

Herds of Excellence

Holstein Association USA is proud to present our 2018 Herds of Excellence award recipients. These sixteen herds have all achieved the rigorous criteria to qualify for this honor.

The award is broken into three herd size divisions based on the number of cows included in production averages. The categories are as follows:

- Division 1: 500+ cows
- Division 2: 100-499 cows
- Division 3: 10-99 cows

Herds receiving the award must:

- Have classified within the last year and have an age adjusted classification score of 83 points or higher;
- Have at least 70 percent of the herd homebred;
- Be enrolled in the Association's TriStarSM program

Additionally, qualifying herds must meet the following production criteria:

- 500+ cows – 15 percent above breed average Mature Equivalent for milk, fat and protein
- 100 to 499 cows – 20 percent above breed average Mature Equivalent for milk, fat and protein
- 10 to 99 cows – 25 percent above breed average Mature Equivalent for milk, fat and protein

**CONGRATULATIONS
TO THE
FOLLOWING HERDS!**

CO-VALE HOLSTEINS



Brad Cates was the official judge during the Fryeburg Fair.

DIVISION 1 • 500+ COWS

Bradley Cates • Preble, NY

Two-Year Honoree • 91.1% Homebred

Milk: 31,164 Fat: 1,256 Protein: 970

Average Classification Score – 86.5

A focus on quality has allowed Co-Vale Holsteins to sustain their operation for generations. Theirs is a story of constant improvement.

In upstate New York, near the Finger Lakes region, fourth-generation farmer Brad Cates continues the family tradition. He and his wife, Sarah, own Co-Vale Farms along with his mother, Georgia.

Since taking the management reins, Brad would say the greatest improvement he's made is toward cow comfort. Co-Vale's commitment to cow comfort is obvious, from the sand bedding in stalls to the misters for heat abatement.

Ensuring cows are comfortable is the foundation for progress on the farm, and it's allowed them to make great strides in a number of production goals, as well.

Sixteen years ago, Brad set a goal to increase the herd's component values. Coupled with increased cow comfort, he started breeding and feeding to achieve higher components — and the results have been impactful.

Co-Vale Holsteins have increased pounds of components sold, which impacts overall cow performance and farm profitability.

"We used to breed for type and feed for milk," Brad says. "We are breeding for a smaller cow that's more efficient. Feed efficiency on our farm is really huge."

Co-Vale is ranked third with their 108.3 BAA for the "Over 150" herd size category for 2018.

Efficiency through technology gives Brad a reason to remain optimistic about the progress that waits on the horizon for the family's dairy operation.

"Technology is going to bring us closer to a cow that's more efficient, maybe cheese wise or fluid milk wise," he says. "I think that we're going to find information that will make farmers more efficient and more successful with their farms than they are today."

DINOMI HOLSTEINS



The Migliazzo Family: Vincent, Dino, Loren and Dante

DIVISION 1 • 500+ COWS

The Migliazzo Family • Atwater, CA

Two-Year Honoree • 97.4% Homebred
Milk: 35,344 Fat: 1,331 Protein: 1,129
Average Classification Score – 83.2

For brothers Dino and Dante Migliazzo, profitability is black and white – just like their herd of Registered Holsteins®.

In 1967, their father bought a farm with 100 cows on 100 acres near Atwater, Calif. At the time, Registered Holsteins were part of their start-up herd, an investment they consider a bonus.

Dino says the value of the registered cows has only grown through the years.

Today, Migliazzo and Sons Dairy milks 800 Registered Holsteins in a rapid-exit herringbone parlor.

Holstein Association USA gives them the opportunity to select specific bulls from the Top 100 TPI® Bull List, Dino says, which allows them to choose genetics to enhance their herd's milk production.

Using their Dinomi prefix, they strive to make each individual animal perform to its highest potential. Dino adds that breeding a good herd of cows has never been easier.

“We focus on net merit, but at the same time, we make sure the component side of it is addressed,” Dino says.

The Migliazzo family selects for high components because their fluid milk is sold for cheese production. They focus on health traits, daughter pregnancy rate and somatic cell count, without forfeiting production.

