

# 2011 GENEX EXCELLENCE IN REPRODUCTION AWARDS

Dairy Farms: > 2,000 Cows

## PLATINUM

**Sun Ridge Dairy**, Nampa, ID

Owner: Adrian Kroes

Herdsman: Pedro Lopez

Assistant Herdsman: Manuel Rojas

Sun Ridge Dairy in western Idaho raises Holstein cattle. The dairy focuses on and excels in cattle reproduction as demonstrated by their 32% pregnancy rate in cows and 48% pregnancy rate in the heifer herd. The reproductive program that has been so successful for Sun Ridge involves Presynching cows and cherry picking those in heat for artificial insemination (A.I.). Cows are pregnancy checked at 35 days post breeding and open cows continue to be detected for heats. The efforts of those involved in the reproductive program have resulting in an outstanding 82% of cows pregnant by 150 DIM. The protocol for breeding heifers at Sun Ridge utilizes visual heat detection, and has produced a 75% first service conception rate. Sires used within the herd average +\$616 LNM.

## GOLD

**T&K Dairy**, Snyder, TX

Owner: Will Collier

T&K Dairy raises Holstein and Holstein cross cattle in dry lots in central Texas. Their gold rating for the Genex Excellence in Reproduction award stems from a cow breeding program with a 26% pregnancy rate and 80% of cows pregnant by 150 DIM. First service cows are bred off prostaglandin shots set 14 days apart. Resynchronization is achieved through Ovsynch. The dairy also raises their own heifers. Heifers are bred to sexed semen for both the first and second services. The protocols for the heifer reproductive program have resulted in a 54% conception rate with conventional semen and a 46% conception rate with sexed semen. The dairy puts emphasis on high genetic merit sires; sires used in the past year average +\$611 LNM.

**Southview Dairy**, Wendell, Idaho

Owners/Managers: William DeJong, Ryan Visser

Southview Dairy is a Holstein operation in south central Idaho. The dairy's strong reproduction-related numbers show the great effort put forth by employees. The cow reproductive program features the use of Presynch and cherry picking. Cows are then bred off heat detection for subsequent services. The program earns a gold rating with a 26% pregnancy rate, 40% conception rate and 79% of the herd pregnant by 150 DIM. Heifers are raised and bred off site. The service sires used on cows average +\$508 LNM.

 T&K Dairy



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# 2011 GENEX EXCELLENCE IN REPRODUCTION AWARDS

Dairy Farms: 500-2,000 Cows

## PLATINUM

**Hourigan Family Dairy, Syracuse, NY**

**Owners: Dave and Rich Hourigan**

The Hourigan family raises Holstein cattle in the heart of New York State. Their herd currently totals about 1,300 cows and has a rolling herd average of 29,801 pounds. The dairy's breeding protocol for cows includes Presynch with cherry picking of animals for breeding off prostaglandin. Cows are pregnancy checked at 35 days carrying calf and re-synchronized, if open. This system works well for the dairy as shown by their 29% pregnancy rate and 82% of cows pregnant by 150 DIM. The Hourigans use sexed semen on heifers for all first services and some second services. Heifers are bred off good standing heat with an overall pregnancy rate of 18%. For the whole herd, service sires average a high genetic merit level: +\$664 LNM.

## GOLD

**Schilling Farms LLC, Darlington, WI**

**Owner: William Schilling**

In southern Wisconsin, the Schilling family farm takes great pride in effective management for a healthy, profitable herd. The dairy, with over 600 cows, has a 32% pregnancy rate in the cow herd with 76% of cows pregnant at 150 DIM. The dairy utilizes a combination of Ovsynch and walk-and-chalk heat detection for cows. Sexed semen is an integral part of the farm's heifer reproductive program with 71% sexed semen use. In total, the heifer program earned a 17% pregnancy rate with a 46% conception rate for sexed semen and 55% conception rate for conventional semen. For the Schillings, the genetic level of service sires is of utmost importance averaging +\$700 LNM. The high genetic level of the herd and good management practices are evident in the herd's average pounds of milk per day - 90 - and 106,000 somatic cell score.

