



VEKIS CHEVROLET
(FREDDIE X PLANET)

Genomic proof (Source: US, April 2013)

Lbs m.	% fat	% prot.	Lbs fat	Lbs prot.	TPI	NM
2345	-0.01	+0.01	86	76	2484	\$915

Productive life: **6.3**

SCS: **2.80**

Calving ease: **7**

Temperament: **103**

Milking speed: **103**

PTAT: **+2.02**

Top bulls produce their best offspring thanks to combinations with the Cosmopolitan family

Destined for genetic domination

The Larcrest Cosmopolitan cow family stands alone in excellence – the descendants of a Shottle daughter are among the best. Breeders are eagerly waiting to see the daughter performances of her sons, grandsons and great-grandsons.

text **Tijmen van Zessen**

Cosmopolitan means ‘belonging to the whole world and not restricted to one country or its inhabitants’.

Jon Larson could not have chosen a more appropriate name for his Shottle daughter than Larcrest Cosmopolitan. The cow family of the brood cow Larcrest Juror Chanel has spread throughout the globe because of its high genomic figures. “Japan, Germany, the Czech Republic, the Netherlands, Ireland, England, Canada and Mexico are some of the countries that come to mind but there are probably more,” says the US-based breeder.

Jon runs a dairy in Minnesota with 120 dairy cows in tie stalls where the herd produces more than 10,886kg of milk

per cow. More than half of his herd descend from the Juror daughter Chanel. At 15 years old, Chanel had produced more than 113,398kg of milk and was classified EX93 points.

“In the US there are 80 bulls from the family that went to AI,” explains Jon. “Chanel was the first cow on my unit for which there was AI interest, but it is her granddaughter Cosmopolitan who has really brought this family into the limelight.”

Worldwide opportunities

The cow family of Cosmopolitan is quite young. While there are few daughter-tested bulls, the offspring of Cosmopolitan dominate the genomic

index lists. “Anyone who doesn’t believe in genomics will say ‘high times are always high’, but those who do trust the system see that this cow family proves its worth. If you produce the best Shottle daughter, the best Ramos daughter and one of the best Planet daughters in the world, then that says enough.

“This kind of top bull has had enough opportunities worldwide and this cow family does not usually let you down,” explains Diamond Genetics’ Jan de Vries. In the male line, the same applies: the highest Planet son, O Cosmopolitan, the highest Man O Man son, Texel Beauty Cosmo, and the highest Superstition son, Larcrest Casual, originate from the Cosmopolitan cow family.

Shottle daughter Cosmopolitan with Larcrest farms in the background





Ramos daughter Larcrest Crimson calved recently and scored EX 91

De Vries has already sold five young bulls to international AI organisations. He owns, on GTPI-basis, the highest ranking bull from the cow family. The bull, Vekis Chevrolet (from Freddie), is marketed by CRV. The semen from Vekis Chevrolet recently came out of quarantine and will be used frequently in the flushing circuit.

With a score of 2,490 GTPI there is international interest in the Dutch Freddie son. In Germany, his full brother Fanatic stands an excellent chance of proving successful.

“The first calves from Fanatic are expected this year, and with Chevrolet, we are now getting very busy,” says CRV Delta breeding programme’s coordinator Jaap Veldhuisen. Chevrolet and Fanatic originate from

Larcrest Chenoa, an 87-point Planet daughter. In her first lactation she produced 16,298kg of milk with 4.1% fat and 3.5% protein in 365 days.

On European soil there is one female descendant of Chenoa: Bacchus Chennin. She is a full sister of Chevrolet and is owned by Dutch breeder Jan van den Braak. “She is still a yearling and has been flushed several times with, among others, Snowman son Snowmaster,” says Jan van den Braak.

‘Wheelbarrow’ width

He is proud of his Cosmopolitan descendant that he bought as an embryo. During a visit to the Larcrest farm in Minnesota he saw the three generations of cows before Chennin – Cosmopolitan, Crimson and Chenoa.

The animals are on his mind all the time.

“These cows are so wide you can place a wheelbarrow between their front legs, they have so much power. They are real workhorses. I like that sort of cow, they don’t fall over,” he adds.

Chenoa has various brothers and sisters with high genomic figures. Superstition son Larcrest Casual is very promising with an index of 2,410 GTPI and also Observer daughter Larcrest Cale scores above 2,400 GTPI.

From the combination of Planet times Ramos, Chenoa was produced, but Ramos on the extremely large Shottle daughter Cosmopolitan was also an obvious choice. This resulted in Larcrest Crimson.

Milk production

Crimson recently calved again and during the first 180 days of her second lactation, she peaked at 81.6kg and is currently still producing more than 68kg per day. She recently scored EX 91 and is Larson’s favourite. “She has stolen my heart,” he says.

“Crimson has everything: production, content, exterior and genomics. This combination is important, the genomics and the performance must go well together. At the moment she is the number-four cow in the world.”

It’s impossible to imagine international cattle improvement without the family of Cosmopolitan. Although still reasonably new, bulls, dams, and sires very regularly come out with high numbers.

The ultimate test, one of breeding values based on daughter performance must still be done, but the genomic indexes of the family do promise a lot. |

