



Lifetime yields reach 30,000kg

Longer herd life contributes to new record production levels

The annual statistics for 2006/2007 calculated by NRS, the Dutch Herd Book organisation, show that the lifetime production of Dutch dairy cows has reached a new record level of almost 30,000kg. And, at the same time, cow longevity is showing a positive trend.

The lifetime production of Dutch dairy cows is approaching the 30,000kg milestone – in 2006/2007 they averaged 29,851kg of milk at 1,315kg of fat and 1,044kg of protein. In the previous year the lifetime protein production crossed the 1,000-kg barrier

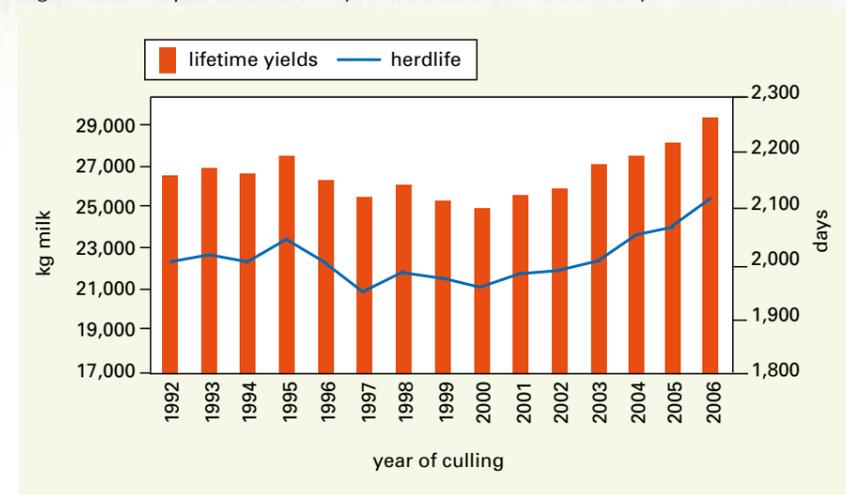
for the first time (1,009kg), and this year another 35kg was added.

Longer herd life has contributed to the increase in lifetime yield – Dutch cows stayed in the herd 26 days longer compared to 2005/2006.

Their average age at culling, which has seen an increase since the year 2000, is now 2,135 days with the number of calvings at 3.5 compared to 3.1 in 2000. This means that more cows are completing a higher number of lactations.

Since 2000, Dutch cattle breeding has seen a shift in its breeding goals, with more emphasis on the health and longevity traits. With society's focus on sustainability it is good to see that this change of direction is clearly bearing fruit.

Figure 1: Development of lifetime yield and herd life of Dutch dairy cows



Sunny Boy leads 100-tonne league

The publication of the 2006/2007 annual statistics revealed that since 1959 a total of 12,484 cows have achieved a lifetime yield of 100,000kg of milk.

In 2006/2007 1,441 cows reached the 100-tonne mark. Skalsumer Sunny Boy added 216 daughters to the honours list last year, with Etazon Celsius (88 daughters), Delta Cleitus Jabot (72 daughters), Etazon Labelle (66 daughters) and F16 Rocket C (58 daughters) completing the top five.

Boukje 183, who is owned by Jos and Ingrid Knoef from Geesteren, is one of the 1,109 daughters of Skalsumer Sunny Boy with a lifetime production of more than 100,000kg of milk. Milking in her eighth lactation, her current lifetime yield totals 123,207kg of milk at 4.06% fat (4,998kg) and 3.50% protein (4,308kg) in 3,127 days



Table 1: Sires with 100-tonne daughters

sire	# daughters > 100-tonne milk
1. Skalsumer Sunny Boy	1,109
2. Tops Monitor Legend	1,100
3. F16 Rocket C	346
4. Flemingdale Achilles Superstar	239
5. Kingway Elevation Very	233
6. Mowry-C Bootmaker Bill	169
7. F&G Acres Felix	140
8. Thonyma Gambler	129
9. Etazon Celsius	128
10. Hanover-Hill Triple Threat	117

Average production

The rolling Dutch herd average – across all breeds – was 8,197kg of milk at 4.37% fat and 3.51% protein in 2006/2007. This is an increase of 70kg compared to the previous year, with a slightly lower fat percentage and the same level of protein.

Almost every breed saw an increase in production, with black-and-white Holsteins in the lead with an average of 9,705kg of milk at 4.34% fat and 3.48% protein in 356 days.

Gerbrich Andringa

The highest lifetime yielders

An even greater achievement than a lifetime production of 100,000kg milk production is a lifetime yield of more than 10,000kg of fat and protein. With 139 cows achieving this milestone in 2006/2007, the all-time honours list now totals 755 cows. Skalsumer Sunny Boy added 47 daughters, with F16 Rocket C in second position (19 daughters), followed by Tops Monitor Legend (14 daughters). The top position in the all-time '10 tonnes of fat and protein' league is still being held by Tops, but if Sunny Boy continues to add daughters at this rate – which is very likely – he will knock Tops from the number-one spot next year.

Table 2: Sires with 10-tonne fat and protein daughters

sire	# daughters > 10 tonnes F&P
1. Tops Monitor Legend	117
2. Skalsumer Sunny Boy	92
3. F16 Rocket C	44
4. Kingway Elevation Very	30
5. F&G Acres Felix	21
6. Thonyma Gambler	15
7. Freebrook Sexation Amos	14
8. Flemingdale Achilles Superstar	12
9. Keystone Ivan Silver	11
10. Paltzer Sexation Bert	10
Riehlholm Mutual	10
Steinmann	10