

SIRE REPORT



DELTA REFINER
(MANAGER X SD JORDAN X JOCKO)

Production proof: 66 daughters in 53 herds
(Source: GES/DairyCo breeding+, December 2012)

kg m.	% fat	% prot.	kg fat	kg prot.	PIN	PLI
+494	-0.03	+0.01	+17.1	+17.1	£30	£143

Longevity: **+149 days**

SCC: **-21**

Calving ease: **108**

Temperament: **101**

Milking speed: **97**

Fertility: **97**

Conformation traits: 33 daughters in 28 herds

	88	100	112
frame	105		
dairy strength	105		
udder	111		
feet and legs	107		
total score	111		
stature	105		
chest width	102		
body depth	102		
angularity	101		
condition score	102		
rump angle	97		
rump width	102		
rear legs rear view	101		
rear legs side view	95		
foot angle	105		
locomotion	105		
fore udder attachment	109		
front teat placement	107		
teat length	101		
udder depth	108		
rear udder height	107		
central ligament	99		
rear teat placement	103		

Heavy, strong boned cows

Refiners daughters are somewhat broader than average and have extra muscle. That is to say, they are 'heavy, strong boned' cows. This is how Marcel Hellegers, cow photo scout at CRV describes the 18 Refiner daughters that he saw. "The leg quality is rather coarser in the bone – you can see that in the whole cow – but they walk easily. They also have flexible, well-formed udders with neat, rather longer teats. They are cows that develop nicely, that rough bone sits better with a third-calf cow than with a heifer."

Manager son Delta Refiner is the latest success from the Art-Acres Tex B family

Patent on AI bulls

Descendants of Art-Acres Cleitus Tex B have contributed to CRV's Delta breeding programme for the past 21 years. There are a large number of bulls with the Delta prefix, with the outcross Delta Refiner being the latest.

text Inge van Drie

An impressive line of bulls preceded him. Delta Sparta RF, Art-Acres Win 395, Delta Paramount and not forgetting the British leader Cogent Twist. A large number of bulls from the Art-Acres Cleitus Tex B family have made it as AI bulls. But the list is by no means complete, says CRV's head of the breeding Pieter Van Goor and, as the person ultimately responsible for the Delta programme in the past, he's closely involved in the performance of this originally American family that almost seems to have a patent on the supply of breeding bulls.

"The Art-Acres Cleitus Tex B family has a long history within Delta. From the beginning – 21 years ago – we used this family in all kinds of ways. Most families that we have had in Delta have since disappeared from the scene. Sometimes because they did not reach the very high

standards we set and sometimes because we used the wrong bulls. But this family is one of the few that has remained all this time. There are still several family members within Delta," he says.

Superb legs

The latest bull to make it into AI is Delta Refiner. In the spring of 2012 the Manager son obtained his first breeding values based on daughter performances. He came out with a high NVI and good production, 107 for udder health and 111 total score. Mr van Goor identifies in the inheritance of Refiner particularly the high score for feet and legs (107) and udders (111). "Virtually all the animals in this cow family have superb legs, while with Mascot and Fatal there are still bulls in the family tree that inherit mediocre leg quality. It seems as if the cow family overrules that."

Refiner daughter Paulien 81



The strong udder inheritance is also a characteristic that comes back time and again. Mr van Goor refers to Delta Roppa and Delta Paramount who recorded 113 and 109 for udders respectively.

In addition, Paramount's full sister Delta Mariska obtained a high udder score. The Jocko daughter recorded 87 points for udders. CRV put in many sons of Delta Mariska, who as a heifer produced 9,080kg of milk with 4.09% fat and 3.61% protein in 305 days.

"We had high expectations of Mariska, but her sons just miss that last little bit extra. Breeding is about creating opportunities. Good cows from good cow families must be offered a chance, but you also have to be lucky that the genes fall in the right place. With hindsight, her full sister Delta Mieke has been more successful," says Mr van Goor.

Health improver

In combination with Leroy Abrian, Delta Mieke produced the full brothers Delta Butembo and Delta Roppa. CRV sold Butembo, after obtaining his daughter breeding values, to an AI organisation in Russia. His full brother Roppa was used a lot to begin with in the Netherlands and Flanders, but his popularity decreased when his breeding values declined. "Now we are seeing that he is improving again. He scores 143 NVI, 110 total score and 282 days longevity. The cattle breeders that have used him like his daughters."

The mother of Refiner, Delta Margot (from Jordan) recording 84 points, fits perfectly into the picture of the cow family that Mr van Goor describes. She scored 87 points for udders and 84 for



Jordan daughter Delta Margot, Delta Refiner's dam

feet and legs. As a heifer she produced 9,028kg of milk with 4.46% fat and 3.40% protein in 305 days. "In udders and leg quality she was very good. Within Delta we had four or five donors of Swamo Delta Jordan. Margot was one of the better ones for udders," says Mr van Goor, who also says that the Jordan daughter might show a bit more depth. "That is something that you see more often in the cow family. The cows are late maturing; they need a bit more time to develop. That also applied to Delta Mariska and Delta Priscilla, the mother and great-grandmother of Margot. In their time they were splendid heifers, but a little more depth would have been nice."

However, in carrying out the mating that would lead to Delta Margot, Mr van Goor paid little attention to depth. He

combined Delta Mariska with Swamo Delta Jordan, a bull with a normal type, good production and above all a remarkably long lifespan and good health characteristics.

"Jordan was not the most appealing of bulls at that time. He came into the limelight mainly due to the attention paid to healthy cows." The bull died in the waiting period, which prevented widespread use.

Next generation

A generation later, Mr van Goor again let health be the deciding factor in the choice of bull. He mated Delta Margot with the German Mtoto son Manager. "As a contemporary, Manager was always a little in Shottle's shadow. Shottle was the more popular of the two. He inherited more milk and a better type but Manager was better with regard to health characteristics."

In total CRV tested 12 Manager sons, of which Delta Refiner appeared to be the best. He's a good addition to the stud of CRV. "He is a young bull that scores highly for udder health and is free of O Man, Goldwyn and Shottle bloodlines." Refiner is not the first in the family to be promoted to a breeding bull and he will not be the last, according to Mr van Goor.

Maybe the next generation of female animals may also produce breeding bulls. "A cow family is important, but if you use the wrong bulls you can easily finish a cow family for AI interest," says Mr van Goor. "Using the wrong bull once is not serious, but if you use the wrong bull a second time then the cow family is out of the picture." |

