EX-97 cow in Fairvale Morty Lady 51, now 12 years old cow in her 7th lactation. Off farm, we managed to visit the Twelve Apostles in between milking times.

After a fantastic few days with the McKays, it was time to move on to the Western District Youth Camp. I led one of a number of groups in bedding, feeding, washing, clipping and showmanship practice, and also met renowned cattle photographer, Brad Cullen.

At the end of the camp we took part in a mock auction and our team managed to buy a Diamondback Jodie for the highest price. It was great fun and I met loads of lovely people who helped me to celebrate my 21st birthday! A highlight was seeing all the younger children learning new skills and improving throughout the week.

After a hectic first week, I had the Friday at Melbourne Zoo where I really enjoyed seeing all the native Australian animals in their habitats, before heading to Shane & Toria Patten's in West Gippsland.



Catherine with the IDW Group of 3 trophy won by Glenunga Holsteins.

Shane & Toria run an Angus beef herd as well as keeping a few cows used as embryo recipients. Their most recent batch of embryos were all Solomon heifers. I had a fantastic weekend with the family visiting Toorongu falls and going to Wilson's Promontory National Park.

On Monday morning I moved to East Gippsland to the Johnston family's Glomar Holsteins, milking 500 cows in a 20 double up rapid exit parlour on 445 hectares with three pivots on the Macalister irrigation system. As well as spending time in the dairy, I spent time each day prepping three heifers and three milkers for IDW.

A real highlight was catching up with Oakley Henry, Holstein Australia's UK

exchange recipient from last year. The Henry family milk 450 pedigree Holsteins in a 50 unit rotary parlour.

The calves spend their first month in a shed and then two months outside before weaning. This helps them achieve breeding goals as they are rearing high genomic animals on an intensive feeding program to get heifers and bulls to sexual maturity at a young age for flushing and collection before 12 months of age. Away from the farm, the family took me on a ferry trip to Raymond Island where I saw plenty of kangaroos and koalas.

Water and the lack of it dominated a lot of the conversations during this week. Some areas of farmland rely completely on rainfall, while others have an irrigation system such as pivots, sprinklers or flood pastures from nearby rivers, with the effectiveness of all these systems is dependent on the amount of rainfall. Very different to the UK.

International Dairy Week

From Sunday's Youth Challenge – where I competed in the Gippsland Jersey team, finishing 7th – to the National Holstein Show on the Thursday, the atmosphere over the week was unreal and everyone was so welcoming.

A great experience was visiting Elmar Holsteins with about 60 other IDW attendees. Elmar had a completely different set up to anything I had seen on my journey so far, milking around 450 cattle on an intensive feeding unit. They have a 150 by 60 metre shed that has fans, sprinklers and an automatic feed push up. Since the shed was built two years ago, the cattle have been housed inside all year round and the family have switched from growing ryegrass to cereals.

Wednesday I worked with Lisa & Willy McKay who showed a 5-year-old Jersey, Tequila Ashley. Thursday, the National Holstein Show, was incredible. It took 11 hours to get through all the classes!

It was great to see some of the cows I had already met in the ring – Jansen Vanbeek Doorman Charlotte came 4th in the Senior three year old class, Atwood Lady 7th in the 4-year-old class.



Catherine in action at the youth camp auction.

I was also privileged to be asked by Justin Johnston to lead the senior 2-year-old Glomar Exactly Lucky 6013 ET.

A real Aussie road trip!

A 5am start the day after IDW saw Mandy Pacitti from Misty Brae Holsteins embark on a 9 hour drive to South Australia's Victor Harbour. First stop in South Australia was the Fleurieu Milk Company, a niche milk company founded in 2006 by two farming families. Today they have five herds supplying them and employ 54 staff and, among other products, produce around six tonnes of flavoured yoghurt each week, including Indigenous bush fruit flavours.

My first South Australian farm visit was to Glenunga Holsteins, owned by Angela and Andrew Koch, who milk 260 Holsteins and Jerseys that calve all year around. I was inspired by the farming style as they only have one phase electricity and no mains water, so they really do rely on rainwater.

All heifers from six months of age go to another farm until six weeks before calving due to the low water supply. Whilst there I helped milk in a 12 a side double up parlour, feed calves and fetch the cows. I was particularly pleased to be asked to pick a group of three heifers for the local Barossa Heifer Competition which were awarded best group of three for the day!

Next stop was Bruce and Karen Slape's Trevenvale Holsteins with Holstein Australia classifier, Phil Hentschke, where they milk 160 cows in a 20 rapid exit swing over. They had their first Excellent cow and VG85 heifer during my visit.

After the classification I listened in to a conversation with the ST Genetics rep who was discussing genomics so the owners can select the right heifers for export to China, a large and growing market.