Dino and Dante believe in order to make progress, the breeding program should incorporate high genetic bulls — and they keep a laser-focus on the breeding goals they are trying to achieve in order to stay on track for the future.

The farm has been honored 13 years with the Progressive Genetic Herd award.

SIEMERS HOLSTEIN FARMS INC.



Dan and Paul Siemers holding Siemers Gsun Haya-Dream-ET

DIVISION 1 • 500+ COWS

The Siemers Family • Newton, WI

Three-Year Honoree • 97.5% Homebred
Milk: 35,750 Fat: 1,389 Protein: 1,070
Average Classification Score – 85.3

With passion and determination, Siemers Holsteins strives for excellence in the dairy industry. The family farm, located in northeastern Wisconsin, is situated only a stone's throw from Lake Michigan.

Established more than a century ago, Siemers Holsteins is a team operation. Currently the family's fourth, fifth and sixth generation are working alongside each other, contributing to the dairy.

Since 1908, Registered Holsteins® have been the cornerstone of the Siemers' herd and key to their success, both in and out of the showing.

This third-time Herd of Excellence milks 2,595 cows. Aside from their main dairy, the family transformed a neighboring freestall barn to accommodate their elite genetic cattle. This allows them to provide more individualized care for their show cattle and other select animals.

At Siemers Holsteins, marketing “genetics for cow people” is big part of what they do. To achieve that goal, the Siemers breed for a wide spectrum of categories: high-index cattle, show cattle, outstanding registered commercial cows, and Red and White Holsteins.

They may focus on different avenues when making breeding decisions, but Dan says their best cows are also their best production cows. The Siemers look for strength in the cow's conformation, so their herd will give more milk for longer periods of time.

Dan explains building a balanced cow will create problem-free cattle that will pay dairymen dividends for years to come. The family looks for cows that have a solid sire stack, family production and marketable genomic numbers.

Their mission is simple: to make every generation better than the last. The Siemers have bred more than 1,000 Very Good and Excellent cows; and have achieved 27 Progressive Genetic Herd honors.

HILROSE HOLSTEINS



Jeff, Joe, Chris and Andy Brantmeier

DIVISION 2 • 100-499 COWS

Joseph A. Brantmeier • Sherwood, WI

Eight-Year Honoree • 97.2% Homebred
Milk: 33,420 Fat: 1,254 Protein: 1,001
Average Classification Score – 88.6

In the center of the small town of Sherwood, Wisconsin, Joe Brantmeier, Hilrose Dairy, walks through his family's tiestall barn to the maternity pen. The sights and sounds of calving are taking place.

"To me, that's still the most exciting part of the dairy, which is always to see new calves being born," Joe says. "You have to be optimistic to be a farmer."

He adds that you can see a new calf's potential and think down the road that she's going to turn into a future foundation cow.

Joe's parents, Hilard and Rose Mary, established Hilrose Dairy. In 1956, the herd's first Registered Holstein® calf was purchased.

Since then, the Brantmeier family has concentrated on high type animals with high components and longevity. Their perfect cow would be high scoring with greater than four percent fat and three percent protein in addition to great legs, excellent udders, and a strong ability to transmit.

Today, Hilrose Dairy is a partnership between Joe and his wife, Chris, alongside their sons, Andy and Jeff. There is one other full-time employee, Tim Bornemann, who manages the machinery and crops.

With demand for the best genetics the highest it's ever been, Jeff says, "You need to focus on the best, work with the best, and market from the best."

Because opportunities to expand are limited, Jeff explains they must focus on niche markets to support three families.

"Besides selling high-quality milk, we focus on the niche markets such as selling embryos, shows calves or fresh two-year-olds throughout the year," Jeff says.

Joe states, "For us quality outweighs quantity and that is how we built our herd."

JEFFREY-WAY HOLSTEINS



Brooks, Jeff and Kate stand with Jeffrey-Way Crs To The Max

DIVISION 2 • 100-499 COWS

Jeffrey A. & Kate Hendrickson • Belleville, WI

Four-Year Honoree • 92.1% Homebred
Milk: 33,695 Fat: 1,256 Protein: 1,061
Average Classification Score – 90.1

For Jeff Hendrickson of Jeffrey-Way Holsteins, developing Registered Holsteins® has been a lifelong commitment and passion. Seeing many positives working with the black and white beauties, he has spent more than 30 years expanding his herd.

