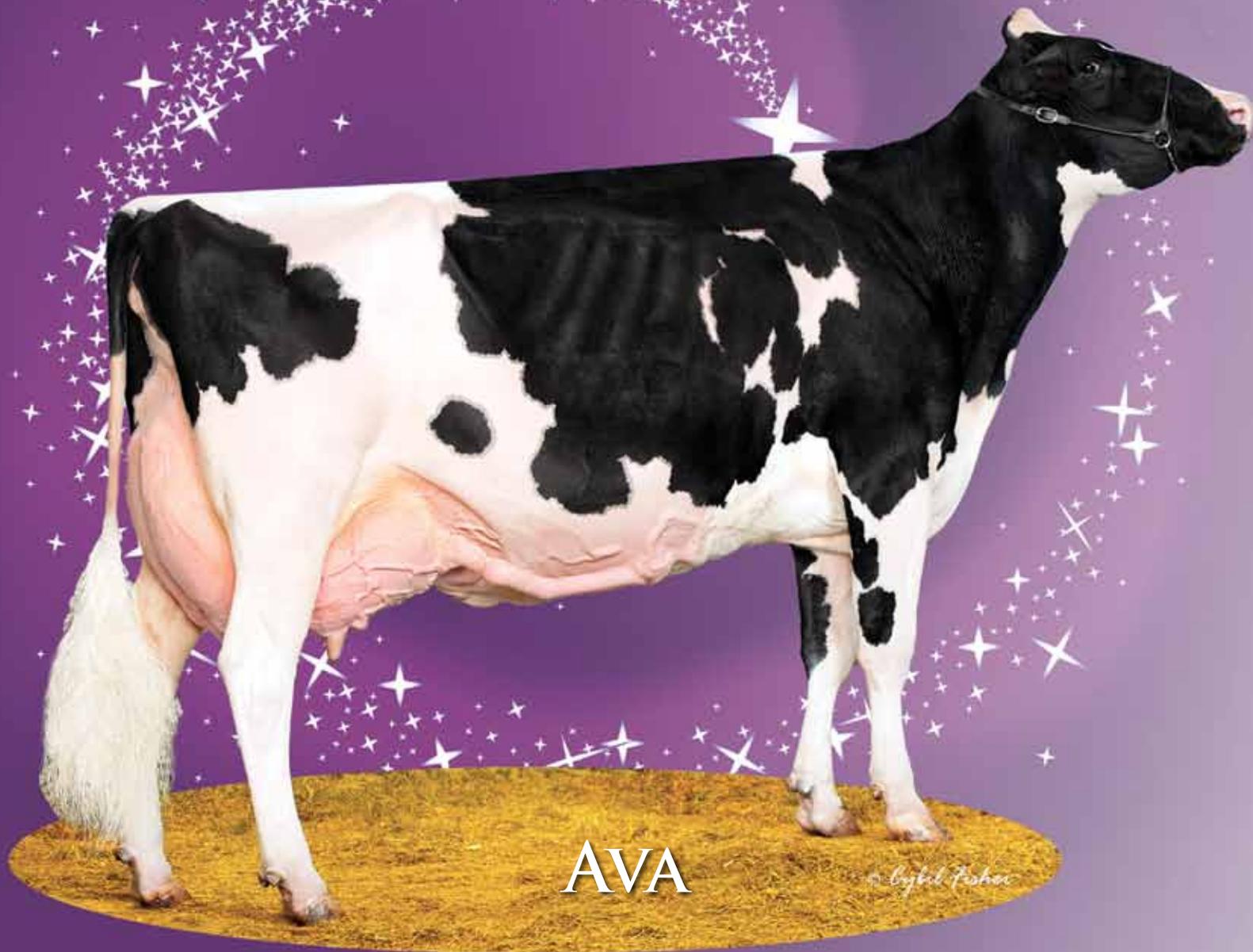


Star of the Breed



Siemers Alisha Gold Ava-ETS 2E-95

**5-03 2X 365d 56,330M 4.1%F 2,301F 3.3%P 1,865P
2nd Aged Cow - 2012 Midwest Spring National Holstein Show
& 3rd 125,000 Pound Cow - 2012 International Holstein Show
Bred & Owned by Crystal Siemers-Peterman, Newton, Wis.**

Junior Bred & Owned Cow Honored as 2012 Star of the Breed

Holstein Association USA is pleased to recognize **Siemers Alisha Gold Ava-ETS** as the 2012 Star of the Breed! This designation is given each year to one Holstein who is a “cow for all seasons,” possessing both outstanding type and milk production. Ava is bred and owned by 18-year-old Crystal Siemers-Peterman of Siemers Holstein Farm in Newton, Wis.

