

NOV
2020

Update

EastGen

HENRIA HOLSTEINS BUILDING A PRODUCTIVE AND SUSTAINABLE FUTURE.



EastGen 2021 Zone Meetings

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, virtual zone meetings will be held for EastGen's entire service area.

SPECIAL KEYNOTE SPEAKER, MARC COMTOIS

From his early days milking a small herd in a tie-stall barn, Marc Comtois has transitioned Comestar Holsteins in so many remarkable ways. Marc has developed Ferme Comestar - a Victoriaville, Quebec-based dairy farm into one of the most respected names in the global Holstein industry providing outstanding dairy genetics for breeders in Canada and across the world. Marc will share the transition of his facilities to house a 300-head (39 kg) milking herd, in a new modern dairy barn with six milking robots. He'll provide insight on the changes and transitions in his herd management and talk about what is ahead for Comestar with the next generation becoming involved in this expanding farm-operation.

English Virtual Zone Meetings

Tues., January 19, 2021 - 7:00 p.m. EST
Wed., January 20, 2021 - 11:00 a.m. EST

French Virtual Zone Meeting

Thurs., January 21, 2021 - 11:00 a.m. EST

Watch for registration details in the December Update.

ADVANCEMENTS INCLUDING IMMUNITY+® GENETICS HAVE HAD A MAJOR IMPACT ON HERD MANAGEMENT AT HENRIA HOLSTEINS

Henria Holsteins Inc. relies heavily on genetic progress, strong management and technology to grow their farm and build a stable future for their family.

A family-owned dairy business, Henria Holsteins is located near Conn, Ontario. Henk and Maria Pastink, their daughter Reba and son Gerrit are proud owners of this large, modern facility, which features a 50-cow rotary parlour with up-to-date freestall barns and handling systems. They milk 600 cows, have 100 dry cows and more than 900 heifers of various ages.

Maria's grandparents emigrated to Canada from Holland in 1949 with their five children. Grandfather Berend established the farming roots by hand-milking five cows, shipping cream, as well as growing field crops and feeding pigs. From this modest start grew Flinkert Farms, an enterprise that by the 1990s milked up to 700 cows and exported many worldwide. Maria became herd manager in 1984.

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Later in the decade, Maria and Henk were married and began building their own farm – Henria Holsteins. Today, the 3,200-acre operation is a distinctly Canadian family farm with Maria as the main cow manager, Reba responsible for calf management and Gerrit, the farm mechanic, working with Henk to manage crop production, equipment and dry cows. Henria Holstein's long-term goal is to milk 1,000 cows.

INCREASING MILK PRODUCTION

Milk production has increased over the past 10 years as the Pastinks placed greater emphasis on registered sires and artificial insemination. Reba notes that this management approach allowed them to focus on feet and legs, and then target production and fertility. Their genetic strategy also included A2A2 and Semex's **Immunity+**[®] disease-resistant genetics program. During the decade, daily milk production has increased from 25 kg to 36 kg per cow. Average milk production per cow is 10,500 kg for 305 days in milk.

Currently, heifers are bred at 12 to 13 months of age – twice with sexed semen, followed by a clean-up Angus bull if heifers fail to become pregnant. For cows, conventional semen is used, followed by an Angus bull.

FUTURE GROWTH IN ROTARY PARLOUR

"We've seen incredible results using Immunity+[®] sires. We've seen reduction in disease, especially in pneumonia and four times lower treatment rates for calves sired by Immunity+[®] sires than calves who aren't. And, our mortality rates have also decreased by 7%.

We have a regimented vaccine program and when we understood that Immunity+[®] sired calves respond better to vaccines that was a real selling point for us."

Reba Pastink, Calf Manager
Henria Holsteins, Conn, ON,



Fifty-cow rotary parlours are rarely seen in Canada, but Henk believes the rotary is an efficient system for milking and managing their cow numbers – the parlour milks between 250 to 300 cows per hour.

For breeding management, the Pastinks maintain a very progressive approach. They are big believers in the value skilled consultants and technicians can bring to their business. When it comes to conception and pregnancy, they rely on breeding services from Major AI Dairy Services, using EastGen's genetic line-up. Having a dedicated person specializing in this area really helps, says Reba. "It's much better than making it a side job for five different people."