Growing up on his family's dairy, Hendrickson transitioned into a herdsman role for Inwood Farm near Argyle, Wisconsin. In 1986, he and his wife, Kate, started farming on their own and moved to their current location in 1991. Their son, Brooks, is also part of the operation.

Jeffrey-Way currently milks 101 cows. The Hendricksons have bred 237 Excellent animals.

It's the attention to high type bulls that helps set their herd apart. Their perspective is to start with good genetics and stick with good genetics, he explains. They look for a cow with above average stature and place emphasis on TPI®.

He doesn't focus on production traits, as he believes having quality feed will help the cows milk. He wants to see the herd's offspring score Excellent as mature cows.

Jeff notes that Registered Holsteins offer added value with the opportunity to sell extra cows, bulls and market embryos.

Jeff made a groundbreaking decision when he purchased Inwood Taffy Apollo – the start of Hendrickson's "T" family. Taffy made herself quite a respected brood cow, Hendrickson explains. Today, more than 90 percent of their herd traces back to her.

Most notably from Taffy's family is Tina. Jeffrey-Way Mascot Tina-ET EX-91 3E GMD DOM had 22 sons sold into AI, with more than 100 embryos sold.

KOEPKE FARMS INC.



The Koepke Family: Kim, John, Dave, and James

DIVISION 2 • 100-499 COWS

The Koepke Family • Oconomowoc, WI

Two-Year Honoree • 100% Homebred
Milk: 34,719 Fat: 1,430 Protein: 1,042
Average Classification Score – 84.4

Established in 1875, Koepke Farms Inc. is a family operation where a love for Registered Holsteins® and agriculture run deep.

Today, the 100 percent homebred herd and farm is a partnership between brothers Alan, Dave, James and James' son, John. Their herd of 312 cows is milked three times a day in a double-10 herringbone parlor.

The family team relies on Holstein Association USA's programs and services to improve their herd's genetics and increase milk production. And through their history, they've achieved these goals.

The ideal cow is one that you don't know she's there, Dave says. She's invisible until something bad happens, but she's paying her way.

The number one priority for Dave is cheese-merit dollars (CMS). Ten percent of their milk is bottled, while the rest is used for cheese or other dairy products.

He then shifts his attention to health traits — low somatic cell, daughter pregnancy rate, and calving stillbirth percentage.

Dave says the key to the farm's longevity is having new generations interested in carrying on the dairy tradition. The Koepke family has been farming since emigrating more than 140 years ago.

In the '50s, Waukesha County in Wisconsin was known as "Cow County USA" because there were more cows than people, Dave says. Since that time, their surrounding area has become much more metropolitan.

Skirting the edge of Milwaukee, urban growth has been increasing.

For Dave, it's all about telling their story. He knows that even though their dairy won't grow in size, it is important that urban consumers connect with where their food comes from.

KOESTER DAIRY INC.



The Koester Family: Cindy, Kyle, Brent, Bria, Lance, Cynthia; seated: Dan and Amber

DIVISION 2 • 100-499 COWS

The Koester Family • Dakota, IL

Three-Year Honoree • 96.1% Homebred
Milk: 33,856 Fat: 1,343 Protein: 1,059
Average Classification Score – 85.1

"We stress cow comfort, good care of our cows and watch nutrition really closely," says Dan Koester, owner of Koester Dairy. "And, of course, genetics. We're pretty aggressive about improving genetics."

Dan's parents, LaVerne and Clarice Koester, established the family dairy in 1956. Starting as a herd of 28 grade Holsteins, the steady expansion and consistent improvement has allowed their herd to grow to 343 Registered Holstein® cows.

The Koesters hold true to the idea that when you take care of your cows, they will take care of you. Koester Dairy facilities feature large stalls, rubber matting and fans – all to improve cow comfort.

Through forward thinking and steady decisions, the Koester family maintains a tradition of top-notch milk production.