Way out west

My first day in Western Australia with Holstein Australia director Phil Hall and wife Suzanne at Wokalup was an all breeds experience. They milk 160 cows – Holsteins, Jerseys, Guernseys, Swedish Reds, Dairy Shorthorns and Normandes. Milk from the small Normande herd is used exclusively to produce the award-winning Hall's Suzette, a Pont L'Eveque style of creamy soft washed rind cheese, which I can highly recommend!

I visited FARMWEST, a herd improvement company in Bunbury that supplies semen, AI techs, calve disbudding, preg testing services as well as a milk sample testing lab where they can test around 3000 a day. Another highlight was Bannister Downs with its 24 stand DeLaval voluntary robotic rotary dairy, milk processing, packaging

plant, all open to the public with a café selling Bannister Downs milk and homemade dairy products.

I visited Carenda Holsteins, owned by Ray Kitchen and family. Founded in 1960 at Boyanup, it is the home of the V family and the Candy family, where 360 cows are milked on a 50 point rotary. They genomic test around 100 bulls each year for the prospect of AI or Bull Sales, with five bulls going to Genetics Australia and one to ABS last year.

One of the real differences I noticed in Western Australia was that farmers are paid for milk on litres not solids. However, fat and protein had to fall within certain boundaries. This has shaped the way bulls are selected for breeding a little differently to Victoria as farmers are looking for both milk and solids as a high component.

My visit to Australia was incredible. I've made some lifelong friends and had amazing experiences. Whether you are reading this in Australia or the UK I urge all young breeders and farmers to take every opportunity you are given, starting with applying for the 2020 exchanges!

Finally, I would like to thank all the Holstein Australia members and their families who welcomed me and gave me the chance to share their day-to-day farming life. I'll definitely be back!



Cows, fun and friendship in East Gippsland

East Gippsland's judging night is an annual tradition, combining an appreciation for Holsteins with friendship and fun for the kids. This year had some health advice added in for good measure.

The annual judging night was held on 28 January at James and Erin Clyne's farm at Newry, with about 30 adults and 20 kids attending. There was plenty of activity for the young ones, including a jumping castle and face painting.

The judge was Jamie Wood from Hayes Genetics with prizes from Leading Edge Genetics, Alta Genetics and Fonterra. Bob Grumley and Judith Walker tallied the points, a role they've had for 36 years.

The guest speaker was Raelene Hanratty, a Gippsland dairy farmer with many community roles. She spoke about mental health in the industry and Farmers Friend, a peer support and mentoring program run by Lifeline Gippsland.

A grant from Gippsland PHN's Good Community Well-being program enabled the event to be held at no charge to participants.

Many thanks to additional sponsors Philipsons and WFI and Sporting Legends for catering.

Information and photographs supplied by Krystal Bermingham, Fusion Holsteins.



Above:
Judging in East Gippsland.



Right: There were plenty of activities to entertain the children at the awards.

Twins of different breeds

Adairy farmer in County Clare, Ireland, Sean Culligan, received a surprise in his calving shed on 19 February when one of his dairy cows, a Holstein Friesian, had calved down a set of twins, however they were two different breeds. The cow had one Hereford bull calf and one female Limousin.

"I usually use AI for the first third of the herd, for replacements. After that I have two beef bulls – I have a Hereford and a Limousin bull. I alternate between them. I'd leave one of them with the cows by day and let the other one out by night, he said.

"Culligan explained that the calves were born backwards and he couldn't tell their breeds at first.

"I was surprised that the second one had brown legs because the first one had black legs.

"Sometimes you could have a brown Hereford, but as they weren't presenting right, it wasn't until they were fully born that I realised that it had no white at all, it was just a brown Limousin."

The farmer was really surprised at the sight and hadn't realised the chances of twins being sired by two different bulls is just 1%.

Rare

"They're like chalk and cheese to look at them," he said. "I'll be holding onto them until they're about two years old and we'll see then."

The phenomenon is called heteropaternal superfecundation (HS). A 2017 scientific paper by the Irish Cattle Breeding Federation (ICBF) revealed how many twin calves have different fathers.

Matthew McClure, Jennifer McCure and John McCarthy studied how often twins can be sired by different bulls and found that on average 2.14 million cattle are born in Ireland every year, with 36,000 sets of twins, which equates to 1.7% of all calves born.

They also found that around 1% of all twins were HS with two different sires while the rate of identical twins is 5%. **HJ**

Article by Marcella Connolly, reprinted with permission from the Irish Farmers Journal



Advertisers' index

ABS Australia.....	2
Agri-Gene	9
Genetics Australia	35
Holstein Australia Competitions	16
Hollondon	10
Holstein NZ.....	44
Semex.....	36
World Wide Sires.....	4

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