

TOPSPEED KODAK
(KEVIN X VG 87 STADEL X
VG 85 RONALD)

Production proof: 139 daughters in 119 herds
(source: Interbull/DairyCo breeding+, August 2011)

Kg M % fat % prot. Kg fat Kg prot. PIN PLI
+134 +0.14 +0.10 +16.3 +12.2 £30 £146

Longevity: +724 days (exceptional)

SCC: -11 (very good)

Calving ease: 111 (very easy)

Temperament: 103 (average)

Milking speed: 101 (average)

Type Merit: +0.5

No, he wasn't at top speed immediately. As far as that is concerned Topspeed Kodak doesn't live up to his name. The son of Kevin had his first breeding success in January 2010, but to begin with he was overshadowed by his contemporaries such as Delta Fidelity and Van de Peul Kylian. Kodak got up steam only slowly. Little by little his figures improved. With his 189 NVI and 106 Final Score, Kodak certainly performs at the top of the red-and-white range. On one breeding value the son of Kevin even steals a march on his red-and-white peers. With +724 days, Kodak is the bull with the highest longevity, which means that his daughters will remain in the herd for almost a year longer than daughters of bulls that score zero days for longevity.

Remarkable parallel

The life of Kodak shows a remarkable parallel with that of his mother, Topspeed Jantje 135 (sire Stadel). She didn't attract attention to begin with. "I was curious about her Noorder Dustin heifer Jantje

Kodak's daughters mature beautifully

Twice the Dutch producer Gerrit Hofmeijer has put together a group of Kodak's daughters. "The second time it struck me that the Kodaks had matured beautifully. They have more length and depth." He describes the Kodak daughters as rather unremarkable, sturdy cows. "They are certainly not little baby cows.

Topspeed Kodak, the highest red-and-white bull for longevity, is slowly getting up to top speed

Long live Kodak

He was behind his contemporaries Fidelity and Kylian, but in the meantime Topspeed Kodak has established himself at the top after making amazing progress. Being a son of Kevin ensures him attention for his longevity breeding value. Kodak is the first red-and-white sire in his family presides with sires such as Tops Monitor Legend and Newhouse Ronald over an original family tree.

text Inge van Drie

150," says CRV breeding technician Henk Verheij. "The figures looked good and a Dustin daughter with the red factor would be very interesting for breeding. Sadly she didn't appear to have the red factor." For Henk that was still the reason to involve Jantje 135 as a bull dam. The black-and-white Stadel daughter was meanwhile in Jan Wigboldus's herd. He bought her as a maiden heifer. Jantje 135 VG 87 as a maiden heifer produced 8,503kg of milk at 5.57% butterfat and 3.71% protein in 373 days. "She was one of the higher indexing red-and-white factor cows," says Henk. "She was a strong cow, with enough width and a first-rate udder. And with descendants Ronald, Cobalt and Tops successively in the family tree she had an original pedigree."

Family first

What struck Jan about the cow family behind Kodak was the good fertility. "It was not so obvious with his mother because we had inseminated her a number of times, but in her offspring you almost always find cows that are in calf at the first attempt."

Take for example ancestor Jantje 73. The Tops daughter calved seven times in total.

In her first calving she was 25 months old, at the last she was seven years and eleven months. Her Marquis daughter Jantje 77 VG85 in eight lactations produced an impressive 68,000kg of milk with 4.65% butterfat and 3.42% protein. Via Cobalt daughter Jantje 98 – who made four full lactations – the grandmother of Kodak, Jantje 119 VG85 comes into the picture. This Ronald daughter calved five times and completed a lifetime production of 40,610kg of milk with 5.05% butterfat and 3.57% protein.

So Kodak comes from a black-and-white family. Indeed, mother Jantje 135 had the red factor via her father Stadel, but Kodak and his brother Jacco are the first red and whites in the family. "That there is

red-and-white blood in the family is actually an accident," Jan confesses. "The inseminator had accidentally chosen the wrong straw."



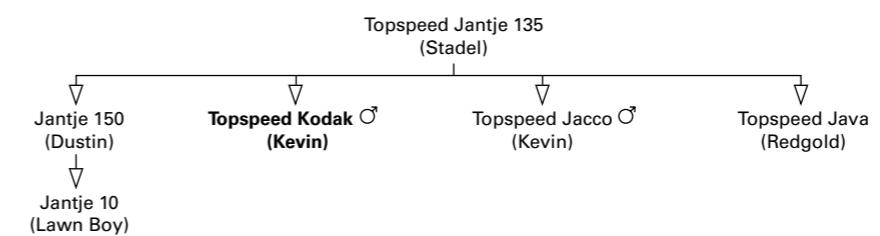
Stadel daughter Topspeed Jantje 135 VG87, dam of Topspeed Kodak and his full-brother Topspeed Jacco



Aiger Meekma

Dustin daughter Jantje 150 VG89, half sister to Kodak, completed a lifetime production of 61,035kg of milk with 4.36% butterfat and 3.44% protein

scoring VG89 at three years old. At the Dutch NRM show in 2006 she led the daughter group of father Dustin and in the individual testing she achieved a fourth place in the section. "Jantje 150 was a well-proportioned cow of about 1.5 metres. She looked good with strong



bones and an excellent head. I like that kind of cow; I liked to see her during presentation," says Tonny Koekoek. The person in charge of breeding at CRV would have liked to use her for the black-and-white breeding programme, but unluckily her sons were not included.

"Dustin Jantje could have looked more robust, but she was a typical milk cow, long ribbed and deep. Her udder was perfect. I see that too in her offspring – their udders are a picture," says owner Gerbert Oonk.

Offspring from the Dustin daughter include two maiden heifers, a Lawn Boy and a Roumare, and a twice-calved Janos daughter. Little by little they have scored VG85 points and they produce above the herd average. "The Jantjes are not striking as calves. We usually have strong calves, round 50kg to 55 kg in weight on the farm. The Jantjes are 10kg lighter at birth, but they go on growing. They really are late-maturing animals." Lawn Boy daughter Jantje 10 is now in calf with Delta Emerald. "If a polled bull calf is born, it will most probably go to CRV," says Gerbert.

Hard-working daughters

There is also interest for breeding in Topspeed Java, a red-and-white half sister of Kodak. The VG87 Redgold daughter completed a good third lactation, after 305 days, of 14,336kg of milk with 4.41% butter fat and 3.64% protein.

"She was genetically tested and from the polled bull Mighty P we have meanwhile had five embryo calves," says owner Arie Pluim.

Arie says Java is a pleasant animal to work with and Jan uses the same description for Kodak's mother Jantje 135. She was a very easy going cow, well behaved.

Jan recognises that in the breeding values of Kodak. "Certainly for the secondary characteristics I look back to the mother. I think that Kodak sires hard working daughters that fit perfectly on modern, large dairy units."

"I find it notable, for example, that his daughters score highly for calving ease, as well as him being a very easy calving sire. He is an exception in that."

Gerbert in any case places a lot of trust in Kodak. "Actually all our young stock are on the unit that belongs to the breeder of the Jantjes, who no longer milks cows."

"And with him as with us the Jantjes have a special place. So we now inseminate all our heifers with Kodak." |