

They just keep coming

Delta Roppa and Delta Butembo show the power of Art-Acres Cleitus Tex B family

It seems never-ending, the list of breeding animals and sire mothers from the American Art-Acres Cleitus Tex B family just gets longer and longer. Full brothers Delta Roppa and Delta Butembo – starting with the August run – are the latest additions.

Art-Acres Win 395, Delta Sparta and Delta Paramount are not the least names in the descendants of American sire mother Art-Acres Cleitus Tex B. And now two more names can be added to their ranks – at the last index run in August, Delta Butembo and Delta Roppa were the most eye-catching newcomers.

'Discussion cow'

These two full brothers are from Delta Mieke (Sire: Jocko), a full sister of sire Delta Paramount. "Delta Mieke was a bit of a discussion cow," recalls Pieter van Goor, the Delta programme coordinator. "She got 80 points for her legs, while her full sister Delta Mariska scored 86 for that component. That raised discussions

in practice. We had faith in Mieke, though. In ads and at presentations, we always used Mariska's photo, but we talked about both. Looking back, I'm glad we didn't take too much notice of the critics."

CRV flushed Delta Mieke as a yearling with Leroy Abrian. This relatively unknown and soon disposed of Labelle son – now still good for 151 NVI and 104 Type – was bred from the Sunny Boy daughter Leroy Adrienne 37. "We used five of Abrian's sons. He had a good production inheritance at the time, and an acceptable type. He also scored a positive (103) for durability and a good minus for (102) somatic cell counts," says Pieter. The flushing with Abrian

Jocko daughter Delta Mieke, dam of Roppa

Production: 2.00 305 days 8,522kg milk 3.94% fat 3.61% protein



Alger Meekma

only produced Roppa and Butembo; no full sisters were born.

Those were not Delta Mieke's only sons: the combination with Lord Bailey produced sire Delta Caan. This third son of Delta Mieke got his first figures too last run, according to Pieter. "With 102 NVI, 75 Inet and 107 for Type, he's performed above average. All three of Mieke's sons have done well, the cow has something 'of the best' in her. Neither Mieke nor Mariska have been examined with the DNA chip with 60,000 markers, but I'm curious how they will score there."

Lifetime yield

Once she was milking, Delta Mieke was given 84 points for overall type. "Mieke was a big, long cow. She was lacking some depth of rib, and her leg set was too straight, but she had a good udder which was well supported."

Once Delta Mieke had been flushed for a while, she returned to a commercial dairy farm.

The Jocko daughter's career ended in 2007 after she calved and contracted bluetongue disease. Over her life, she yielded 48,077kg of milk with 4.34% fat and 3.72% protein.

Pieter puts the performances of the female descendants of Delta Mieke in a line. "There are, at Delta and at different farms, nine of Mieke's daughters being milked. They've done really well, with 85 points on average and a lactation value of 114." One of them is Delta Magnolia (s. O Man), who was promoted to donor with 85 points and a first lactation of 8,845kg of milk with 4.58% fat and 3.56% protein. While all of Delta Mieke's sons now have a breeding value, it will take a while until all sons of full sister Delta Mariska get a breeding value. CRV is testing nine of the Jocko daughter's sons.

Some of Mariska's daughters are now milking. Delta Margot (s. Swamo Delta Jordan), for example, is already a donor, Morty daughter Delta Maureen was



Jocko daughter Delta Mariska, aunt of Roppa

Production: 2.05 305 days 9,080kg milk 4.09% fat 3.61% protein

given 86 points, and there's a daughter of Midpeler Misty registered with 84 points. "At present, we're combining all black-and-white donors once with red-and-white donors as standard, while, conversely, we're also using red and

white for black and white. Within Delta, around 10% is red and white or has the red factor," says Pieter.

Does Pieter recognise the family in the two brothers' breeding values? "One of the strongest points of the whole family

Delta Roppa (Abrian x Jocko)



Delta Magnolia, O Man sister of Roppa

Production proof 123 daughters in 113 herds (DairyCo breeding+, Interbull January 2009)

kg milk	% fat	% prot.	kg fat	kg prot.	PIN	PLI
+435	+0.01	+0.06	+17.2	+18.5	£34	£123
Longevity:		183 (above average)				
SCC:		4 (average)				
Calving ease:		103 (easy)				
Temperament:		101 (average)				
Milking speed:		101 (average)				
Type Merit:		+2.67				

Photogenic animals

Between 15 and 20 daughters of Roppa have been seen by Jos Schut of CRV. "These are uniform, well-developed heifers, well-proportioned. Their udders are strikingly good. The rear udders are high and wide and the teats are nicely square.

Finding photogenic animals from Roppa is not a problem." With 103 for calving ease, Roppa is suitable for use on maiden heifers. CRV is currently testing 20 sons of both Roppa and Butembo.

is their good udders and legs. In particular their legs are strong. That was started by Etazon Vienna, Delta Mieke's great-grandmother and the best Mascot daughter we've ever had for legs. But you can see it also in Paramount and Win 395, for instance, and in Butembo. And the protein in the family is usually strong as well, and you can see that in Roppa and Butembo too."

There are now two side branches of the tree that even Pieter finds following hard sometimes. "We're not finished with this family yet anyway. Butembo and Roppa definitely won't be the last sires to make it to sire of sons."

Inge van Drie

