

Spring 2018 Bestyet Newsletter



Photo by R. B. Kornstein

Looking Back and Looking Forward

By Winifred

Martha and I had the honor of presenting at the 40th

annual conference of The Livestock Conservancy in Williamsburg, Virginia last November. I spoke on the history of the Dutch Belted breed and my late husband's work bringing them back from the brink of extinction in the 1980's. Daughter Martha gave a young breeder's perspective on growing up with these special cows, and her outlook for the future.

We've been spending some time this winter going through our archives from 82 years of cattle breeding in this family, and found this photo of one of the foundation cows of our Milking Shorthorn herd in 1962.

This is still the type we are breeding for: well-built, milky cows that still hold some flesh, calve every year, and rarely need a vet.



1962: Mountain Fire Princess 4th
Direct descendant of Mountain Princess who gave 22,000 lbs in one lactation, rather rare in her day.

What We're Hearing From You- Thanks for keeping in touch!

From Oregon:

"We are very happy with the Dutch Belted animals we purchased from you. The red heifer freshened at the same production as our purebred Jersey heifer from a grassfed line. The milk is so delicious, and they have nice cream content as well.

We love the Helpful line. I wish Helpful were A2, but then again, most people who need to drink A2 can drink non-A2 Dutch Belted with no problem."

From Wisconsin:

"Thanks for making these unique genetics available."

From Louisiana:

"I am exceptionally happy with both of the Milking Shorthorn cows I got from you!"

From Maine:

"Just visited with a customer today that has a blue roan that is sired by Bass Player. She has calved the second time and milking over 110 lbs 3X day. Nice udder and great temperament."



My daughter Miriam holds one of the heifer calves we sold to a family last spring.

Order Early for Discount

Orders placed before April 16 will receive a 10% discount on the semen, in addition to volume discounts. This should also ensure that you have the semen on hand well before breeding for spring seasonal.

UPS Shipping from the Farm is Working Great

We have purchased enough dry shipping containers to keep orders moving in a timely manner, though as spring breeding season approaches, please order early as there may be some wait time.

Please remember orders must be in increments of 5 straws per bull, as we cannot safely split into smaller amounts.

We still have inventory at Interglobe Genetics, so if you are getting other semen from there, you may be able to get ours in the same shipment.

Breeding Stock Available

Because of the health and longevity of our cows, we are able to offer several quality females for sale each year. We make a point of matching each buyer with the right animals for your herd and family.

We also provide support and mating advice to help you after your purchase.

We recommend pre-ordering bull calves for best selection.



Yearling daughter of Bestyet Hercules
Bestyet Honor Bonnie
Her unbelievably gentle sister found a new home with some folks as a family milk cow.



Thankful for Cows That Adapt to Reality

We outwinter our cows on a bedding pack with a windbreak when weather does not allow them to utilize stockpiled pasture and cover crops.

No grain is fed at all and our cows maintain good body condition on our homegrown forages—rotational grazing, baleage, and hay. However, our bulls will sire cows capable of thriving with grain feeding as well.

Our cows are required to do a lot of walking, so great feet and legs are a must. We also expect well-attached udders.

The photo below shows just one of our sturdy, dependable cows standing the test of time.

We are glad to share these genetics with other farmers who appreciate their practical value.

The useful traits of our bloodlines have been proven for decades on your grass-based dairy farms, micro-dairies, and homesteads all over the country.



10-year-old Flashback daughter,
Meriville Redlight Maid