Crystal describes Ava as “a dream come true for me and my family.” Born March 3, 2006, Ava has a pedigree to be admired by any Registered Holstein breeder. It all started over ten years ago when Crystal’s mother, Sherry, was looking for something special for Crystal’s 4-H project. She had taken a great interest in Tri-Day Ashlyn-ET 2E-96 GMD DOM, and was able to purchase 10 embryos from her, resulting in five heifers and three bulls for Crystal. Some of the embryos were sired by Silky Gibson-ET, which produced Ava’s dam, EO Siemers Ashlyn Alisha-ET. Alisha was flushed as a heifer to Braedale Goldwyn, giving them Ava and another sister who did well in the showing as a heifer. “I realize that many people spend their entire lifetime hoping to breed a cow like this, and I am thrilled beyond words to have had so many amazing opportunities by the time I was 17,” said Crystal.

Ava is classified Excellent-95 2E, with a 96-point udder, earning a 50 in the breakdowns of Stature, Rear Udder Height and Rear Udder Width. The Siemers family had taken a ten-year hiatus from exhibiting at World Dairy Expo which ended in 2004, reigniting their showing enthusiasm. Two years later, they were thrilled when Ava and her full sister, some of the first Goldwyn calves to walk the colored shavings, stood first and second in the International Junior Holstein Show, and Ava went on to place third in the open show. Her show ring accolades continued collecting, and she has been nominated Junior All-American every year she has been shown. In 2012, Ava competed as an Aged Cow in the spring, placing second at the Midwest Spring National Holstein Show, and came back out in the fall as a 125,000 Pound Cow, placing third at the International Holstein Show.

“She’s not just a pretty face,” describes this ultra-dairy cow well, as she has always pulled her weight in the bulk tank. This past lactation, Ava made a 365-day record of 56,330 pounds of milk, with 4.1 percent fat (2,301 pounds) and 3.3 percent protein (1,865 pounds). In total, she has produced 168,680 pounds of lifetime milk, maintaining component levels of 4.1 percent fat and 3.4 percent protein.

Ava has daughters by several bulls, including BKB Affirmed-ET (unfortunately lost after she classified VG-88 as a two-year-old), Mesland Duplex, Ms Atlees Sht Aftershock-ET, Erbacres Damion, Gen-Mark Stmatic Sanchez, Regancrest Baltimor-ET, Regancrest S Braxton-ET, Pine-Tree Sid-ET, Regancrest-GV S Bradnick-ET and Siemers Toys Hero 9701-ET. A cow family in demand, her Sid daughter recently topped the 2013 Wisconsin Spring Showcase Sale.

In 1994, the Siemers family had started expanding their herd, and while they maintained some cow families, they were more focused on growth than genetics. Sherry says, “the immediate excitement from the resulting calves from Ashlyn rejuvenated the entire Siemers family with Registered Holsteins and helped us transition our crossbred cows from the focus of our breeding to recipient use.” Ava wasn’t the only great cow to result from Sherry’s original embryo purchase; a flushmate of Ava’s dam turned out to be the popular show cow EO Siemers Ashlyn’s Angel-ET EX-96 GMD, who was sold in 2004, and now makes her home at Arethusa Farm in Connecticut. Money and interest from the sale of Angel will help fund much of Crystal’s college education. To complete the circle, the Siemers family had the opportunity to purchase Ashlyn herself in 2011. Sherry said when Ashlyn stepped off the trailer she looked like an 8-year-old cow, though she’s now 17. She happily makes her home at the Siemers Farm, where she is an important part of their IVF program.

“I have learned how to set goals and achieve incredible results with my Junior Holstein activities and project animals,” said Crystal. She has been active in a variety of Junior Holstein activities throughout her life, competing at the local, state and national level in shows and other Junior competitions. In 2011, she was honored as a National Young Distinguished Junior Member (YDJM), and is currently serving as the Wisconsin Holstein Association Princess Attendant. After graduating high school, Crystal plans to continue her education at the University of Minnesota.

Siemers Holsteins is truly a team operation, comprised of siblings Dan, Paul and Sherry, and their families. They milk more than 2,000 cows, averaging over 30,000 pounds of milk. Aside from the main dairy, they have a small farm just down the road which allows them to provide more individualized care for their show cattle and other select animals, as well as providing an opportunity for the kids to work hands-on with the animals. Learn more about the Siemers family and their cattle at www.holsteinworld.com/siemers.



Crystal Siemers-Peterman and one of Ava’s daughters.