

celebrating Longevity

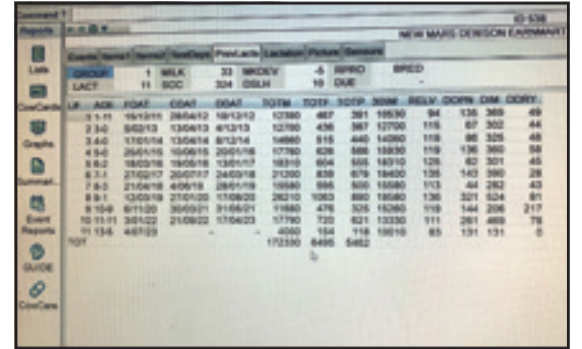
Holstein Canada - promoting Longevity, Profitability & Efficiency!



Pictured in November 2023, Earnmart continues adding to her lifetime total production of 175,000 kg!



New Mars was a 2022 Herd of Distinction (130+ cows). L-R: Niek, Mikayla, Lizette, Henk, Justin, Ruben and Kylie.



The numbers tell quite a story over Earnmart's life!

New Star at New Mars

Tars Cheema

Just turned 14 years old, NEW MARS DENISON EARNMART VG-88 has three Superior Lactations and has a 160,000 kg Longtime Production award! First calving at 1-11, she's now over halfway through her 11th lactation, adding to her total of over 175,000 kg, earning BCAs of 290-297-288 so far.

New Mars Background

The New Mars herd in Millet, AB, is home to 400 registered Holstein cows milked 3x, on DHI and classified. We profiled Henk, Lizette, and their boys Ruben, Niek and Justin in Spring 2022 after they were awarded a Holstein Canada Master Breeder shield.

"Longevity is big here," Henk begins. "We have 14 cows over 100,000 kg still in the herd today and I think it's a combination of genetics, management, a good barn." They moved into a sand-bedded barn in 2017, resulting in 'barely' any mastitis, an average SCC of 70,000 and no swollen hocks. Cows are hoof-trimmed twice yearly with the trimmer visiting every six weeks. They have a strong footbath protocol and a well-positioned hoof trim set-up allows them to deal with problems early. Their Mensch vacuum truck efficiently moves manure from the alleys to the lagoon without pumps that would suffer with sand. The GEA Cow Scout program monitors rumination, laying/activity time and has brought management to a "whole new level," Henk says. Close-ups are monitored closely which has made for excellent transitions in the fresh cow group where they temp the cows regularly to catch the earliest problem. They use calcium boluses in cows from third calving onward.

Earnmart's Story

While she has benefited from the new barn and excellent management, her own resilience is interesting to uncover. "She does not want to be babied, she's headstrong and dominant. If you separate her, she bawls. She's our oldest cow and just goes with the flow out in the herd," Henk describes her personality

She has an impressive calving history: 1-11, 3-00, 4-00, 5-00, 6-02, 7-01, 8-03, 9-01, 10-09, 11-11, 13-05, clearly aided by exceptional fertility (just one or two services) except for one pregnancy that took six services and another that took four. She has not had any twins, and while she tends to go a bit overdue, she has no trouble calving. "Up to her 9th lactation, she had no trouble. Then she got really sick and went dry at 206 days, having still produced 11,680

kg! But she came back, although her cell count isn't back down where it was," Henk admits. She's made two records over 17,000 kg, one over 18,000, 21,200 kg in 390d and 26,210 kg in 524d. But perhaps what is truly incredible is her lifetime milk production per day. Calculated per day of cow life: 34.7 kg and average milk per day in milk: 47.7 kg!

Earnmart has avoided many of the other longevity impediments. Other than her likely e. coli illness, she has been remarkably healthy. "She's always had good feet and legs - gets trimmed regularly but no trouble."

Another observation is her 'dairy strength.' An 81pt 2y, she scored 83 for DS, then moved to 90DS at 7yr and 89DS at 9yr. And her picture fits her DS assessment in my view.

