

MY FARM & MY JERSEYS

Bent Olesen, Alstrup I/S, Denmark

JETA Award 2018, representing Europe

Alstrup I/S



Alstrup I/S

- 5th generation on the farm
- Owned in partnership with my brother Lars since 2007
- 450 cows in a barn from 2017
 - Milked in a DeLaval rotary (40 places)
- Average yearly production per cow:
 - 8,126 kg milk (17,900 pounds) with 6.22% fat and 4.18% protein
- 250 ha, - 1/3 Maize, 1/3 Grass, 1/3 Barley (for silage)
- Staff
 - Four employees + owners



Focus on production and healthy cows

- Breeding goal at Alstrup I/S:
 - High yield
 - Efficiency
 - Problem free and long living cows
 - Functionality
 - Fertility
 - High %



Interest in breeding

- University studies
- Danish Jersey Board of Directors since 2007. Vice President from 2011
- New elected President for Danish Jerseys and Viking Jerseys
- 20 bulls sold to VikingGenetics since 2010
 - Best bull is VJ Hama (VJ Hickey x DJ Zuma) with NMT +14, NM\$ 391, DPR +3.4, PL +4.3
- All females genomic tested
- Flushing top heifers
- Sexed semen on 75% best heifers and 20% best cows
- Beef on lowest 10%
- Ratio of sexed semen and beef is increasing



VikingJersey Alstrup Hickey Hama
VJ Hama

Conditions for dairy production in Denmark

- Milk price app. 0.53\$ per kilo of Jersey milk (6.2% F & 4.2% P)
- Environmental restrictions
 - 1.18 Livestock Units per ha
 - We have an agreement with a cash crop producer (taking manure)
 - As a result of this we can have 2.11 LU per ha
- Strict veterinarian rules & high veterinarian level
 - Lowest use of antibiotics in Europe
 - Free of BVD, IBR, Blue Tongue, ...
- Good, but cold and wet climate
 - Housing needed



Future developments in Breeding

- Feed efficiency
 - Indications that Jerseys are more feed efficient than bigger cows
 - True Feed Efficiency index shortly (based on cow registrations)
- Effect on Environment
 - Indications that Jerseys produce less GHG than bigger cows
 - Proven that Jerseys produce less Nitrogene and Phosphate than bigger cows
- Adaptability to other climates and management systems
 - Indications/proofs that Jerseys adapt better to more extreme management systems
- Other?



Future for European Jersey Breeders?

- Challenges:

- Economy
- Climate
- Environment
- Labour
- Interest in dairy farming

- Opportunities:

- Strong value chain
- Food safety
- Veterinarian level



The social part of breeding...

- Showing
 - We show at the regional show and at National Show
 - We do not breed for showing - only for NTM
 - We see showing as a social event with a little competition
 - We prioritise shows as it establishes valuable contact to consumers
 - and I judge a few shows in Denmark every year



VJ Husky daughter



VJ Huzar daughter



VJ Hyksos daughter

Alstrup I/S cows shown lately



Thank you for your attention!



The overall goal:
To breed cows like this Q Handix daughter.
She is celebrated by 3 generations and
staff at Alstrup I/S for producing more
than 10,000 kg F+P