



AALSHORST PLEASURE
(TALENT X MERTON X GOLDIE)

Production proof: 101 daughters in 62 herds
(Source DairyCo breeding+, Interbull August 2010)

Kg M	% fat	% prot.	Kg fat	Kg prot.	PIN	PLI
+196	+12.0	+0.05	+12.1	+0.07	£25	£117

Longevity: **+491 days (exceptional)**

SCC: **-9 (very good)**

Calving ease: **105 (easy)**

Temperament: **102 (good)**

Milking speed: **107 (excellent)**

Type Merit: **+1.8**

Conformation traits, 35 daughters in 22 herds
(Source NVO, August 2010)

	88	100	112
frame	108		
dairy strength	102		
udder	110		
feet and legs	104		
total score	110		
stature	106		
chest width	103		
body depth	106		
angularity	106		
condition score	97		
rump angle	98		
rump width	110		
rear legs rear view	104		
rear legs side view	98		
foot angle	106		
locomotion	102		
fore udder attachment	108		
front teat placement	109		
teat length	95		
udder depth	105		
rear udder height	109		
rear teat placement	109		
central ligament	107		

Frames, udders and rumps

Aalshorst Pleasure has strong udder and body traits giving a high Total Score of 110. With +491 days this Talent son has a high breeding value for longevity, is easy calving with good management traits, especially milking speed 107, and is currently one of the best bulls in AI in the Netherlands for non-return rate (NR +4%). Pleasure is available from Avoncroft priced at £17 per straw. Free-phone 0800 7831880.

Geertje 54's second son gives breeders and producers something to smile about

Pure Pleasure

The name is apt – as dairy breeders and producers, the family behind red bull Aalshorst Pleasure has indeed brought pleasure to Gerrit-Jan and Roland Scholten for many years. Pleasure is Aalshorst Geertje 54's second son to make AI status after Aalshorst Balaton. And there is still more fresh blood to come.

text **Annelies Debergh**

Successive index rounds have steadily consolidated the breeding value of red-and-white Talent son Aalshorst Pleasure. With a PLI gain of £36, Pleasure's breeding value rose in August to £117 PLI, based on +196kg of milk, a good content ratio of +12kg, +0.05% of fat and +12kg, +0.07% of protein, 110 points for conformation and +491 days for longevity.

So after CRV's Aalshorst Balaton, the Talent son in KI Kampen's portfolio is the second top-quality breeding bull to be bred by the Scholten family out of the Aalshorst Geertjes. Meanwhile, he is strengthening his position on the sire chart.

At the home of Roland Scholten's dairy business, the red-and-white Geertje family have had a reputation for sustained production for many years. "This family of cows has been here since way back," says Roland. Together with his father, Gerrit-Jan, he runs day-to-day operations at the unit.

Lactation values

"They always were cows with high lactation values. They were generally cows with deep, open chests – cows with a lot of capacity and that were able to take a lot of roughage in their feed."

It was out of love of breeding that they first began meticulously pairing cattle from their own breeding families. So the heavy-milking Pigeonwood red daughter Geertje 42 – producing 44,223kg of milk with 4.91% of fat and 3.79% of protein in four lactations – was paired with bull Goldie Red.

The VG 84 Geertje 46, in her very first lactation, produced 10,172kg of milk

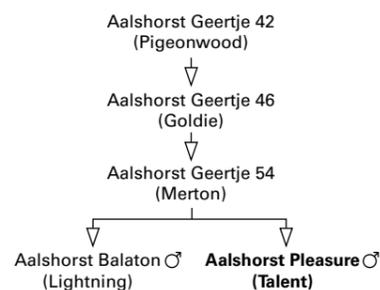


Roland Scholten

with 4.21% of fat and 3.39% of protein in 305 days, which put her in the top cow-index lists.

Her match with Holland Merton was also carefully considered. "I was looking for a special bull and because we were using a lot of test bulls at that time, I looked in that direction," explains Roland. "It was at the time when Lucky Leo daughters were the only black and whites doing well in the show ring. The red-and-white with the highest cow index at the time was Massia 13. So I went for her red-factor Lucky Leo son Holland Merton."

The combination worked out well and resulted in the red-and-white Aalshorst Geertje 54. "We had a total of 10 Holland Merton daughters milking," says Roland.



Pleasure daughter Aalshorst Dinie

"And we still have six of them, all eight-to-ten-year-old cows. That really says it all."

AI interest in Geertje 54 was not immediate. It was in that period that Roland first invested in embryos. It was initially the red-and-white heifer calf Giny 2, from the pairing of the AI bull Jerom with Topspeed Giny, that caught the attention of the breeding organisation CRV. "We got a contract for Giny 2, but also for Geertje 54."

AI interest

A flushing as a yearling heifer with Lightning resulted in the red-and-white AI bull Aalshorst Balaton, currently scoring £91PLI and 103 for conformation. In addition to Balaton, the flushing also produced a full sister from the same combination – Lightning daughter Aalshorst Geertje 61 – which later also attracted AI interest. Her son Aalshorst Romanza (sire: Laarman) is on the books of KI Kampen, and there is now a lot of interest in the VG87 Classic daughter Geertje 77.

Aalshorst Geertje 54 made 12,963kg of milk with 5.24% of fat and 3.65% of protein in 479 days in her first lactation, scoring a lactation value of 142 (the herd lactation average is 100). As a heifer, she scored VG86 for conformation, later upgraded to VG87. "Powerfully built and well developed are the most striking features of this cow," is how she is described by CRV breeding technician Henk Verheij.

"Geertje 54 is well built with a nice, deep chest and an excellent rump. As a young cow she was slightly large in the udder, but that characteristic has remained

a bit of support in development and chest depth, while the Geertjes could do with a little bit of support in udder depth."

Fresh bloodlines

At nearly ten years old, Geertje 54 is still there on the Scholten farm. So far, she has produced a lifetime total of 76,520kg of milk with 4.91% of fat and 3.53% of protein in 2,378 days, making an average daily production of 32.2 litres per day. Longevity is also evident in Pleasure's breeding value, rated at +491 days. "Their late maturing trait is also striking," says Erik. "These are cattle that develop very nicely. Certainly in the case of red-and-whites, that is a plus point." A further positive is their different pedigree, free from any Kian, Lightning or Stadel bloodlines. "It's fresh bloodline that make a bull even more attractive."

On Roland Scholten's farm, too, alongside numerous female offspring of the Geertje family, there are also some of Pleasure's offspring. "We are milking two of them. One has scored VG85, the other VG86." Above all, Geertje 54 is still prized for her breeding prowess. "It is fantastic that a single cow can give us so much breeding pleasure." |

Geertje 54, dam of Pleasure, with a lactation total of 76,520kg of milk, 4.91% fat and 3.53% protein in 2,378 days