Genetic Musings

I've always enjoyed searching through a pedigree to find some likely origins of characteristics, as simple as the connections may be. We know the genes are many and their interactions complex when it comes to explaining something so broad as longevity. But it's still fun.

Earnmart's three nearest dams were all GP cows, with the dam and grandam both making five lactations each - 60,000 kg and the other 80,000 kg. That's a solid base in my books.

Dam	GP-82 Goldwyn	James x Storm
2nd Dam	GP-82 Zicostar	Jed x Aerostar
3rd Dam	GP-81 President	Prelude x Chief Mark

The closest generations of her maternal pedigree identify numerous connections back to Aerostar and several to Chief Mark. Both sires were capable of leaving tough cows that didn't want babying. Aerostar was known for udder texture, low SCC, excellent F/L. Chief Marks were survivors with good udders. Prelude often shows up in the pedigrees of these longevity stars - they had persistence, fertility and generally no calving trouble.

Henk tells me that the Goldwyn dam didn't really stand out, but likely wasn't much trouble if she stayed off the radar with five lactations resulting in BCAs of 272-252-273. Henk recalls the granddam (Zicostar) was another tough, no-nonsense cow.

Sire	Jerland Denison	Allen x Jolt
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Further back, we find crosses to Blackstar and Chief Mark again. Denison was known for good Herd Life, Daughter Fertility and

Mastitis Resistance. Conformationally, no one should be surprised that with Allen and Jolt in his breeding, he could leave lots of capacity and dairyness - hence his high scores for Dairy Strength.

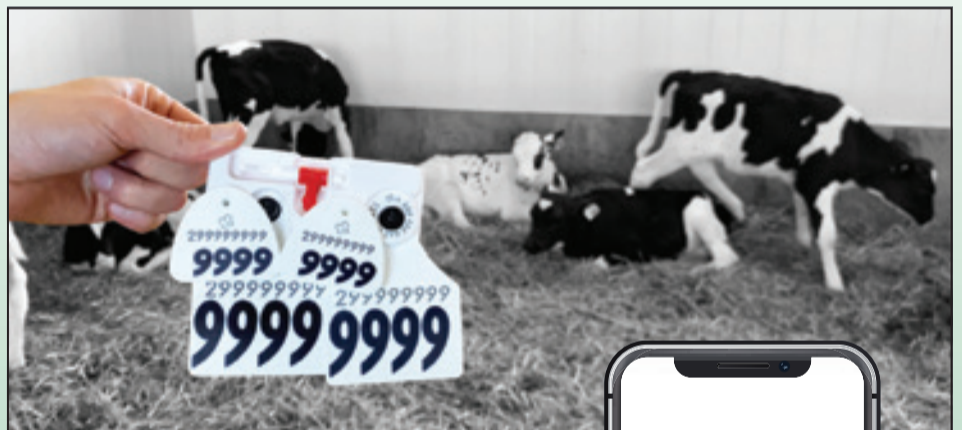
Earnmart's Past and Future

Doug Blair searched back and documented her North American lineage - 20 generations (!) all the way back to Alena, imported in 1882 by Smiths and Powell of Syracuse, NY, and bred by D. Jonges of Beemster, N Holland. A few generations in New York, then to California,


then up to Colpitts in Alberta and other herds for the 13 generations to Earnmart.

She has one EX daughter - a Windhammer who has six lactations, one SP lactation and 100,000 KG Award and BCAs of 328-312-322. Earnmart has a 5-year old GP daughter and a heifer born last summer.

As much as the Schrijvers appreciate Earnmart's longevity and productivity, they don't plan to flush her. There is a steady influx of many good young cows with high potential to watch.



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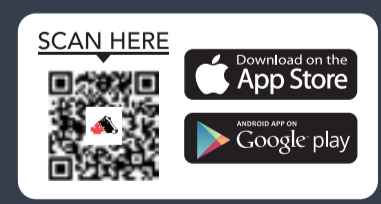
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