The Koesters strive to improve their herd with each mating. They use genetic data to make regular improvements, and all heifer calves are genomically tested.

Dan says Registered Holsteins provide them the advantage to increase and accelerate their herd's genetics by knowing pedigrees. Having data instantly accessible allows them to build on the herd's overall production and functionality.

The Koester family pays attention to high net merit bulls with high type and a strong pedigree when making breeding decisions. They especially watch DPR, somatic cell count and components.

Being able to work alongside family is something Dan doesn't take for granted. Each of his family members has their sweet spot for making Koester Dairy run smoothly.

Today, Koester Dairy is owned by Dan and his wife, Amber, together with their family: son, Lance, and his wife, Cynthia; sons, Kyle and Brent; and daughter, Bria.

MAURER FARM



Front Row: Charles & Gloria Maurer; Back Row: Angela Hoefler, C.W. Maurer, Emily Groneng & Grant Maurer

DIVISION 2 • 100-499 COWS

Charles M. Maurer • Chilton, WI

First-Year Honoree • 94.5% Homebred
Milk: 32,734 Fat: 1,251 Protein: 998
Average Classification Score – 84.1

For Charles (Chuck) Maurer, Maurer Farm, it's the people and the quality of Registered Holsteins® that mean the most to their operation.

Established 160 years ago, the herd transitioned to Registered Holsteins in the 1970's by Chuck's parents, a decision he remains grateful for today.

In 1992, Chuck and his wife, Gloria, purchased the farm from his parents and continued the family legacy into the next generation.

At Maurer Farm, cow comfort is the number-one focus. The milking stalls and mattresses have been replaced to support larger-framed cows. Building a new dry cow and heifer barn allowed them to improve ventilation and labor efficiency.

Chuck utilizes aAa animal analysis to breed a more balanced cow and increase longevity. He selects bulls from proven cow families and would like cows to produce 100,000 pounds of milk within their first three lactations.

He says the perfect cow is one with a big frame, high and wide rear udder and that is pleasing to the eye. Advancing genetics, feed, health traits and technology helps support those goals, Chuck says.

Registered Holsteins are improving at a fast rate; a reflection of the people involved in the business, he says.

Maurer Farm is rooted in family. Their children, Angela, C.W., Emily and Grant help in many aspects of the dairy. They also have six grandchildren who bring even more love and excitement to the farm.

"Fulfilling a lifelong dream to be on the farm, I am grateful to have raised a family on a farm," Chuck says. "I enjoyed watching my children develop work ethic and responsibility and seeing the excitement of the youngest generation."

PARADISE-D HOLSTEINS



Front row: Khaleesi, Dan, Alan, Nancy & Phillip Pagenkopf
Back row: Jared Gruetzmacher, Andrea, Scott, Haylee, Craig & Ela

DIVISION 2 • 100-499 COWS

Daniel J. and Nancy Pagenkopf • Lancaster, WI

Two-Year Honoree • 96.4% Homebred
Milk: 32,694 Fat: 1,359 Protein: 1,003
Average Classification Score – 85.0

As the sunset creates a masterpiece in the sky, the Pagenkopf family, Paradise-D Holsteins, reflects on a day's work.

Living by "surrounding yourself with positive friends and family and always keeping the faith," the family continues their passion for the dairy industry. It's a tradition more than 50 years in the making.

Dan and Nancy Pagenkopf married in 1985 and purchased half of the farm from Dan's parents. In 2016, their oldest son, Craig, and his wife, Ela, bought into the family business. Dan and Nancy's other children, Scott and Andrea, own cattle and assist with farm activities, as well.

A brood cow that left a mark on their herd is Plackes-Svf Luke Gail-ET EX-92 4E. She made sound cows that transmitted longevity, strong genetics and high type, an essence of their breeding strategy.

Starting with quality genetics and a key focus on management practices, Paradise-D Holsteins ensures when a calf hits the ground it gets a healthy start. This includes proper nutrition and excellent housing.

Along with marketing high quality milk, Paradise-D Holsteins have also sold Registered Holstein® bulls and embryos, both in the United States and internationally, since 1995.

