

2025 STAR OF THE BREED



Oakfield Solomon Sunset-ET EX-96 2E

5-06 2x 365d 51,710 4.0%F 2,087 3.2%P 1,674P

3rd Aged Cow Northeast Spring National Holstein Show - 2025

Bred & Owned By: Jonathan and Alicia Lamb



The highest honor presented to a Registered Holstein®, the Star of the Breed award recognizes a cow who excels in both type and production. Receiving the 2025 recognition from Holstein Association USA is Oakfield Solomon Sunset-ET EX-96 2E. Sunset is bred and owned by Jonathan and Alicia Lamb of Oakfield Corners Dairy in New York.

Sunset qualified for the award with her five-year-old production record of 51,710 pounds of milk with 2,087 pounds of fat (4.0%) and 1,674 pounds of protein (3.2%), along with her third-place finish in the Aged Cow Class at the 2025 Northeast Spring Holstein Show.

“The cow milks like crazy. As of today, she has over 178,000 pounds of lifetime milk, which is huge for any cow, so we’re really proud of her in that regard” Alicia Lamb says. “And when you see

her, she’s a beautiful cow—she’s been one of the greatest show cows we’ve had over the years.”

Jamie Black, Show Herd Manager at Oakfield Corners Dairy, who cares for Sunset daily, agrees. “She’s a cow that grabs your attention as soon as you look at her,” Jamie says. “She looks like a cow that works hard every day and does it easy.”

It Starts with Sara

Sunset’s story begins with another well-known cow, her dam, Bella-Rosa GW Sara-ET EX-96 3E. Jonathan and Alicia purchased Sara at the National Holstein Convention Sale in 2013.

“She wasn’t the prototypical show cow at the time—she wasn’t super tall or extreme—but she was perfectly balanced, which is the kind we really appreciate and like,” Alicia remembers.

Sara has her own incredible story and list of showing successes. “She was a cow we showed quite a bit from the time we purchased her. She did very well locally and ended up doing well at Madison in her later years, which was really cool for us,” Alicia says.

During the 2019 Spring Sensations Sale at Oakfield Corners Dairy, they decided to highlight Sara by putting three daughters from different sires, including High Octane, Solomon, and Avalanche, in the sale.

“We put all three calves in the ring at the same time and sold them on choice,” Jamie explains. “A prominent breeder in New York, Adam Liddle, bought the first choice and then agreed to take all of them.”

Sunset, the Soloman daughter, was one of the three fall calves Adam bought. The Lamb’s liked Sunset when they saw her again as a two-year-old at the State Show in Greenwich, New York. They decided not to purchase her at that time and waited to see how she developed after she calved again as a three-year old and bought her in June of 2022.

“We’ve been so fortunate that we were able to purchase her back from Liddle’s,” Alicia says. “She’s been a great cow for us here at the farm, not only on the show circuit, but a cow that we’re able to breed from and continue that great family that we love so much.”



L-R: Griffin, Alicia, and Kyra Lamb



Success in the Showring

Sunset joined the Oakfield Corners show string as a three-year old in 2022. Since then, they've had many memorable showing moments with her.

"They were memorable for a few different reasons," Alicia says, laughing. As a younger cow, Sunset was spirited in the showring. Despite her strong-willed attitude, Sunset's balance, open rib, and extreme width, combined with her dairy strength, has caught the judge's eye more than once.

"She's a truly incredible cow, and when she was named Grand Champion and Best Bred and Owned, and then Supreme Bred and Owned of the Eastern Fall National, we knew we had something special and it was quite an accomplishment for us," Alicia says.

This was the start of a three-year run for Sunset being named Champion Bred and Owned of the Eastern Fall National Holstein Show in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. In 2022 and 2023, she won the Senior Three-Year-Old and Four-Year-Old classes, respectively, and was named back-to-back Grand Champion of the show. In 2024, she once again placed first in her class and took home the Reserve Grand Champion honors behind another cow in the Oakfield show string, Lovhill Sidekick Kandy Cane.

Sunset qualified for the Star of the Breed award at the Northeast Spring National Holstein Show 2025. Although she was a year in milk at the time of the show, Sunset pulled off a third-place finish in the Aged Cow Class and was named Champion Bred and Owned.

"She was a year in milk at the time we showed her, and the judge kind of questioned me on it. He said 'She's a year in milk? She looks incredible,'" Alicia recalls. "She ended up winning best bred and owned of the Spring Show as well."

Transmitting for the Future

The family is proud of their many showing accomplishments with Sunset, but she's also a cow they appreciate on the farm day in and day out.

"You just get out of her way and let her do her thing," says Jamie. "At first, she wasn't the friendliest cow to be around, but over time she's turned into a sweetheart. She's come a long way."

Another notable accomplishment for Sunset was the day she scored Excellent 96. It was extra special because it was the second time she had been put up as a committee cow.

"It was nice to get a second chance, and she did everything right that day," Jamie says. "We just let her do her thing. The nice thing about Sunset is every time you walk in the barn, she looks the exact same."

Sunset has also transmitted well. Most of her daughters are still young, with the oldest bred by Oakfield Corners being a group of three Crushabull daughters who will be turning three this year. Two of them placed in the top three in their classes at National Shows in 2025.

"Her calves and heifers in the hutches and pens, they all have the same look," Jamie describes. "They're very striking and they catch your eye. They're very deep ribbed, hard-topped heifers with good feet and legs."

While the team at Oakfield Corners Dairy isn't sure what's next for Sunset, the sun has not set on her story yet. Being recognized as the Star of the Breed is another meaningful accolade for the seven-year-old cow.

"One of the things we're most proud of is not only how Sunset milked, but that she really exemplifies the type of cows we're trying to breed today," Jonathan says. "We don't want to have the biggest, but we want to have the most correct and we certainly want them to have plenty of width and power and strength."

"For a cow that we've bred and worked with and a cow family that we really love and appreciate to be recognized at this level, it's humbling for us," Alicia adds. "It's a great honor for Sunset to be recognized in this way."

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 Show, be in a herd enrolled in the TriStarSM 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.)

