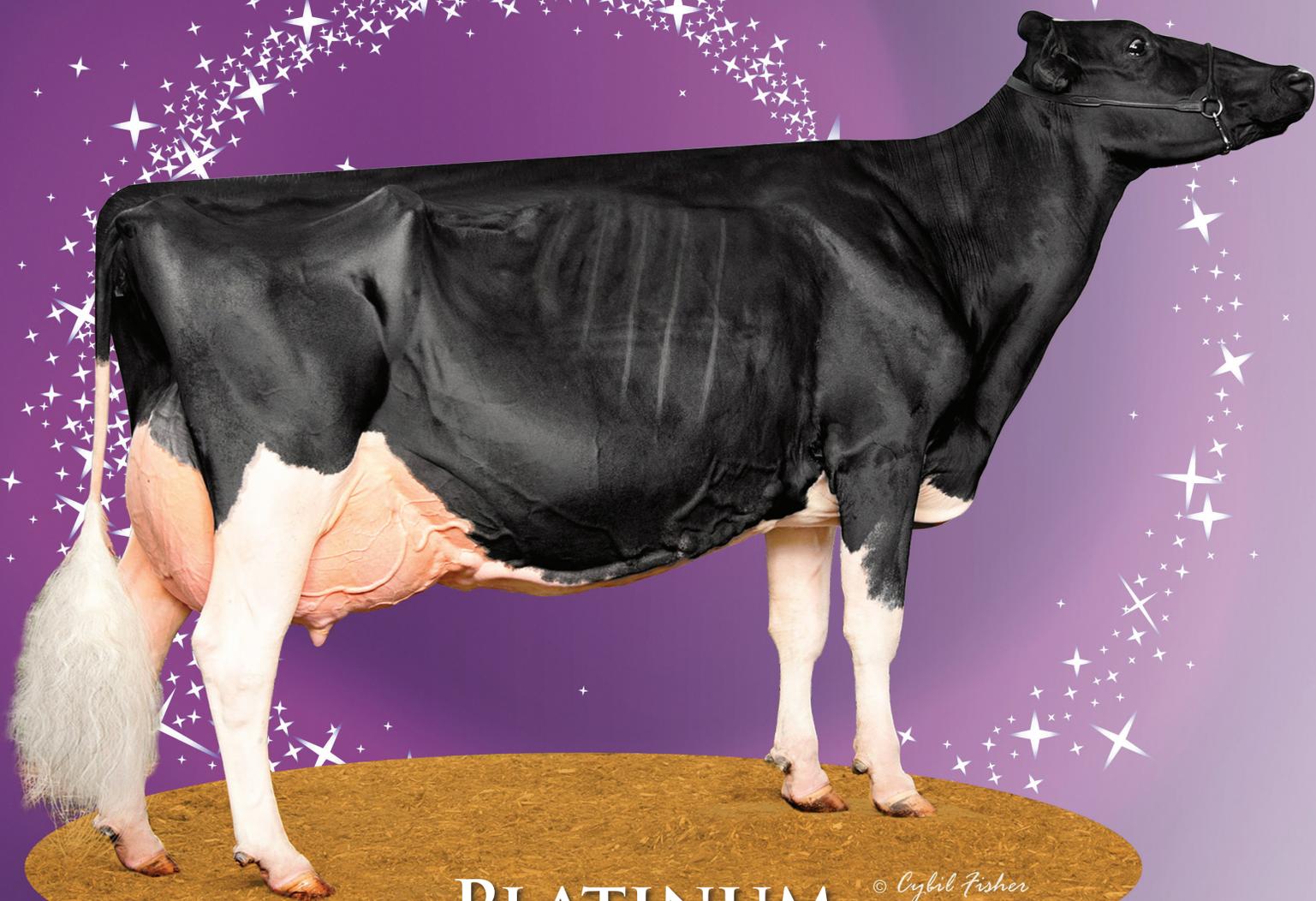


2018

Star of the Breed



PLATINUM

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**T-Triple-T Platinum-ET EX-94 2E**

**7-04 2X 365D 46,830M 6.5%F 3,049F 3.1%P 1,471P**

**1st Six-Year-Old & Older cow – 2018 Mid-East Summer National Holstein Show**

**5th 150,000 Lb. Lifetime Milk Production cow – 2018 International Holstein Show**

**Owned by: Triple-T Holsteins, North Lewisburg, Ohio;  
Aaron R. Eaton, Syracuse, N.Y.; Bradley R. Murphy, Parish, N.Y.**

# 2018 Star of the Breed

**I**n the rolling hills of Champaign County, Ohio, sits Triple-T Holsteins, home to the 2018 Star of the Breed.

The highest honor presented to a Registered Holstein® cow, Star of the Breed recognizes outstanding performance in the showing and at home on the dairy. Holstein Association USA is delighted to recognize T-Triple-T Platinum-ET as the 2018 Star of the Breed.

