

Locatelli farm update

Mr Locatelli started crossbreeding with a 480-500 milking cows barn. In total he made about 360 SRB/Holstein calves, resulting in about 165 SRB/Hol females. He lost 2 (!!!!) , therefore about 160 will be in milk eventually.

The farmer is also a vet, as many of you know, so he decided few years ago not to inseminate cows in Oct and Nov, just to avoid calves on the hottest months (July/August). As a consequence, the fresh cows are coming in groups of 40/50, depending on the insemination period.

The first SRB crosses were about 40, and I have already reported about those cows. Now some are in their 2nd lactation, and I can give you separately the individual reports on those cows. There's quite a change from 1st to 2nd lactation and the farmer is more than happy. Almost 100% of the first crosses have calved a Montbeliarde calf, so that first MB/SRB/HOL are ready to be inseminated now. Good news, we can therefore expect first calves by the end of this year or early 2009.

Now some Peterslund (4) and Orraryd (9) have started their 1st lactation, and everybody can see the difference of using better bulls. Orraryd's, in particular, are doing great records and this is the reason why the farmer decided to buy the semen of this bull again, despite he previously said he would have stopped and wait to see some more results.

Up to day, Mr. Locatelli is milking 60 SRB crosses and the Holstein comparison group is made of 129 heads – i.e., Holstein milking heifers that calved in the same period as crossbreds.

Following there's a resume of the performances of the 2 groups.

	N	Milk	305dd	F%	P%	SCC (x1000)	Days Open	%Preg at 90d
SRB/HOL	60	33.8	9949	3.90	3.42	84	102	100
Holstein	129	33.2	9798	3.62	3.29	102	79	80

Some thoughts to share with you :

- first time EVER in his personal experience as dairy farmer, Mr Locatelli has put back in calf 100% of the cows that calved last year
- Holsteins are doing very well in this farm, for those who thinks that crossbreeding is performed only by low management farmers.....or unsuccessful Holstein breeders
- Based on this numbers and the milk payment system, SRB crosses are getting huge money more than pure Holstein (components!!)
- Because of this reproductive improvement, Mr Locatelli is now milking 440 cows and he will probably go down to 350 – making same money
- In Year 2007, due to excellent crossbred performances, Mr Locatelli sold 100 Holsteins cows at the average of €UR 2, 000 each – 200,000 €UR extra income!
- Surprisingly, because of the crossbred, he could make true "selection" in his Holstein for the first time in 10 years – sell bad ones, keep good ones. Who said crossbreeding is against selection?

We are now collecting data from many other farms. Later this spring we should be able to give you the whole picture, but there are not enough words to express what's happening!

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