



WALLOON HOLSTEIN HERD-BOOK

La Holstein «Made in Belgium»

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The Walloon Holstein Herd-Book is a commission of the Walloon breeding Association (AWE) composed of Holstein breeders. Its missions are to define the breeding goal of Walloon Holstein as well as the registration or performances recording rules to reach it, and to organize the promotion of the Walloon Holstein cattle in Wallonia and abroad.

The Goal of the Holstein breeders association

AWE is the Association of Cattle Breeders in Wallonia (south region of Belgium).

The goal of AWE is to help breeders in the management of their herd, through providing :

- An easy access to great quality semen of the best beef and dairy bulls available in the world;
- Adapted tools to analyze the herd in detail on management, genetic, economic topics;
- Individualized advices of specialized technicians to identify the progress to be done and find the ways to achieve it.



A High genetic level

Given the special geographical situation of Belgium and the easy access provided by AWE to best worldwide Holstein genetic, the Holstein in Wallonia has a very high genetic level with a wide panel of pedigrees that presents a very interesting advantage for AI center who are looking for females to contract or for female or embryos exportation.

We use a **world-wide recognized classification system**. Our dairy cow scorecard follows the continuous improvement of international trends. It is also appreciated for its high ability to adapt to all systems worldwide.



Our **mating advice** service is based on a neutral and objective **Walloon indexing system**, using published walloon Interbull indexes for bulls as well as enhanced domestic indexes for cows and heifers. Our mating software is an efficient tool following Walloon breeders' wishes. Each farmer can choose the most appropriate mating by taking into account his own breeding criteria through a connexion to his private webspace where the herds' data are continuously updated.

The Holstein population in Wallonia

The Holstein breed represents more than 80 percent of the dairy cow population in Wallonia.

Cows	Milk recorded	Total
	64.786	145.055

*INS statistiques agricoles recensement mai 2009

Performances/ 2009

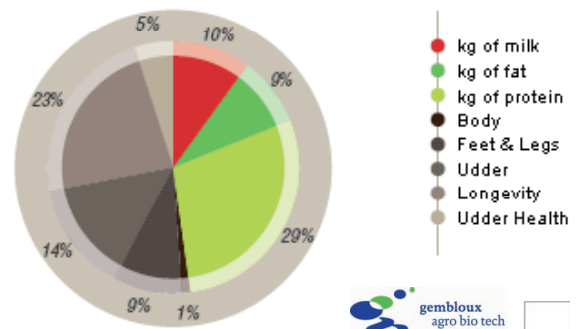
	KG	MG %	MG kg	Protéine %	Protéine KG
Holstein	7.631	4.00	345	3.34	288
Red Holstein	6.772	4.16	311	3.40	254



Holstein and rentability

We have implemented a weighting system in collaboration with Gembloux Agro-Bio Tech (University of Liège) that perfectly reflects the dairy farming issues. Our V€G index (Global Economic Value) falls within the scope of current researches and states the profitability rate of dairy cows. It places emphasis on the functionality (V€F), on milk production (V€L) and on type (V€G). The integration of fertility criteria is currently in progress.

Decomposition the V€G, the Walloon Holstein Genetic Global Index



Develop passion for dairy and the exhibition show

We organize each year The European School of Young Breeders in September. The E.Y.B.S is now the international reference for the training of young people mad about the Holstein breed. The objective of this school is to teach budding dairy farmers about basic knowledge that will enable them to optimize their breeding work for the different shows in which they would participate. Every year, 120 young men from 12 different countries share their cultural differences and know-how.

During 5 days, each team is supervised by a professional clipper who gives advice to the young breeders.

Info: ffafchamps@awenet.be.

Plenty of Holstein shows do happen in Belgium. International judges and the visitors make the trip to watch the Walloon herds' quality through these various agricultural events. For example "The Holstein Night" is an original Holstein show that gathers the breeders from BENELUX every year.

A nice showcase to discover!



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