

40,000 100-tonners – and still counting

It was a special milestone: just over sixty years ago, the first cow in the Netherlands touched the 100,000kg mark. Since then more than 40,000 Dutch and Flemish cows have smashed the magic barrier of 100,000kg of milk production. The number of 10-tonners is also growing rapidly. In 2019 the tally hit 3,400 cows who had broken the 10,000kg-of-fat-and-protein barrier.

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For a cow to produce 100,000kg of milk, or 10,000kg of fat and protein, is still a staggering achievement. But having one of these top producing cows in a herd is no longer unique. More than 40,000 certificates have already been issued in the Netherlands and Flanders to cows producing 100 tonnes of milk. The precise number is 40,480 and the majority (38,597) were in the Netherlands, with Flanders registering 1,883 cows. The number of cows that pass the 100,000kg

milestone increases each year. Between 1990 and 1994, 1,130 Dutch and Flemish cows broke the 100,000kg of milk barrier. And then the number of 100-tonne cows quickly increased (see Figure 1). Between 2015 and 2019, the number of 100-tonne cows reached 11,554.

100-tonner registrations

And it doesn't stop there. In 2019 alone, 2,463 100-tonners were recorded. That's six or seven 100-tonne cows registered each day. Never before in a single year have so many cows risen through the rankings to reach the 100-tonne milestone. The pattern with 10-tonners is almost identical. Here, too, the number of titanic producers showed dramatic growth. Between 1990 and 1994 there were only eight, but in the period between 2015 and 2019 no fewer than 1,129 cows were recorded as 10-tonne cows. And in 2019 alone, 230 cows registered 10,000kg of fat and protein.

Table 1: Sires of 100-tonners in the Netherlands and Flanders (source: Coöperatie CRV)

sire	no of 100-tonne cows
Skalsumer Sunny Boy	1,826
Tops Monitor Legend	1,141
Eastland Cash	892
Etazon Lord Lily	849
Stadel	630

Lifetime production record holder

One Dutch dairying family has already seen 78 cows achieve the 100,000kg of milk milestone. And this makes Jos, Ingrid and Ben Knoef's Geesteren-based herd top of the list – it has the highest number of 100-tonners in the Netherlands.

The Knoef family also hold the record for the highest number of 10-tonne cows. So far, 25 of their cows have passed the 10,000kg-of-fat-and-protein limit. One of their best-known cows is Big Boukje 192. In March 2016, she

was the first cow in the Netherlands to cross the 200,000kg of milk milestone. The Cash daughter produced more than 208,000kg of milk.

Her dam, Boukje 184, and great-granddam, Boukje 164, also produced more than 100,000kg of milk and 10 tonnes of fat and protein.

High production is also passed down through her paternal line, with Cash, Labelle, F16, Tops, and Amos in her pedigree.





The total number of 10-tonne cows stands at 3,415, of which 3,333 are from the Netherlands and 82 from Flanders. On average, the 10 tonners achieved this in 4,063 days in milk and produced 126,041kg of milk, at 4.50% fat and 3.50% protein.

High profile

Skalsumer Sunny Boy is the undisputed king of both the 10- and 100-tonne categories, with 1,826 100-tonners and 292 10-tonners among his descendants. It is interesting to note that the top-five sires are the same in both rankings. Sunny Boy is followed at a respectable distance by black-and-white bulls Tops, Eastland Cash, and Etazon Lord Lily. In fifth place, Stadel is the highest placed red-and-white bull in both rankings with 630 100-tonners (see Table 1) and 92 10-tonners.

This Stollberg son out of Cleitus daughter Doublette is also the bull who added the most 100-tonners to his collection during the past five years. He added 372 100-tonners between 2015 and 2019. In fact, red-and-white bulls have been outperforming their black-and-white counterparts in this area during the past five years.

After Stadel, Kian added the most 100-tonners to his total with 339 cows during the past five years.

The number of 100-tonners descending from Delta Olympic, Hidden Future, Lorenzo 2 and Barnkamper Nevada also grew by more than 200 during the past five years.

Red-and-white bulls also enjoy a high profile in the list of 10-tonners in the past five years. Stadel boosted his collection most of all with an additional 81, while the younger sire Kian added 38 to his name. Noting 10-tonners, Etazon Lord Lily was the only black-and-white bull able to nudge in between the red-and-white bulls during the past five years. |

▲ Dutch cows Glinzer Jettie 57 and Glinzer Jettie 45 both broke the 10,000kg-of-fat-and-protein barrier

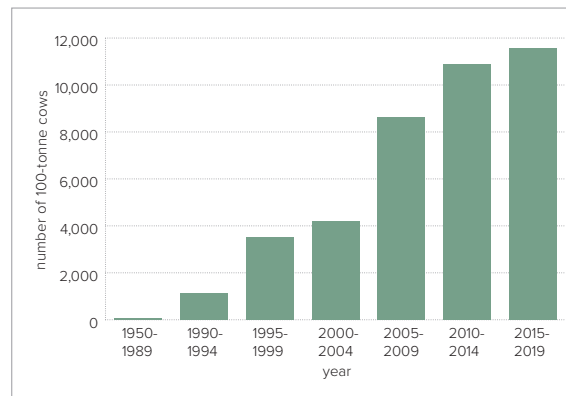


Figure 1: Number of 100-tonners in five-year periods (source: Coöperatie CRV)