"We strive to make a cow with high milk components and strong health traits, while not sacrificing anything," Dan says. "The health of our herd and the cow's longevity are at the forefront of every mating. We believe the health of our herd is tied to the longevity of the farm."

Their main breeding goal, Dan explains, is to continue to breed and develop strong cow families with profitable genetics including production, type and longevity that interest both the local dairyman in addition to dairymen around the world.

APPEALING HOLSTEINS



Max, April, Scott holding Appealing Active Holly-ET, and Grant Cooper

DIVISION 3 • 10-99 COWS

S. Scott & April D. Cooper • Delta, PA

Three-Year Honoree • 98.6% Homebred
Milk: 37,484 Fat: 1,395 Protein: 1,127
Average Classification Score – 86.4

Appealing Holsteins is situated in the rolling hills of York County, Pennsylvania. Close to the Maryland border, Scott Cooper built the herd on strong cow families.

Scott grew up with his parent's Ayrshire herd. He was eight years old when he made an impactful decision to purchase his first Registered Holstein® calf as a 4-H project.

From there, Scott began developing his own herd of Registered Holsteins. He believed that consistency in Registered Holsteins allowed for more marketability.

The value of owning Registered Holsteins eventually led Scott to purchase the farm from his parents. Today, Appealing Holsteins is a 53-cow herd. Their milk is shipped to Land O'Lakes.

Appealing Holsteins' breeding program foundation includes Appealing Shottle Hannah-ET VG-86 GMD DOM, Windsor-Manor Outside Mink VG-85 GMD, and Ladys-Manor Ruby D-ET EX-90 GMD DOM. These black and white beauties had solid cow families, combined with longevity and several generations of high production and components.

The Coopers are 14-year recipients of the Progressive Genetics Herd Award. Scott enjoys offering show-age heifers to local sales as a way to jumpstart youth in their 4-H careers.

Breeding from families with deep pedigrees is a priority, Scott says. He chooses sires from the Top TPI® Proven Bulls list for udder composite with emphasis on high and wide rear udders, and a strong udder cleft.

For Scott, it's about focusing on components – a belief that has never wavered. Concentrating on feeding for components has allowed them to make the most out of their breeding program, he says.

ARETHUSA FARM LLC



George Malkemus and Anthony Yurgaitis

DIVISION 3 • 10-99 COWS

George Malkemus & Anthony Yurgaitis • Litchfield, CT

Two-Year Honoree • 82.9% Homebred
Milk: 37,110 Fat: 1,349 Protein: 1,158
Average Classification Score – 89.3

The dynamic duo of George Malkemus and Anthony Yurgaitis built a fashion empire through two high-profile businesses, and today they are striving to do the same with Arethusa Farm.

A little more than 20 years ago, George and Anthony purchased farmland in Litchfield, Conn., to restore Arethusa Farm to a working dairy farm. They purchased five Registered Holsteins® in 2001, establishing their own dairy herd.

The team at Arethusa strives to breed cows that are high-scoring and will hopefully stand at the top in the showing. They look for great pedigreed cattle, with high production and longevity.

Along the way, they have had many accomplishments both in and out of the showing.

In true fashion, it's all about balance. While George and Anthony work in New York City, they spend extended weekends at their historic farm.

The Webster family began Arethusa Farm in 1869, which was named for the small pink orchid that grew in the swamp on the land. Originally a dairy, the farm delivered milk and dairy products to their local neighbors.

Today they continue that great tradition by offering several farm-to-table dairy products for their retail stores and restaurant, Arethusa al tavolo. They bottle their own milk and make butter, cheese, yogurt, sour cream, cream cheese and ice cream. Arethusa Farm sells products from their herd at their two store fronts in Bantam and New Haven, Conn.

In 2018, they started a seed-to-table greenhouse, supplying fresh food to Arethusa al tavolo. The restaurant features fresh produce and flowers year-round.

The revitalized Arethusa Farm really creates an impact on the local economy and surrounding communities.

