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## Fidelity and Bertil lead ranking of most-used bulls



Bertil daughter Velda



Fidelity daughter Jessica 20

Delta Fidelity is the most-used bull in the Netherlands. With an impressive total of 59,505 first inseminations, the Kian son has taken over his sire's leading position. After topping the R&W ranking for five years, Kian now is ranked second with 34,733 first inseminations. He is the only red & white bull with more than one million units of semen to his name.

Because of their protein and perfect feet & legs, Kian and Fidelity both are used intensively by dairy farmers with black & white herds. The days that dairy farmers strictly held on to a certain colour – black & white or red & white – are over. They select the bulls that will fit best. Many herds nowadays have both black & whites and red & whites. Almost a quarter of the 1.4 million first inseminations were with red & white bulls. The black & whites, too, have a new name in the top position. After four years, Beekmanshoeve Bertil has now taken over the lead from Delta Olympic. Also Olympic has an outstanding service record with more than 1 million units of semen. Remarkable with the black & whites is the large amount of variation. Dairy farmers are using a wide range of bulls, each with their specific plus points. This means that the list has

no less than 18 bulls with each more than 10,000 first inseminations. The ascent of the O-Man sons is visible. Discovery, Cricket, Fiction, and Impuls all score more than 10,000 first inseminations already.

*Top 10 black & white (1st inseminations September 2010-September 2011)*

1. Beekmanshoeve Bertil	43,996
2. Dudam Surprise	35,216
3. Delta Paramount	30,498
4. Delta Olympic	29,291
5. Goolstar Diamon	20,764
6. Barnkamper Support	19,676
7. Discovery	14,997
8. Ralma O-Man Cf Cricket	13,633
9. Skoatterlän Delta Sunflower	13,465
10. Delta Butembo	12,734

*Top 10 red & white (1st inseminations September 2010-September 2011)*

1. Delta Fidelity	59,505
2. Kian	34,733
3. Heihoeve Delta Spencer	20,371
4. Heihoeve Arnold	17,765
5. Van de Peul Kylian	12,310
6. HS Twister	11,275
7. Poos Stadel Classic	11,187
8. Huijben Red Tequila	10,047
9. Nieuw Huinink Ditmar	6,761
10. Apina Curtis	6,676

## Top production in France

In France, the Dutch cow Roelie 55 leads the ranking of cows with the highest lifetime production. In 12 lactations the Sunny Boy daughter produced 181,799kg milk. In 1996 Roelie 55 moved to

France along with her owners, the Schutter family, who established a farm in Saint Hilaire de Chaleons. Presently Roelie is nineteen years old now and has been dried off. She will not be bred back again.

## More reliability genomic sires

EuroGenomics partners VikingGenetics (Denmark/Sweden/Finland), UNCEIA (France), DHV and vit (Germany) and CRV (Netherlands/Belgium) have decided to extend their co-operation. The partners have

agreed to exchange the genotyping and progeny data of all their newly proven bulls. This means that the new EuroGenomics reference population now consists of 18,300 bulls, which is by far the largest reference population in the world.

## Blood level determines extra shot of vitamin E

Too much vitamin E is bad for the udder health, too little is bad for the immunity. The art is in finding the right balance in the ration. Blood testing to determine the vitamin E level can help here. This was revealed by a doctoral research that was done under authority of the UGCN (Udder Health Center Netherlands). The assumption was that, by administering lots of extra vitamin E, the number of cases of mastitis could be reduced. Rather the opposite happened though. Researcher Ms Ruth Bouwstra concluded that cows which received large quantities of extra vitamin E (3000 units per day) had 1.5 times more chance of getting mastitis in the first hundred days after calving than cows that received only a little (135 units).

However, a little has a negative effect on the cow's immunity. Especially dry



cows and young heifers suffer because their ration contains insufficient vitamin E. Cows being fed fresh grass have almost no problems. Via blood-level testing can be determined what the situation is. In the case of a vitamin E level of less than 7.4 a supplementation (1000 to 2000 units) is required, while with a level of more than 14.5 supplementation can be harmful.

## Third Grand Champion title

Breeder Teus van Dijk has accomplished a unique feat at the recent HHH Show. For the 3rd consecutive time, he succeeded in winning the black & white Grand

Wilhelmina 401



Champion title. After Geertje 289 and Wilhelmina 358, this time the title went to James daughter Wilhelmina 401. She managed to stay just ahead of Aaltje 69 of Bons Holsteins. Also with the red & whites there was a Grand Champion repeat at the HHH. Jordan daughter Zeedieker Mon-Chri could once again take the title of honor home. After the All-Holland Dairy Show (NRM), the HHH Show is the largest cattle show in the Netherlands. Also at NRM 2010, Teus van Dijk was able to repeat the Grand Champion title. The HHH Show was held in Zwolle on December 12 and 13, 2010.

# Column

## In 2011: Another step forward!

Governments of many countries around the world do realize that it is of utmost importance to provide their own populations with the basic necessities of life. One of the most important ones being milk, the basis of indispensable dairy products in the food package. Worldwide, demand is growing, which is reflected by the rising price for milk on the global market.

Locally produced milk has many advantages. Of course it is important that this milk is produced by cows that are healthy, and the quality of the milk is carefully monitored.

In order to meet the demand for locally produced milk around the world, a lot of cows are required. On the one hand, because a growing economy results in increased demand for dairy products, and on the other hand, because the world population is increasing. Regarding the demand for more cows, it is important to start with strong cows that can produce high-quality milk with good components over a longer period of time. Often that kind of animals are not available locally. Cows and/or semen are imported from abroad to rejuvenate bloodlines, to replace a portion of the herd, or to supply a new farm with cows.

The purchase price of these heifers is very important. However, in the long run the best can be cheapest! Quality in terms of milk production traits, type, and also animal health, clearly is essential. The quality of bull semen is equally important. Good quality is an investment that pays off in the future.

So let's make 2011 a 'dairy good New Year' by taking another step forward. Fitting Dutch heifers and Dutch genetics can provide a valuable contribution here.

Reinoud van Gent, managing director Veeopro Holland