2X MILKING STRATEGY

Reba notes that the family's twice-milking strategy is driven by both labour availability and their calf feeding regime. Cows are milked in two



shifts – 1:00 a.m. to 4:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. This schedule allows calf feeders to work a morning shift, with another shift beginning at 5:00 p.m. after the second milking.

What does the future hold for Henria Holsteins? Henk says his family will continue to strive for higher milk production. There are plans to build a new barn and purchase more quota for expansion, but the Pastinks remain focused on efficiency. That means the farm needs to grow while also reducing cost of production, says Henk.

It is a progressive approach that the Pastinks believe will build a productive, profitable and sustainable future for Henria Holsteins.

DIRECTOR ELECTION UPDATE

We are pleased to announce the results of the Director Elections for Zone 3, 6, 9, 12.

The following people have been acclaimed in their respective Zones:

Zone 3 **Chris Uhr**
Zone 12 **Curtis McNeil**

The following people are nominated for election in their respective Zone:

Zone 9 **Steven Fraser**
 Dave Wagler

In Zone 6 no nomination has been received. Nominations are extended to November 27, 2020.

Thank you

A special thank you is extended to **Joe Krol (Zone 3) and David Larmer (Zone 6)** for their extraordinary contributions to EastGen, Semex, and the industry during their years of service on the board.

EASTGEN DIRECTOR NAMED SEMEX PRESIDENT

Phil MacLean has been appointed as President & Chairman of the Board for 2020-2021



Guelph, Ontario – Semex is pleased to announce that Phil MacLean (EastGen) has been appointed as President & Chairman of the Board for 2020-2021, succeeding Gary Bowers (CIAQ). Assisting Semex's new President is Jean-François Morin (CIAQ) as Vice President and Gerrit Wensink (EastGen) as Executive Member of the Board.

Semex President Phil MacLean first joined the Semex Board in 2017, serving on the Audit & Risk Committee from 2017-2020. Representing Semex Partner Owner EastGen, he joined their board in 2016, and was elected Vice President in 2019 and 2020. From Deer Lake, Newfoundland, Phil's farm spans 1300 acres and is a robot operation, now focused on developing an A2A2 herd following the sale of his 300-head dairy operation, Headline Holsteins. Active in the dairy industry, Phil has served on the boards of the Dairy Farmers of Newfoundland and Labrador, as well as Dairy Farmers of Canada. Phil and his wife Pauline Duivenvoorden also operate Barn Fine Eggs, a 7800-laying hen operation as well as Farm Fine Brood, a 25,000-bird broiler operation. Extremely successful, they were awarded the Outstanding Young Farmers Atlantic Canada Award in 1999.

Also serving on the Semex Board of Directors are:

- Jean Bissonnette (CIAQ)
- Mariette Gagnon (CIAQ)
- Eric Iversen (WestGen)
- Richard Lagacé (CIAQ)
- Curtis McNeil (EastGen)
- Tom Pasco (EastGen)
- James Ross (WestGen)

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Check out our expanded POLLED Line-up!

100% of **CLIFF-PP** calves will be polled.

At least 50% of **ADAGIO-P**, **SPEEDUP-P** and **ALLDAY-P** calves will be polled.

There is no need to sacrifice genetic gain when you use EastGen's **POLLED** line-up.



0200H010661   

Stantons

Adagio P

Powerball-P x McCutchen






0777H011818   

Scenery-View

Cliff PP *RDC

Simplicity-P RC x Silver



0200H011903   

Dudoc

Speedup P

Hotspot P x Zipit-P *(Limited Supply)




0200H011887     

Drumdale

Allday P

Luster-P x Powerball-P *(Limited Supply)

GEBV 20/AUG * GPA LPI 20/AUG

	Pro\$	GPA LPI	Milk (kg)	Fat (kg)	% Dev.	Protein (kg)	% Dev.	Conf.	Mammary	Herd Life
Stantons Adagio-P 	2364	3291	1224	52	+03	52	+09	10	8	105
* Scenery-View Cliff-PP *RDC	2148	3177	940	64	+24	47	+14	11	9	104
* Dudoc Speedup-P	3523	3698	1359	86	+31	69	+21	11	11	112
* Drumdale Allday-P	3193	3546	903	93	+55	64	+30	9	8	108