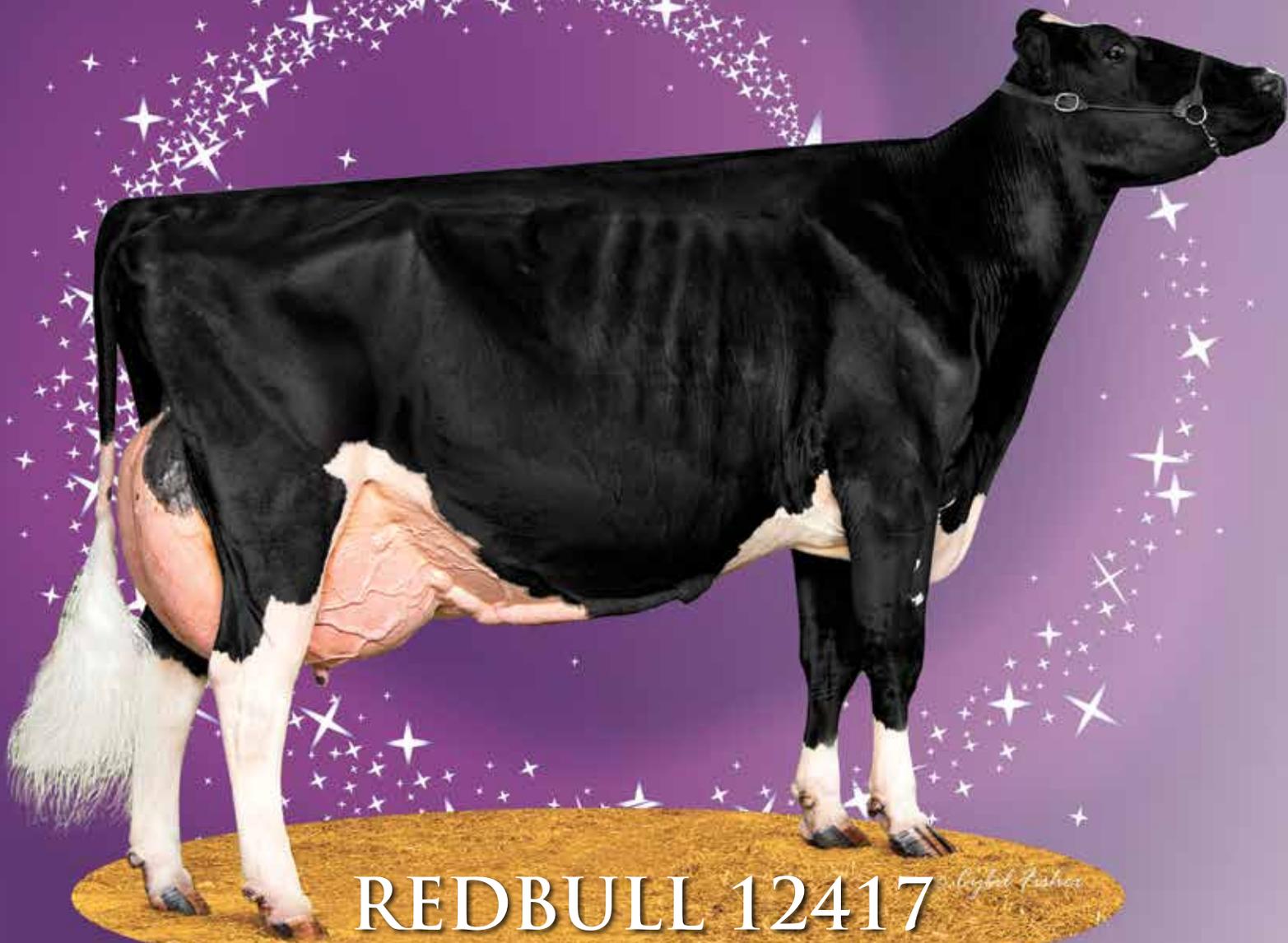


2015

Star of the Breed



REDBULL 12417 *Original Feature*

Air-Osa Redbull 12417 EX-95 2E

6-03 3X 305d 61,020M 4.1%F 2,491F 3.2%P 1,975P

1st Aged Cow – 2015 Western Spring National Holstein Show

4th 150,000 Pound Cow – 2015 International Holstein Show

Bred & Owned by Joe Airoso, Tipton, Calif.

