

Holstein International

“Genetics is
so incredibly
important”

-p.34

HI 323

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HI's selection of outcross sires

“Our export market is still strong, especially to China” – p.66

Short teats? Here are top bulls worldwide that sire longer teats



The American farmer Melissa Hart (from Michigan) and the German farmer Sonja Gronewold (from East Frisia) will take turns writing a column in HI. This month it is Melissa's turn.

Melissa

Homecoming

It was the end of the show and as the champion was named, the crowd erupted with the kind of applause you hear in the make-up ring at World Dairy Expo. They whooped and hollered and hugged and kissed like they had just won Supreme at Madison.

The celebration continued into the night and spilled over on social media the next day. It was a great moment for a great cow. But as I stood along the rail and took photos, I noticed a couple of observers with big smiles and watery eyes. Father and daughter, John and Donna Hawvermale of Wooster, Ohio watched with quiet smiles and reminiscent hearts. I knew they had owned that cow as a heifer and inquired about their history with her. It took about two seconds for John to find the photo that showed Black Diamond as a spring yearling winning Junior Champion of the Junior Show at World Dairy Expo in 2015. Donna was on the halter and Chad Ryan of Wisconsin was the judge. This time, Chad was on the halter of the 4-year-old Black Diamond, Mike Berry of Oregon was making the Champion selection and Donna was the railbird.

John said they were looking for a show heifer and found her in the back row of calf hutches at K-Land Holsteins owned by Kenny Krebs of Ohio. She caught their eye, and they took her home and prepared her for the winner's circle. Her sire, K-Land Kilo, was a young hopeful bull from the K-Land herd. After she won Junior Champion at Madison, they sold her and never looked back. Five years later, because of a pandemic, Black Diamond would be denied her dance on the colored shavings in Madison and instead settle for a dirt floor in rural Ohio. The dust blowing across the ring could not dull the shine of this gem as she paraded through, ready to take her rightful banner. This was her day. The diamond in the rough was polished to perfection and the world was about to have a new icon to enjoy.

While we watched the celebration, John said it was fitting that she be named champion in Ohio. This was her homecoming, and she is the queen.

Melissa

Focus on...

Under the radar

STEPHAN SCHNEIDER

There are bulls where it only takes a few moments for it to be clear that they are a **real talent**. There are also bulls that fly just slightly under that radar. High enough to be used as sires of sons, but not quite so high to immediately grab the international spotlight. Those people who don't quickly hear about these bulls might need a small tip, so come along and learn about 4 sires worthy of such a tip.



Hokovit: an alternative bloodline in combination with a strong overall profile.

GEN HOKOVIT

High components, great conformation and good fitness traits have been the trademarks for the offspring of Wilder Hira VG-85 for years and allow them to deliver top results in several evaluation systems. The Saloon daughter, who goes back to the former European Champion Batke Outside Kora EX-94, has several sons and grandsons in AI studs across Europe. One of the most noteworthy talents among them is the Swissgenetics sire Hokovit. The Topnotch (Jedi-Lottomax) son goes back to Hira via Euclid-Lineman and achieves a high 1571 gISET in combination with high

longevity (134), low SCS (129), positive components (+1.15%; +1.18%), and, of course, a very complete conformation with good udders, legs and feet as well as wide rumps. **A true allrounder and a special eye-catcher from Switzerland.**

MIGEL

Even though the Milktyme son Migel only checks in at Nr.35 on the gRZG top-list, the RBB sire is viewed as a sire of sons by Germany's sire analysts. Why? With his 158 gRZG, Migel is definitely still a top sire. But he is a particularly impressive allrounder. The combination of strong production (+2069kg) with a high longevity (129), great daughter fertility (115), easy calvings and 120 for the overall health index (RZGesund) results in a score of 2674 for RZ€. On the basis of the new German overall breeding index, Migel ranks in the top-10 and with that shows his abilities particularly in economically relevant traits. His pedigree is also interesting. Via his dam Ri-Val-Re Rasp2131 (<RubiAsp) and his Supershot granddam he goes back to Snowbiz Sympatico Sofia.



The sire of sons Fortnite is showing what influence he could have on the breed with his first sons and daughters.

PEAK FORTNITE

His 2950 gTPI were exactly 6 points too low to place in the top-30 for the highest US genomic sires that we presented in the September issue of HI. Nonetheless, the Positive son Fortnite, who goes back to Miss OCD Robst Delicious via Frazzled-Montross-Jackman, is performing at a level that has made him to a worldwide sire of sons. The difference between him and many other sire of sons is that Fortnite was already available as sexed and conventional relatively early on. There likely will not be a lack of high scoring sons and daughters in various countries in the future. Fortnite let his potential flash in September when, alongside many other high-placing daughters, he delivered the Nr.1 on the US female list.

A top sire with high gTPI, g\$NM, strong fitness values and a solid conformation.

