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- 25 February Groninger Show, Bedum
- 7 March Wintershow Noord-Holland, Middenmeer
- 17 March Wintershow Twente, Rijssen
- 29-30 June All Holland Dairy Show, Zwolle

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Publisher
Veepro Holland
Louis Braillelaan 80, 2719 EK Zoetermeer,
P.O. Box 348, 2700 AH Zoetermeer
Phone: 0031 79 3687702 or 0031 79 3687703
Fax: 0031 79 3687701
E-mail: info@veepro.nl
www.veepro.nl

Chief editor
Hans Siemes

Design
André Fris, René Horsman, Esther Onida

Production
Mirjam Braam, Lieke van den Broek, Ingrid Sevenster

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Photo backpage
Sandra 3 (s. Fidelity), Owner: Eig: M.N.A. de Jong, Hazerswoude Dorp.
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Record heifer exports



A new record for the export of Dutch cattle; more than 53,000 heifers in one year

The export of Dutch cattle grew exponentially. In the period between September 1st 2010 and September 1st 2011 more than 50,000 dairy heifers were exported, one third (35%) more than the previous year. Total exports of 53,582 heifers make for a new record.

Member export organizations of Veepro Holland exported the majority. Together they applied for export certificates for 42,800 heifers. Over 11,000 more than the year before, when 31,647 animals were exported. With this new record the export industry is recovering from the severe blows it was dealt following the outbreak of Blue Tongue, which made many countries close their borders for cattle from West Europe. In the past couple of years, the virus has not shown up in the Netherlands, so most countries lifted their import restrictions. The wait is on for the official BT-free status.

Russia is by far the largest buyer of Dutch cattle. Exporters transported a total of 9,593 animals to Russia, more than twice as much as in 2009/2010. Rumania is a big market, too, at 6,852 animals in the past year and 4,575 animals in 2009/2010. In that year the Rumanians were the Nr.1 importer of Dutch heifers.

Table 1. The top-10 countries to which the Netherlands exported cattle between September 2010 and September 2011

| country | heifers |
|------------------|---------|
| 1. Russia | 9,593 |
| 2. Rumania | 4,575 |
| 3. Spain | 4,879 |
| 4. Great Britain | 3,259 |
| 5. Egypt | 3,204 |
| 6. Morocco | 2,980 |
| 7. Kenya | 1,963 |
| 8. Croatia | 1,603 |
| 9. Algeria | 1,162 |
| 10. Uzbekistan | 1,096 |

Netherlands on its way to entirely durable beef

Dutch beef must be entirely durable by 2020. This means lots of attention to animal welfare, no danger for human health as a result of zoonoses and virus resistance, and a production with as many closed cycles for feed and manure as possible. Supermarkets, farmers organizations, meat processors and feed suppliers have signed a manifest to this purpose. For all the extra effort farmers have to put in,

supermarkets in return will pay a higher price. Reducing antibiotics use is an important part of the agreement. Preventive use of antibiotics will be banned from 2012, also for drying off dairy cattle. The use of antibiotics in animal husbandry is a hot issue in the Netherlands, due to the risk of viruses developing a resistance to antibiotics, which can threaten human health.

Movable barn

Cattle Cabin is the name of a newly designed, movable barn that was developed in the Netherlands. The roof of the futuristic building is furnished with solar panels, which generate up to 9000 kWh annually. That is

enough electricity for a barn. Further developments include a barn in which milking equipment is installed. The Cattle Cabin can be moved in two days by two people, a small crane and a transport truck.

Uniform show regulations

The organizers of the three most prominent cow shows in the Netherlands have agreed to uniform show regulations. It involves the annual HHH Show (December 10th), the All-Holland Dairy Show NRM (June 29th and 30th) and the Koe Expos.

The regulations provide a number of codes of conduct, including what is allowed in terms of show preparation. The starting point is that cows should be presented as naturally as possible, without all kinds of artificial means.

Jan Jansen, director GD

Jan Jansen, the former director of breeding organization CRV, will become the new managing director of the Dutch Animal Health Service (GD). He is the successor to Ruurd Stolp, who resigned per October 1st. At the GD, Jansen was chief operations officer, and before that he has been director of CRV for many years.



Quarter of cows stay inside

More and more Dutch cows are kept inside the barn, day and night. Just over one quarter of the animals (26%) are permanently indoors. That is six percent more than four years ago. This shows that the trend of more cows being kept inside continues. In the Netherlands there currently is a discussion going on about mandatory pasturing for cows. The largest dairy processing company, FrieslandCampina,

which handles three-quarters of the milk in the Netherlands, is intending to reward farmers that pasture their cows with a premium of 0.5 cents per kg milk. In order to qualify, the cows need to be outside 120 days per year with a minimum of six hours per day. By the way, one in five dairy farmers in the Netherlands keeps his cows outside day and night, and 54 percent during the day only.

One quarter of the cows are kept inside the barn, day and night



Column

Quality and durability

The Netherlands is presently focusing on quality improvement in the dairy farming industry, in particular with respect to animal health and animal welfare. In the field of animal health, the Netherlands is constantly taking steps forward. Thanks to vaccination and other measures, Blue Tongue is under control. And also this year, no new cases of BT have been reported. In the next months this will be confirmed via a thorough monitoring review. The Netherlands is eligible again for a BT-free status. Hopefully the relevant application will be submitted soon with the European Union. Export limitations will then be off. Discussion about reducing salmonella and Johne's in dairy farming has resulted in a certification system. This allows farms to continue producing and shows they are free of salmonella and Johne's. This system is supported by the dairy processing industry. And the results are good. The discussion about eliminating IBR and BVD is starting again. After an earlier debacle (with contaminated vaccines), there is now a growing support for the elimination of both pathogens. Another focus point is animal welfare. One example of the work that has been done, is the development of a new quality system for the transport of live animals, which includes breeding cattle. These transports of breeding cattle have to meet high standards. Some time ago, Veepro Magazine featured an article about the "Cattle Cruiser", a kind of "Business Class" for cattle transport. This Dutch quality product will become the new standard for long-distance hauling of our fantastic breeding cattle. Quality and durability: the Netherlands and Veepro are giving these terms meaningful content when it comes to breeding cattle!

Reinoud van Gent, managing director Veepro Holland

