

celebrating Longevity

Holstein Canada - promoting Longevity, Profitability & Efficiency!



Maggie

Sometimes, the story isn't perfect – but these cows didn't care – and neither should we. Despite incomplete pedigrees, these two cows pumped out huge milk with minimal fuss – **Maggie:** almost 192,000 kg in 10 lactations (34.8kg/day of life); **Income:** 177,250 kg in 12 lactations (30.8kg/day of life). Exceptional totals, extraordinary profitability while being mostly trouble-free and tough.



Income 1

A BC Double Feature!

EAGLEHAVEN FLYER MAGGIE & BALME GARRET INCOME 1

Tars Cheema

EAGLEHAVEN FLYER MAGGIE GP-83 3*

Matt Dykshoorn of B&L Dairy in Abbotsford milks about 60 cows with a Lely robot in a deep sand-bedded freestall barn stocked at 80%. "The cows have lots of room, lower competition and good comfort. I believe that all plays a role in our high average lifetime production," he explains.

B&L registers, milk records, classifies, and genomic tests the heifers. "I use sexed semen on most of the heifers and favorite younger cows, and beef on the rest," Matt adds.

What stands out most about 15 year-old Maggie is that she doesn't stand out! "She's a pretty average cow with good production, but nothing crazy," Matt admits. Her BCAs tell a better story – 316M 294F 280P in 10 lactations with deviations of +31, +2, 0. Her first three records were 2X from parlour milking.

While not a bossy cow, she doesn't get pushed around or like anyone fussing with her!

"I need to stay on top of her hoof trimming, but I've not had to wrap her." Fertility has also been a strength – mostly one or two services Matt says, although she has needed more services in a couple lactations. "She has been a really easy calver, not giving me any real issues at all," recalls Matt.

In the Udder Department, Matt says she has been treated for non-severe mastitis a couple times, but five years ago, she did have a serious injury – one that could have grounded Flyer Maggie for good! She lost a front quarter after a teat was stepped on in the close-up pen. With TLC, they got the quarter dried off and she has completed four lactations since on three quarters, peaking over 60kg each time!

Maggie's documented pedigree is short. Her great grand dam was "just a random heifer Dad had in the barn when I started milking 20 years ago, no ID or history, but she gave me my first heifer born on the farm," Matt recalls her humble origin. That "short, boxy" heifer was bred to Charpentier Magot, resulting in Maggie's 50% dam scored 83 points with five lactations totalling over 64,500kg lifetime. Now it gets interesting – Magot was a Morty son from an Igniter dam that intersected with Rudolph on the way back to Comestar Laurie Shiek. Morty made tough survival cows with good udders and Rudolph has

been one of our breed's most accomplished longevity sires.

Maggie's sire, Marbri Flyer is also interesting, given his sire, Airraid, brings in Manfred and his dam is a Shottle. These additional longevity super-sires give Maggie a super-charged genome for survival traits!

Matt is hopeful that Maggie will crack 200,000kg in 2027 after she calves around Christmas time.

BALME GARRETT INCOME 1 EX-90 3E

The Balme herd on Vancouver Island numbers 135 milking, predominantly Ayrshires, with less than 10 Holsteins. Oliver and Shelley Balme farm with son Colin and were featured in our Summer 2026 issue, having been awarded an Ayrshire Master Breeder Shield early this year. The Balmes register, classify, use proven and genomic sires with a little beef. They are looking at genomic testing as the next step.

'Income' was aptly named – with 12 lactation lifetime total of 177,250kg milk, BCAs of 263-265-260 and deviations of +48, +27, +35, she could also have been named 'Profit.' Nine of her 12 lactations made 305d records over 13,000kg to her best at 16,413kg (11-01yr)!

Like many longevity cows, Income was a stubborn, tough barn cow and mostly trouble-free. "Her last calving was hard on her and she was getting stiff," Colin explains. Unfortunately, they lost her earlier this year at 15 ½ years old.

Income held a tight 12.2 month average calving interval over her first seven lactations, before experiencing three lactations that needed a few more breedings. The herd's hoof health undoubtedly benefits from summer pasture access and twice-yearly hoof trimming. Still, Income's mobility remained youthful with correct leg conformation and with noticeably good hoof health.

Even with producing 50% male calves, she had no significant calving issues – another advantage for avoiding risky post-calving complications. "She has a nice, well-attached udder with good texture and good milking speed," Colin describes. "But she did have a couple mastitis events which weren't serious."

"She didn't need any special treatment or pampering," Colin says. "She was always with the herd until this last calving – arthritis was getting to her."

Typical of many longevity cows, moderate size seems to be an advantage. They described her as a capacious cow with a wide muzzle and average stature – definitely the right conformation for a productive barn cow. But with a classification score of 90 points and 3E, her conformation was more than just adequate.

Income's sire was Schillview Garrett, sired by O-Man and out of an Mtoto dam with Manfred behind her dam... it's easy to spot the longevity gene sources immediately.

Income's dam was a 74 point cow that completed five lactations, sired by Pennview Income and out of an unidentified cow. Pennview Income sired modest sized cows that loved to work and combined several sires with positive longevity reputations: Starbuck, Blackstar, Aerostar and Chief Mark (tough attitudes).

Oliver's final comment? "Income didn't have much downtime – she was either eating or chewing her cud!"



"We really like the ConneXXion app and use it for both registrations and TSU submissions. It's convenient, easy to use and saves us a lot of time. We usually take the TSU sample at the same time we tag the calf, and having TSUs that come with the tags makes it even more efficient. From collecting the sample to registering the calf and submitting it through the app, everything is very straightforward."

Beyer Dairy, Picture Butte, AB



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