DUDOC SPEEDUP-P

The sire that we are going to present now is quite a bit more than a secret tip. Afterall, Speedup-P is nothing less than the Nr.1 on the polled list in Canada. The Hotspot son, whose dam is a Zipit-Votto out of Dudoc McCutchen Rancune VG-85, achieved a spot in Canada's top-15 genomic sires in August. His strong gLPI (3698) is based on an extremely balanced and almost flawless overall profile. His strengths are in the areas of fitness and health and quite clearly in conformation (+11), with impeccable udders, perfectly placed legs and very good depth of heel. He also breeds for proper production (+1395kg) with positive components (+31%; +21%). A polled sire at the level of a sire of sons that is freely available internationally.

Table – Sires that transmit longer teats, taken from various top lists world-wide (*=proven) (TL=teat length; TI=total index)

| NAME | TL | TI | SIRE | OWNER |
|---------------------------|-------|------|-------------|------------|
| ITALY/PFT | | | | |
| All.Nure Rally* | +2.29 | 3842 | Supershot | Intermizoo |
| Panamero* | +1.62 | 3587 | Mardi Gras | Intermizoo |
| Go-Farm Murcielago | +1.49 | 4239 | Packard | Intermizoo |
| Agrigen Letterman* | +1.44 | 3589 | Zanzibar | Inseme |
| Parallel-P* | +0.97 | 3745 | Powerball | Intermizoo |
| CANADA/LPI | | | | |
| Peak AltaTuscan* | +11 | 3298 | Davinci | Alta |
| Stantons Performer-P* | +10 | 3304 | Powerball | Semex |
| Boldi-V Gymnast* | +6 | 3303 | Doorsopen | Semex |
| Melarry Forbes | +5 | 3680 | Renegade | Select |
| Circle-K McCall* | +5 | 3250 | Mayflower | Select |
| FRANCE/ISU | | | | |
| Onix-LF-RC | +1.2 | 205 | Downtown | GD |
| Jalousy* | +1.2 | 165 | Danno | Evolution |
| Pelforth | +0.9 | 207 | Garido | Evolution |
| Pokerlys | +0.8 | 214 | Adlon | Evolution |
| Jactive* | +0.8 | 166 | Shotglass | Evolution |
| GERMANY/RZG | | | | |
| Barcley* | 132 | 147 | Balisto | Qnetics |
| Monte* | 125 | 144 | Missouri | VOSt |
| Maltino* | 118 | 144 | Missouri | Qnetics |
| Hagos | 117 | 159 | AltaHothand | RA |
| Baldur* | 116 | 148 | Balisto | Masterrind |
| Gendry | 113 | 162 | Garido | Masterrind |
| Maracana* | 112 | 144 | Missouri | RSH |
| NETHERLANDS/NVI | | | | |
| DG Eagle | 108 | 326 | Imax | AI Total |
| Bouw Finder* | 108 | 237 | Balisto | CRV |
| Calvin | 107 | 317 | Casino | AI Total |
| Newhouse Jayvano-RC* | 107 | 256 | Esperanto | CRV |
| KIK Just in Time* | 107 | 220 | Bookem | Kampen |
| SPAIN/ICO | | | | |
| Akilia Kiwi* | +1.52 | 4140 | Kingboy | Aberokin |
| Galileo | +1.25 | 5493 | Gywer | Xenetica F |
| SCANDINAVIA/NTM | | | | |
| Mario-P | 119 | 29 | Monty-P | VikingG |
| Borre | 118 | 32 | Bahrain | VikingG |
| US/TPI | | | | |
| Hartford Rubi-Taz* | +2.64 | 2658 | Rubicon | STg |
| Winstar Galileo | +1.86 | 2948 | Hughes | ABS |
| De-Su 12925 Keenan* | +1.68 | 2624 | Monterey | ABS |
| Melarry Filmore | +1.33 | 2920 | Renegade | Select |
| S-S-I Phantom* | +1.25 | 2721 | Kingpin | Select |
| Progenesis Granite* | +1.25 | 2717 | Monterey | Semex |
| Pine-Tree Burley* | +1.22 | 2917 | Boastful | ABS |
| Leaninghouse Taos | +1.20 | 2929 | Renegade | Select |
| No-Fla AltaFacet* | +1.15 | 2636 | AltaSpring | Alta |
| GREAT BRITAIN/PLI | | | | |
| Bellemont Perks* | +1.83 | 663 | Pesky | Cogent |
| Cottonabb. DG Netflix* | +1.54 | 556 | Commander | Genus |
| CZECH REPUBLIC/SIH | | | | |
| Ostretin Unique* | 116 | 131 | Defender | Zooservis |
| SWITZERLAND/ISET | | | | |
| Wyss Sunstar* | 129 | 1356 | Enforcer | Swissgen |
| Gen Hokovit | 115 | 1571 | Topnotch | Swissgen |

Focus-On Extra: Teat Length

Which Top Bulls Transmit Longer Teats?

'Teats must definitely not become any shorter!' We are hearing this statement more and more frequently – and world-wide. Especially now that the number of farms with milking robots is increasing, the pursuit of bulls that transmit longer teats has further increased, is what HI is hearing in the field. Logically. Because those looking at international sire lists can notice that the number of bulls with longer teats is small. In this article, we embark on a search for "teat lengtheners" in various Holstein countries – and present a number of them to you. Here come the specialists for longer teats!