Nathan Thomas, one of the Triple-T Holsteins owners, describes Platinum as a true show girl in and out of the barn.

“I’ve judged a lot of shows, and I truly believe that really good cows are good every day, not just at the show,” Nathan says. “Platinum is a real easy-going cow – a cow with a good personality. She’s a very balanced dairy cow with a tremendous udder and great feet and legs.”

T-Triple-T Platinum-ET is owned by Triple-T Holsteins in partnership with Aaron Eaton, Syracuse, N.Y., and Bradley Murphy, Parish, N.Y. Platinum is a mainstay in their show string, and she continually places well in her classes.

During her last lactation, calving in at seven years and four months of age, on twice-daily milking, Platinum produced 46,830 pounds of milk, with 3,049 pounds of fat and 1,471 pounds of protein.

## Bred to perform

Platinum is from a sought-after family. The Thomases estimate that 80 percent of their Holstein herd goes back to the T-Triple-T Dundee Paige family. Paige has always been dependable and produced strong, powerful milk cows that consistently do great things. Including Platinum, the Thomas family has three Goldwyn daughters out of Paige, all scored EX-94.

“Paige formed our foundation family and has been such a strong maternal line for us,” says Jenny Thomas, Nathan’s wife and partner at Triple-T Holsteins. “She’s had numerous Excellent daughters while continuing to keep breeding, milking and being productive in our herd.”

From the beginning, Platinum has been special to the Thomas family. She was an ET with two full sisters born at the same time. Platinum had that showy look about her and stood out amongst the sisters, Nathan explains. It was the balance she had alongside her dairyness.

“It’s a pretty cool family that has generated a lot of excitement for us,” Jenny says. “It’s been the cornerstone of our breeding program, and they exemplify what we’re trying to do as a program.”

## Balance is key

When it comes to making breeding decisions, Nathan explains that he generally mates cows in what offspring patterns a bull produces, and crosses that on Triple-T’s cow families.

“We stay pretty true to ourselves and what we want to do,” Jenny says. “We don’t really get caught up in fads or trends, but we try to be consistent and utilize bulls out of good cows and bulls that are proven.”

The Thomases will not use a bull in their breeding program

unless they have seen a daughter from that bull, preferably a milking daughter. They strive to make smart breeding decisions and breed for balanced cattle, ones that milk and test well.

Proven cow families that combine positive pounds of milk and high components are of extreme importance, Jenny says. The bull’s cow family must have milk in the pedigree to be considered. One of Platinum’s highlights is her tremendous fat components.

Paige’s daughters, including Platinum, are medium-sized cattle with a remarkable amount of balance and width, possessing great feet and legs — all desirable traits for Triple-T Holsteins.

“The Registered Holstein business — it’s a passion to breed and develop good cow families to be able to merchandise our offspring from that,” Nathan says. “I want to continue to breed excellent cows, like what the Paige family has done really well. Breed the kind of cows that other people want to own.”

## Platinum’s Potential

The reach of Platinum’s outstanding genetics spans across the globe. She’s part of a conventional and IVF flush program. The Thomases exported a lot of Platinum’s embryos to Japan when she was a heifer and a two-year-old.

“There’s good demand for eggs out of Platinum,” Nathan says. “A wide variety of buyers are interested from multiple countries and they’re all very intrigued by getting into Platinum and that cow family.”

Platinum’s oldest daughter, MS T-Triple-T Pokerface-ET, scored VG-88 as a two-year-old. As Pokerface will calve in late spring, the Thomases are looking forward to seeing what she is going to bring to the table this year.

MS Triple-T On The Prowl-ET is another exciting Platinum daughter and recently sold at The Best of Triple-T and Heath Sale.

“On the Prowl is the epitome of what we try to breed for,” Nathan says. “She’s a balanced heifer with a hard top, yet has enough style to show the tremendous amount of width to go on to make a great cow.”

Nathan adds Platinum still has another showing run left in her. There are plans to conventionally breed Platinum at the end of May or early June to have her calve again next year.

## About the Award

The Star of the Breed recognition is given annually to one Registered Holstein cow that exemplifies outstanding production combined with exceptional type. To be eligible for the Star of the Breed award, a cow must place in the top five in her class at a National Holstein Show, be in a herd enrolled in the TriStar<sup>SM</sup> program and have an official classification score.

Once the eligible cows are determined, the following calculation is used to determine the award recipient: Combined Mature Equivalent (ME) Fat and Protein + Age Adjusted Classification Score x (Breed Average ME CFP/ Breed Average Age Adjusted Score).