2015 Star of the Breed

West Coast Cow Outperforms All Others in Show Ring & Bulk Tank

Air-Osa Redbull 12417 has claimed the honor of being named Holstein Association USA's 2015 Star of the Breed. The first winner of this award to hail from a western state, "the Redbull," as she is affectionately called by her fans, is bred and owned by the Airoso family of Air-Osa Dairy in Pixley, Calif.

Born in 2008, "12417" was an early daughter of KHW Redbull, out of Cache-Valley Lea Septst2-ET VG-85, who Joey Airoso purchased as a yearling heifer in a local sale. Airoso remembers that "12417" was a strong heifer, but it was when she calved for the first time that she started to garner attention. She calved in at 1-11 with a nice udder, and scored GP-83 on her first classification at 2-02. For her first two lactations, "the Redbull" lived a fairly typical life of a cow on a California dairy – roaming freely in 300-cow corrals and being milked three times a day through the farm's 72-stall rotary parlor. She made a first lactation record of over 32,000 pounds of milk with 3.8% fat and 3.2% protein before calving for the second time at 3-00.

"12417" saw the classifier again during her second lactation and was raised to EX-92. That year, she took her first trip to the California State Holstein Show, where she placed second in her class and went on to be named Reserve Intermediate Champion. She finished her second lactation in 278 days, again making over 30,000 pounds of milk, and calved right back in at 4-00. In her third lactation, she was raised to EX-94, and went back to win the four-year-old class at the California State Holstein Show, this time walking away with Grand Champion honors. Airoso made the 12-plus hour drive with "12417" and some of her herdmates to exhibit at the 2013 Western Spring National Holstein Show in Richmond, Utah, where the cow again won her class and was named Reserve Grand Champion.

After taking a year off, she calved in 2015, and was raised to EX-95 2E. She again took home Grand Champion honors at the 2015 California State Show, and returned to the Western

Spring National Holstein Show, where she was the first place aged cow and Reserve Grand Champion of the show. Last fall, "the Redbull" also made the long journey to World Dairy Expo, where she placed fourth in the 150,000 pound cow class.



Joey Airoso with Air-Osa Redbull 12417 after winning Grand Champion at the 2015 California Holstein Show. Pictured with Joey are his wife, Laurie, and father, Joe.

Joey Airoso says, "she has always had tremendous dairy strength and been very persistent in her lactations." This is evidenced by her lifetime milk production total of 166,190 pounds of milk, 6,086 pounds of fat and 5,284 pounds of protein in four lactations.

The Airosos have daughters of "12417" on the ground by a bull they bred, Air-Osa-MLE Malone-Red-ET (at Select Sires), as well as Maple-Downs-I G W Atwood-ET and Mr Apples Armani-ET. They also have pregnancies due in the coming months by Pol Butte Mc Beemer-ET, and plan to calve her in again next winter.

The Airoso family has been farming outside of Tulare, Calif., since 1912. Today, Air-Osa Dairy is a family partnership between Joe and Diane Airoso, their son Joey and his wife Laurie, and Joey and Laurie's son, Joseph and wife Kelci, with their two children, Ruby and Phillip. They milk 2,900 Registered and identified Holstein cattle, with a rolling herd average over 28,000 pounds of energy-corrected milk, and farm 1,500 acres of alfalfa, wheat, oats and corn. Airoso enjoys breeding balanced cattle, and looks for bulls who are positive for milk, percent fat and percent protein, as well as having desirable Udder Composite and Feet & Leg Composite values. Recently, they have been starting to focus on calving their heifers in at a younger age, aiming for 21 or 22 months of age.

Joey is quick to say that "taking care of good cows really comes down to having the right people," and aside from family, they have three key employees who help keep everything running day-to-day; herdsman Robert Ayala and Jim Wilson, along with Aaron Vejvoda, an assistant herdsman, are all key players the farm's success. 🐮