 JAN BIERMA  HAN HOPMAN

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'Short teats is clearly a practical issue. More and more dairy farmers – especially those with milking robots – do not want teats to get shorter yet. They are looking for sires that transmit longer teats.' Speaking is Robert Bruinsma from Dansk-ABS, the distributor for ABS Global in Denmark. For that reason, Bruinsma now has a number of specialists for teat length in his package. And states: 'In the prognosis for semen orders, I keep teat length in mind. If there is a top bull that transmits it all, but he transmits short teats, then I indicate that such a bull will not enjoy a lot of popularity with us.'

Louis Prange from STg also expresses his concern about teat length. Prange explains: 'Teat length has become an extraordinarily important trait. I consider the situation to be critical. In my opinion, teat length is more crucial than inbreeding. We can control inbreeding via DNA selection, but teat length will continue to be the result of breeding decisions, or – much more drastic – of genetic modification. It is worrisome.' Also at STg, the demand for "teat lengtheners" is tremendous. 'We constantly receive inquiries about these sires. In various markets, they want sires that transmit longer teats, especially in countries with a high number of robots and in countries where they prefer longer teats, like Russia.'

TREND

Time for a short analysis of the sire lists. We will begin with the US, where in the progeny proven TPI top-100, we find just 19 sires that transmit +0.40 or more for teat length. Switching to America's youth, the gTPI top-100, then it turns out that there are just 14 that transmit +0.40 or more. It's a phenomenon that we see all over. In Canada, the progeny proven top-50 has nine bulls that transmit +3 or longer. But: in the DNA-tested top-50, that is just four head. In Italy, we went a step further and counted all of the sires above 0.00. In the progeny proven list, 13 of the 30 (so 43%) ended up above 0.00. However, for the DNA tested, there are just seven sires (23%). We see this phenomenon in nearly all countries. So: the younger the sires, the smaller the percentage that transmit longer teats.

find Melarry Filmore ranking high: he is a full brother of Melarry Forbes, who is situated high in Canada. These outcross brothers are sons of the outcross sire Renegade, who himself scores +1.08 for teat length.

With Forbes, we arrive in Canada, where the progeny proven sires also display the highest figures for teat length. Four of the five published sires are progeny proven. (Published sires originate from the Canadian LPI top-30 and gLPI top-30.) You see this phenomenon almost everywhere: in nearly all countries the progeny proven sires dominate; except in France, where the DNA-tested red factor sire Onix is Nr.1. His



In this photograph is Hartford Rubi-Taz (right) in the ST barn, beside his sire Rubicon. Thanks to his high score for teat length (+2.64), Rubi-Taz is now regarded as a specialist in this area. 'Teat length is one of the reasons for his global popularity' explains Louis Prange from ST. 'If teat length is a problem, then he is among those who will immediately make a difference. Another specialist that we recommend is Redrock-View Klutch (<Jedi; +0.95; 2632 gTPI). Both sires are in high demand for that reason.'



This is the young sire Gendry, who combines a top position on the German DNA list (shared 6th place with 162 gRZG) with longer teats (113). As such, the Masterrind star is one of the exceptions, as evident from our overview. Gendry is a son of Garido, whose sire Gymnast is one of the 'teat lengtheners' on the list in Canada. Gendry's dam is a Superhero daughter, who via four generations traces back to Lila Z.

sire Downtown, via Doorsopen, is a grandson of Doorman. Onix is currently only available to GD members and will become more widely available in early 2021.

POLLED

Also in the Netherlands, one of the DNA-tested bulls reaches the highest on both the progeny proven and DNA-tested lists. He is the NVI elite bull Eagle, a son of Imax (<AltaSpring) out of a Montross daughter from the Italian Eleonor family. Also high in the Netherlands is the widely sampled Finder (approx. 4,400 daughters). We will mention one more Dutch bull (although with a lower NVI: 126) with a pertinent name: Repairman from KI Samen scores 109 for teat length. In Italy, the progeny proven Nr.2 for PFT, Rally, is in the lead for teat length. Rally recently appeared in BullTalk in HI (10/2020). In Italy, we also find an interesting polled sire with longer teats: Parallel-P (also see elsewhere in this HI).

Just like in Italy, progeny proven sires also dominate in Germany. Among them, the Missouri sons stand out; Missouri scores +1.33 teat length on the American base. Liane Krauter from RUW told us already that sires with longer teats are also popular in Germany; one of the RUW favourites on that score is Waldclass Miracle-Red-PP. Thanks to his PP status, Miracle is generally one of the most popular transmitters at RUW. The son of My-Dream-P (<Mission-P) out of a VG-85 Styx-Red daughter transmits 110 for teat length and 144 gRZG.

We conclude our tour of "teat lengtheners" in Switzerland, where the new Gen Hokovit recently became available. This young DNA sire (a son of Jedi son Topnotch out of a Euclid daughter from the Wilder Hira family) combines a high Swiss total index with longer teats. As such, among the youth he is now in the minority, and for that reason alone will be noticed. Attention to teat length will become a pressing issue on many farms. HI hopes that this overview can make a contribution. ●

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Sires that transmit longer teats are popular world-wide.