B-LONG HOLSTEINS



Bret, Brenda and Bruce Long

DIVISION 3 • 10-99 COWS

Bruce, Brenda & Bret Long • New London, WI

Eight-Year Honoree • 100% Homebred
Milk: 35,341 Fat: 1,332 Protein: 1,092
Average Classification Score – 88.1

For Bruce, Brenda and Bret Long at B-Long Holsteins, building on cow family pedigrees is not only a passion, but also a strategy for constant improvement with each generation.

Bruce and Brenda have been dairying for more than 25 years. Their son, Bret, joined the operation after graduating from the Farm and Industry Short Course at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

The Longs have been effective at achieving both type and production. When they first started, their rolling herd average (RHA) was 18,000 pounds of milk and they had a BAA of 102.

They focus on cows with longevity, high-volume production and the ability to transmit those qualities to their offspring. The Longs' ultimate goal is to breed large, powerful cows with big frames, plenty of strength and width, and good components.

This 100 percent homebred herd's secret to their accomplishments lies in what Bruce calls "the 3 C's" — cows, crops and comfort. When B-Long Holsteins makes changes on the farm, Bruce says, "It is almost always in the name of better cow comfort. That leads to greater feed consumption and overall herd health."

They believe year-round access to pastures helps with the herd's soundness and longevity.

Many of the herd's foundation animals originated from Bruce's childhood herd. Their current herd can be traced back to two calves Bruce purchased when he was 14 years old — Belleview L-H Mars Happy VG-82 GMD and Belleview Barrett Ibis VG-82.

Bruce and Brenda have passed their drive for breeding black-and-white beauties to Bret, who plays an important role at the dairy.

DARITA HOLSTEINS



Robert, Bonita and Darrell Richard

DIVISION 3 • 10-99 COWS

Darrell & Bonita Richard • Goshen, IN

First-Year Honoree • 89.7% Homebred
Average Classification Score – 84.1
Milk: 34,402 Fat: 1,565 Protein: 1,067

The Richard family — a family grounded in faith — is driven by their herd of Registered Holsteins®.

"The challenge to do better pushes us each day. There is no other breed that compares to Registered Holsteins," Darrell Richard says.

Excelling in the Registered Holstein business was an opportunity we found enticing, Darrell adds.

Growing up on his family's Ohio dairy, Darrell knew from an early age he wanted to be a farmer. He met his wife, Bonita, and started a farming career in Ohio before settling in Indiana for the past 25 years.

Together, they set goals to market their Holstein genetics, embryos, bulls and cows.

The Richard's most recent accomplishment was sending Darita Meridian Saturn-ET to an AI organization. Saturn is the epitome of their breeding goals.

The Richard's don't ignore type, but they breed mainly for production, focusing on fat percent. Darrell likes large-framed cows that produce high volumes of milk.

His criteria also include no bulls under two points on udder and low on calving ease. Darrell says there is merit in watching the somatic cell number, as he chooses bulls under three points.

Darita Holsteins has received Progressive Genetics Herd honors for 28 years. Darrell says it's not just one thing, it's the little things that add up over time that are impactful. Keep piling good genetics on top of good genetics, he says.

The Richard family recently installed two robots. From a labor standpoint, this decision allows freedom and efficiency to be gained.

The Richard's believe if you surround yourself with the best people and pay attention to detail, your goals will be easy to accomplish. Darrell and Bonita have five children. The youngest, Robert, is on the farm full-time.

EVER-GREEN-VIEW HOLSTEINS, LLC



The Kestell Family: Chris, Gin, Jennifer, and Tom

DIVISION 3 • 10-99 COWS

Thomas J. Kestell • Waldo, WI

Nine-Year Honoree • 93.8% Homebred
Milk: 40,015 Fat: 1,592 Protein: 1,219
Average Classification Score – 89.1

Acknowledged internationally for their superior Registered Holstein® genetics, this nine-year Herd of Excellence honoree has dedicated more than 45 years to breeding excellent dairy cattle.

Tom and Gin Kestell are in partnership with their youngest son, Chris, and his wife, Jennifer. Together, they manage one of the world's highest producing herds. In 2018, Tom and Gin were honored as Holstein Association's Elite Breeder.

The Ever-Green-View Farm motto is "Where Dreams Come True." The Kestells started farming with little more than a dream. Like many in the business, cash flow was tight during those early years. Tom says he did not invest deeply in genetics.

