

Star of



GIGI

Nick Sarbacher

Bur-Wall Buckeye Gigi 2E-94

5-09 2X 365d 52,190M 3.9%F 2,040F 2.9%P 1,532P

3rd 4-Year-Old – 2011 Midwest Spring National Holstein Show

5th Aged Cow – 2013 Midwest Spring National Holstein Show

Bred & Owned by Bur-Wall Holsteins, Brooklyn, Wis.

the Breed



LALIA

Beth Herges

Idee Shottle Lalia 2E-94

5-03 2X 365d 48,240M 4.5%F 2,191F 3.1%P 1,484P

5th Five-Year-Old – 2013 Midwest Spring National Holstein Show

Bred by Idee Holsteins of Hunter River, Prince Edward Island, Canada

Owned by Milk Source LLC, Kaukauna, Wis.



2013 Star of the Breed

Bob Behnke holds Gigi, along with the Behnke Family.

Bur-Wall Buckeye Gigi has earned her position in the spotlight as one of two 2013 Star of the Breed award recipients. This award recognizes a cow to be admired, placing in the top five in her class at a national show and excelling in milk production. Gigi is classified 2E-94, and in her third lactation, she produced 52,190 pounds of milk, with 3.9 percent fat (2,040 pounds) and 2.9 percent protein (1,532 pounds) on a 365 day record. Gigi is bred and owned by the Behnke Family of Bur-Wall Farm in Brooklyn, Wisconsin.

Bur-Wall Farm is a family-run operation, with a passion for the Holstein cow passed on through generations. The farm is currently managed by Bob Behnke and his wife Denise, along with Bob's parents Wallace and Donna. The entire Behnke family, including Bob's siblings, nieces and nephews are involved on the farm, and help out in the showing. As a boy, Wallace would visit his uncle's herd of Registered Holsteins, these pristine cows made an impact on him. When Wallace took over his father's herd of grade Holsteins, he decided to buy Registered Holsteins to add to his own herd.

Wallace bought Gigi's dam as a calf in 2004 from the Stephenson County Spring Sizzler Sale held annually in Freeport, Ill. He remembers it was cold and snowing on the day of the sale; Gigi's dam, Ventur-Ohmi Goodluck Gypsy, was shivering and Wallace almost passed up bidding on her. This little calf had a strong pedigree behind her, a daughter of Braedale Goodluck-ET and carrying eight generations of Very Good and Excellent dams on her maternal side. Gypsy wound up going home with Wallace, and he later bred her to a popular young sire at the time, R-E-W Buckeye-ET, which resulted in Gigi. She was one of the

first Buckeye daughters to calve, and classified VG-88 as a two-year-old. Gigi was proving herself to be a remarkable young cow, and she was used in promotions for her sire.



GIGI

As a calf, Gigi was shown by Bob's nephew, Sterling, as a 4-H project animal. She did well in the showing as a calf, placing first in her class at the county fair, but she really shined after she calved in. At the Midwest Spring National Show in 2011 she placed third in the Four-Year-Old class and was awarded Best Udder. More recently, she placed fifth in the Six-Year-Old and Older Cow class at the 2013 Midwest Spring National Show.

Gigi has calved in three times, with three exceptional daughters. As a heifer, Gigi was bred to Ladino Park Talent-IMP-ET, which resulted in Bur-Wall Talent Gina. Gina calved April of 2011 with a Crackholm Fever-ET heifer, and classified VG-87. The second calf from Gigi was Bur-Wall Lheros Giggles, a Comestar Lheros-ET daughter. Giggles freshened with a Golden-Oaks St Alexander-ET heifer in February of 2013, and classified VG-86, with an Excellent mammary. Gigi most recently calved in June of 2012 with a Regancrest S Braxton-ET heifer, and she has been bred again to MR Atwood Brokaw-ET.

In a box stall at the end of a 60-cow tie-stall barn, Gigi is the queen of the herd. Bob describes her as "sassy", with her boss cow demeanor. She is also an escape artist, as it is not uncommon for a member of the Behnke family to find her out of her box stall helping herself to a little extra grain, or wandering out into a hay field. Aside from these challenges the Behnke family says the best part of working with her are her milk production abilities.

"It takes support of family and support of others to accomplish anything like this," said Wallace, talking about breeding the Star of the Breed. Through the breeding decisions of Wallace and Bob, and the support of their family, Bur-Wall Holsteins has been built to where it is today.

Two Wisconsin cows honored as 2013 Star of the Breed

For the first time, since the award started seven years ago, there is a tie for the Star of the Breed. Both cows have a Mature Equivalent Combined Fat and Protein (ME CFP) of 2991, each classified 2E-94, with an age adjusted score of 94, and both placed fifth in their respective classes at a National Holstein show.

Holstein Association USA is pleased to recognize **Idee Shottle Lalia** as one of two Star of the Breed award recipients for 2013! The Star of the Breed Award recognizes outstanding, well-rounded cows in our breed, with exceptional milk production and type traits. Lalia was bred by Idee Holsteins of Hunter River, Prince Edward Island, Canada, and is currently owned by Milk Source LLC, Kaukauna, Wis.

Milk Source was formed by partners Jim Ostrom, John Vosters and Todd Willer, when they bought a 180-cow tiestall facility in Kaukauna, Wis., from John's parents in the early 1990's. Tidy-View Dairy and the main office are located on this original piece of land bought by the partnership. Today, there are seven facilities operating under Milk Source management including Tidy-View Dairy, Omro Dairy, Rosendale Dairy, New Chester Dairy, Calf Source, Heifer Source, and Milk Source Genetics.

Lalia is housed at the show cow facility, Milk Source Genetics, managed by Jamie Endvick. Here, she is milked twice a day and allowed on pasture when the weather permits. Since moving to the Milk Source facility, Lalia is thriving. She is classified 2E-94 and in her most recent lactation, after her third calf, she produced 48,240 pounds of milk, with 4.5 percent fat (2,191 pounds) and 3.1 percent protein (1,484 pounds) in 365 days. "The best part of working with her is her personality," Jamie says, citing her calm nature.

Before she came to the United States, Lalia made her mark on the show scene in 2009 as a milking yearling. That year, she was awarded Honorable Mention All-Canadian Milking Yearling, Reserve All-Quebec Milking Yearling, and Third Milking Yearling at the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair.

The Milk Source group bought Lalia in 2011 as a three-year-old cow. "She is a beautifully framed cow," says Milk Source partner, Jim Ostrom. It was her tremendous frame that caught their eye and the Milk Source team bought her in a private sale.

Lalia currently has 16 registered daughters, from four sires. Her daughters are sired by Braedale Goldwyn, Crackholm Fever-ET, Gen-Mark Stmatic Sanchez, and MS-Atlees Sht

Aftershock-ET. Due in June are calves from a flush to Maple-Downs-I G W Atwood-ET.

The Goldwyn daughters are a favorite of Jamie's, with two of Lalia's Goldwyn daughters still on the Milk Source farm. Lalia has had heifers and embryos sold to breeders from across the United States, Canada and Mexico. Lookout Goldwyn Lalia scored VG-87 as a two-year-old and was nominated

All-Canadian Milking Yearling in 2013. Three of her daughters have classified Very Good in Canada, and Milksource Fever Lemon stood third Intermediate Calf at Expo Richmond, Canada in 2013.

Lalia recently calved in her fourth lactation on March 28, adding an Aftershock heifer to her line-up of impressive progeny. In the future, we can look forward to seeing more from Lalia, as the Milk Source group is planning to flush her again.



LALIA



**Milk Source Genetics Herd Manager,
Jamie Endvick, with Lalia.**