



DOME'S NAVARRO
(MASCOL X MELCHIOR)

Production proof: 151 daughters in 121 herds
(Source: GES/DairyCo Breeding+, April 2012)

| | | | | | | |
|----------------|-----------|---------|--------|----------|-----|------|
| kg m | % fat | % prot. | kg fat | kg prot. | PIN | PLI |
| +212 | +0.03 | +0.10 | +10.7 | +14.9 | £28 | £138 |
| Longevity: | +347 days | | | | | |
| SCC: | -6 | | | | | |
| Calving ease: | 109 | | | | | |
| Temperament: | 98 | | | | | |
| Milking speed: | 102 | | | | | |
| Fertility: | 98 | | | | | |

Conformation traits: 83 daughters in 69 herds

| | 88 | 100 | 112 |
|-----------------------|-----|-----|-----|
| frame | 101 | | |
| dairy strength | 101 | | |
| udder | 107 | | |
| feet and legs | 113 | | |
| total score | 110 | | |
| stature | 101 | | |
| chest width | 97 | | |
| body depth | 97 | | |
| angularity | 102 | | |
| condition score | 97 | | |
| rump angle | 95 | | |
| rump width | 104 | | |
| rear legs rear view | 112 | | |
| rear legs side view | 96 | | |
| foot angle | 103 | | |
| locomotion | 114 | | |
| fore udder attachment | 102 | | |
| front teat placement | 110 | | |
| teat length | 97 | | |
| udder depth | 107 | | |
| rear udder height | 110 | | |
| central ligament | 105 | | |
| rear teat placement | 106 | | |

Out-cross pedigree

Dome's Navarro is broadly usable due to his out-cross pedigree and his complete profile. This Mascol son from a Melchior daughter knows how to increase his milk yield, as well as protein level, and offers a great calving ease breeding value (109). The feet and legs of Navarro daughters are of a high quality (112 feet and legs, 108 hoof health) with fantastic locomotion (114).

Dome's Navarro is in demand, thanks to his calving ease and high functional trait scores

Super-functional and popular sire

Self-sufficiency is a sought-after quality in cows today and Navarro passes this on to his progeny. He produces easy calvings, sires daughters with super hoof health, and has excellent scores for the functional traits of udders and feet and legs.

text **Marieke de Weerd**

The bigger herds become, the more important it is for them to work efficiently. The 220-cow unit run by the Van den Bosch family in The Netherlands is no exception. Navarro's breeder Mathé van den Bosch says: "Everything is done according to set work patterns. Part of this is that we have been using the Sirematch programme since the early years." Mathé's breeding goal is to produce easy-to-manage cows that get in calf quickly and have good legs and feet, as well as longevity. In terms of production,

kilogrammes of milk are a particular focus of attention. With the aid of this breeding goal and appropriate Sirematch advice, a lot of high production animals are born in the Van den Bosch herd. For example, there is Navarro's great great grand dam, Ambo (sire: Amos), who averaged more than 10,000kg of milk with more than 4% protein in the 1990s. She holds the distinction of preferred foundation dam. After this cow, the family splits into two lines. The line that produced Navarro

Dome's Davine (VG87) is Navarro's grand dam



Elly Geverink



Navarro daughter Gerrie 29



Navarro daughter Koba 163

starts with Labelle daughter Labelle-Ambo. The cows in this line are characterised by strong conformation traits and high protein. "The other branch of the family is characterised mainly by high production," says Mathé. This line led to Jabot daughter Tesamo Jabot. As a heifer, she was the top ranking Inet cow in the Netherlands in 1997 and continued to rank highly in later years.

'Break-through' bull

"It was this Jabot daughter that got us into breeding," says Mathé. This cow and a number of family members were flushed intensively. "Between seven and ten bulls from this family were tested, of which Navarro is the second to break through. For me, the fact that it's worked out like this is a testimony to the Sirematch system. You don't have to be an authority to make genetic progress with your herd," says Mathé. In her time, Navarro's great grand dam Labelle-Ambo was one of the best cows in the herd. Even now, she would be an asset to any herd with her average yield of 11,250kg of milk with 4.97% fat and 3.73% protein. This cow is the dam of the first bull from this family to

break through as a breeding bull, Dome's Danza. Unfortunately, this bull turned out to have the BLAD factor so CRV chose not to market him. Another good descendant of Labelle-Ambo is Addison daughter Dome's Davine. Mathé describes this cow as 'a monster of an animal, one that stands out right away'. Davine was huge, with very broad forequarters, good capacity and a broad rump. Her udder was attached very high, so she achieved the maximum score of nine for rear udder height. In total, her udder was awarded a rating of 88 points and her frame 87 points. In production too, this cow held her own with the other cows in the family by putting up an impressive performance, producing as much 15,355kg of milk in her second 305-day lactation, giving her a lactation value of 135.

High constituents

Her daughter, Domes Reca, is Navarro's dam. She surpassed her herd mates in terms of production, mainly through her high fat and protein yield. In her second lactation she produced 9,401kg of milk with 4.66% fat and 3.72% protein, giving her a lactation value of 117.

In her third lactation she added a little extra and her average protein percentage over the whole lactation came out at 3.82%. Like her dam, Melchior daughter Reca was a large, broad cow with good capacity and she also had a high-attached udder with a strong suspensory ligament.

Super functional

An important requirement for cows nowadays is self-sufficiency. As Mathé puts it: "The cows that you don't come across are often the best ones. They visit the robot on time, get in calf on time and don't get sick. So the less I know them, the better they are." Navarro is ideally suited to this trend towards bigger and bigger herds with the goal of producing self-sufficient cows. His progeny are easily born. He passes on super hoof health and has excellent scores for the functional traits of udders and feet and legs. Navarro daughters also have straight rear legs, excellent locomotion and shallow, high-attached udders. They produce milk with a high protein percentage. |

Genomic potential

None of the cows in the Van den Bosch herd enjoys preferential treatment. "It's pretty busy on our unit and there's a fair amount of competition, so it would be nice if we could give them a bit more attention, perhaps then they'd achieve even higher yields", Mathé van den Bosch says. "But we just don't have the time for that. Genetics don't alter that fact of course. "So it's nice that we now have

genomics as well to show us what they can do." Mathé says that CRV's use of genomics gives it an even better understanding of the animals' capabilities compared with an understanding based solely on conformation traits and production results. "It enables CRV, for example, to identify a wider group of producers and a wider group of cows of potential interest to the breeding programme," he says.