"If I could do my life over, I would buy Holsteins that had more genetic potential much sooner," he explains.

Since their farm's inception, Tom and Gin have exported more than 8,900 embryos to countries including Russia, China, Germany, Brazil, Japan, India and the Netherlands.

Many of their cows have been recognized with state and national records for milk, fat, and protein. Ever-Green-View Farms is home to the first dam and daughter duo to receive national milk production record status — Ever-Green-View My 1326-ET EX-92 2E GMD and Ever-Green-View My Gold-ET EX-93.

The herd not only maintains high production, but also exceptional classification scores. Their BAA of 111.7 is the fifth highest in the country for herds of their size. That includes 64 Excellent and 55 Very Good cows. They have achieved 27 Progressive Genetic Herd honors and were presented the Progressive Breeders Registry award for 17 years.

Staying in tune with the world market and using genomic young sires allows them to be successful internationally. Tom lives by the phrase, "Never promise more than you can deliver, and always deliver more than you promise."

GRAFTON COUNTY FARM



Ben White and Grafcow 848 Frazzled Vanessa

DIVISION 3 • 10-99 COWS

North Haverhill, NH

Two-Year Honoree • 97.4% Homebred
Milk: 33,970 Fat: 1,347 Protein: 1,051
Average Classification Score – 84.4

Grafton County Farm traces its roots back to over two centuries.

Governments all over New England were looking to reduce the economic and social costs of caring for inmates. Today, Grafton County Farm is the only government-operated farm in New England.

The dairy crew, overseen by herdsman Ben White, rely on Registered Holsteins® to achieve progress to improve the herd. They've used their accomplishments to help contribute to the local community.

While inmates are not paid, the long-running program gives inmates an opportunity to earn time off their sentences.

At the farm, the inmates are treated as equals, something they are thankful for. White hopes they carry their experience forward with them.

"I like working with the inmates because I don't want to see them leave here and get into their old way," White says.

The Grafton County Farm consists of more than a dairy operation – a small piggery, a tree farm and farm stand are also included in the daily chores.

The farm produces vegetables for the County Nursing Home, Department of Corrections and to sell at its farm stand. The farm also raises potatoes for local food pantries and pumpkins for a local school district.

White explains that when making breeding decisions, he looks for proven bulls and picks sires that are at least 2.5 for type, while adding strength to feet and legs.

Grafton County Farm's attention to detail has paid off. The farm is a first-year recipient of both the Progressive Breeder Award and the Progressive Genetics Herd Award.

HILL-TON HOLSTEINS



Evelyn, Charlie and John Hamilton

DIVISION 3 • 10-99 COWS

John W. & Evelyn A. Hamilton • Cuba City, WI

Two-Year Honoree • 96.9% Homebred
Milk: 35,181 Fat: 1,322 Protein: 1,082
Average Classification Score – 86.9

Live to dream, work to succeed. That's the motto of Hill-Ton Holsteins in Wisconsin.

John Hamilton says he has always been a big dreamer, and his family finds value in the endless possibilities available when raising Registered Holsteins®.

“Just a passion for the Holstein cow and developing pedigrees. Seeing when calves are born and having them develop into a beautiful cow are things we enjoy,” says Evie, John's wife.

For the Hamiltons, one of the most important aspects of Registered Holsteins is the database where they can pull up information on an animal and trace the pedigree.

When making breeding decisions, John pays close attention to all the fine details.

They use classification data and the linear breakdown of the cows to make sire selections. Low somatic cell count is a priority, John says, while choosing for type first and production second. They also look at keeping the components on the plus side when picking for the next generation.

This commitment to detail has brought them much success. Hill-Ton Holsteins have received the Progressive Breeders' Registry award for 25 consecutive years.

Now John and Evie are pleased to work alongside their son, Charlie. He returned back to the family farm in May 2018, after graduating from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

With his parents' example to guide him, Hill-Ton Holsteins will continue into the next generation.

“The dairy economy right now is not the greatest to be looking to advance, but we can't always pick the situations,” John says. “The Registered Holstein is going to be a big plus on this place.”