



WOUDHOEVE 1042 IMPULS
(O MAN X JESTHER X FATAL)

Production proof: 99 daughters in 88 herds
(Source: DairyCo breeding+, Interbull April 2010)

Kg M	% fat	% prot.	Kg fat	Kg prot.	PIN	PLI
+540	+0.05	+0.07	+25.5	+23.7	£46	£198
Longevity:		+325 days (very good)				
SCC:		-14 (excellent)				
Calving ease:		102				
Temperament:		105 (very good)				
Milking speed:		105 (very good)				
Type Merit:		+0.5				

Conformation traits	88	100	112
frame	107		
dairy strength	106		
udder	104		
feet and legs	101		
total score	105		
stature	106		
chest width	106		
body depth	103		
angularity	100		
condition score	104		
rump angle	100		
rump width	104		
rear legs rear view	98		
rear legs side view	98		
foot angle	103		
locomotion	99		
fore udder attachment	101		
teat placement	105		
teat length	94		
udder depth	102		
rear udder height	100		
rear teat placement	100		
central ligament	100		

All-round Impuls

Impuls is a good all-round bull. His production transmission breeding pattern is ideal with lots of milk, as well as fat and protein, and low cell counts. He doesn't have any extreme type scores but is above average on most traits, particularly frames and close front-teat placement.

Hylke van der Gaast: "Breeding with the Pietje family never actually goes wrong"

Impuls from Woudhoeve

In 2009, readers of Dutch dairy magazine *Veeteelt* voted the Woudhoeve Pietje family the best cow family in the Netherlands. 2010 started with the next sire from this leading family. Impuls is a perfect representative of the Woudhoeve prefix.

text Tijmen van Zessen

He is one of the last bulls, if not the last, from the Woudhoeve farm. In the January index run, Woudhoeve 1042 Impuls was the top newcomer in the top 10 international NVI rankings – the top production bull worldwide after Man O Man with 212 euros.

His urge to produce is no coincidence. The inheritance of Impuls' father O Man is beyond argument as far as this is concerned. Impuls' pedigree runs via cows that produced more than 10,000kg of milk in their first or second lactation in 305 days with 3.60% protein or more. His mother line's breeding power is not

up for discussion: Woudhoeve Pietjes have been breeding animals for a century.

"We had two good Jesther daughters from Pietje 641, one daughter from Fatal from Russel's full sister," says Woudhoeve breeder George Ruyter.

"Impuls' mother was one of them, she calved straight after the show." The Impuls figures don't surprise him. "O Man and Jesther fit very well together. Jesthers are sometimes rather exotic beasts, while O Man breeds more thoroughly."

George and his son Jan Ruyter sold their

Impuls daughter Vera 781



Alger Meekma

cows in 2006. The Woudhoeve auction drew 700 visitors, who saw 128 animals go under the hammer for €1,750 on average. That included Jesther daughter 759, Impuls' mother.

"We had already crossed the cow before the sale, and were looking for a good breeding cow from Woudhoeve. This Jesther had proven herself with good production and had progressed generally as second calf from VG86 to VG88 points," said Hylke van der Gaast who bought Pietje 759.

"Her Lounge daughter was also there, and some good heifers from such a moderate bull. I thought, in that case, the mother must be a good breeding cow," says Mr van der Gaast.

Next generation

Together with his father, Johan, he bought Pietje 759 for somewhere between 3,000 and 4,000 euros, knowing that the breeding interest would probably have to come from a following generation.

Impuls was already being bred at the time. "If you breed with a bit of policy, you can never go wrong with the Pietje family. That's a breeding cow I can keep going with. I hope Pietje is around for a long time yet," he says.

"Pietje 759 tore her gluteus while calving. I thought it was nothing, she recovered well, but now stood hunched."

Mr van der Gaast milked her in his old parlour instead of using the robot. "Luckily, she recovered and was yielding 50kg of milk a day at her peak. She's a stayer – a large, long cow, producing typical milk and well balanced."

The Jesther daughter completed a third lactation of 13,095kg of milk with 3.86% protein in 305 days.

Mr van der Gaast crossed Pietje 759 with



Impuls daughter Trien 1541

Ramos, O Man and Shottle. That yielded 10 calves, all of them bulls. "We thought it was good if the breeders used the cow like that," he says.

"That was the time when sexed semen use was increasing. Based on availability, reliability and the most suitable combination, Pietje was served with SiryX sexed semen from Spencer and Olympic." The ET sessions yielded 22 embryos – 11 from each bull. "Four heifer calves have since been born from Olympic, two of which display the nice flat bones of Jesther and the Pietjes.

"There are three heifer calves in the herd from Spencer, two of which are broad enough."

The red-factor animals from Pietje 759 will be tested for marker data by CRV soon.

Being voted the best cow family in *Veeteelt*'s 25-year history really put the Pietjes in the spotlight in 2009. That was no surprise, given how important improving cattle is in the Netherlands.

Good characteristics

"You need never have any doubt about the Pietjes' production breeding values," said Adrion van Beek of Alta's breeding staff. And George Ruyter stresses that the Pietje family almost always passes on their good characteristics to the next generation.

But the Pietjes don't often inherit top conformation. Of course, Tequila and Superior are not without merit here, but where this family really seems to score is in terms of (protein) yield.

Impuls is no exception, given his breeding values for udders (104) and legs (101). Sire analyst Henk Buijs from CRV contracted Pietje 759 at the time and stresses the characteristics. "Impuls' breeding value is where the influence is. I think the legs are functional but rather coarse. Impuls' mother herself already had flat bone quality."

Mr Buijs remembers Woudhoeve as a reliable herd. "Those cows yielded a whole lot of milk, even though little extra was done for that. The Ruyters were ambitious, but sensible too."

Jan Ruyter still has that common sense. "We've always combined the Pietjes with care," he says. "But they are regular, thorough cows that yield well across the board." |