## SILVER

**Seidl's Mountain View Dairy, Luxemburg, WI**

**Owners: Al Seidl**

**Herd Manager: Steve Pieder**

Seidl's Mountain View Dairy has achieved a 32% pregnancy rate in their 1,000-cow Holstein herd. Driving this success is a protocol involving Presynch with cherry picking off prostaglandin. Cows are checked for pregnancies at a minimum of 32 days and those not pregnant are resynchronized through Ovsynch. Following an average DIM at first service of 67, 80% of cows are pregnant by 150 DIM. The farm's heifers are raised at Hall's Calf Ranch in Kewaunee, Wis. At Hall's, the heifers are ranked genetically through use of AgSource Genetic Selection Guide. The top 25% of genetically elite heifers are bred with GenChoice 90™ for the first service. The other 75% of the heifers are bred with GenChoice 75™ for the first service. With 52% sexed semen use, the overall pregnancy rate among heifers is 37%. Service sires average +\$634 LNM.

▼ Schilling Farms LLC



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*Emphasis was placed on percent pregnant by 150 DIM due to the positive economic impact of having cows bred by this timeframe.*

*Each herd's performance numbers were placed in a matrix, and the winners were selected based on the matrix calculations. Congratulations to the award winners!*



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# 2011 GENEX EXCELLENCE IN REPRODUCTION AWARDS

Dairy Farms: < 500 Cows

## PLATINUM

**Golden Dawn Dairy, Merrill, WI**

Owner: Hans Breitenmoser, Jr.

Herdsperson: Laurie Svetlik

The Breitenmoser Holstein herd excels in production and reproduction. Their last milk test in 2011 revealed a 29,445 pound rolling herd average and somatic cell score of 63,000. On the reproduction side, they attained a 32% pregnancy rate on cows. The protocol enabling the high pregnancy rate includes Presynch with cherry picking animals off prostaglandin. Cows are pregnancy checked at 30 days. Depending on the ultrasound, open cows are given prostaglandin and started on GPG one week later or are started on GPG immediately. The average DIM at first service is 70 with 85% of cows pregnant by 150 DIM. Heifers are bred with sexed semen for the first service and for a second service if observed in good heat. The pregnancy rate for heifers is 24%. Sires average +\$620 LNM.

## GOLD

**Tom & Chuck Meier, Waunakee, WI**

The Meiers raise Holstein and Brown Swiss cattle totaling a head count of 160 cows. The reproductive program for the herd includes a voluntary wait period of 65 DIM followed by breeding cows off natural heats. If cows are designated as open during a pregnancy check, they receive GnRH followed by prostaglandin 10 days later. Two days after that, cows are bred and given GnRH. This procedure has resulted in a 32% pregnancy rate and 83% of cows pregnant by 150 DIM. The Meier family has established a breeding protocol for heifers that starts as heifers reach 13 months of age and are of adequate size. Sexed semen is used for the first and second services with conventional semen used for any heifers that require additional services. The average LNM of service sires used in the herd is +\$558.

**Kodesh Dairy, Rice Lake, WI**

Owners: Duane & Nancy Kodesh

Kodesh Dairy, comprised of 287-head of Holstein cattle, tied for a gold rating. Kodesh Dairy cows are given prostaglandin between 43 and 49 DIM. They are bred starting at 55 DIM. All first service cows are started on Ovsynch at 55 to 61 DIM (12 days from the prostaglandin presynch shot). The protocol for resynchronization includes GnRH one week before herd check and then pregnancy checking cows between 35-42 days since last heat. At preg check, all cows that are open and mid-cycle with a CL receive prostaglandin. Cows without a CL or cystic cows receive GnRH. This strategic breeding program generates a 31% pregnancy rate and enables 86% of the herd to be pregnant by 150 DIM.

Golden Dawn Dairy



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# 2011 GENEX EXCELLENCE IN REPRODUCTION AWARDS

Heifer Raisers

## PLATINUM

**Circle Bar Heifer Ranch, Satanta, KS**

**Owners: Vance and Nathan Kells**

Circle Bar is a drylot heifer ranch that specializes in custom feeding heifers in a dairy-like atmosphere. The Kells raise heifers for four dairy farms with an overall pregnancy rate of 52%, a 66% conception rate on conventional semen and a 59% conception rate on sexed semen. At Circle Bar, heifers from one farm are bred entirely with conventional semen while three farms request sexed semen to be used on the first two services if a strong heat is present. The heifer ranch uses growth as a key indicator that heifers are ready to enter the breeding pen. At 380 days, heifers are measured; if they are at least 54 inches tall, they enter the breeding program. If shorter, they are measured again at 395 days and enter the breeding program if at least 52 inches in height. At 13 days in the A.I. pen, all non-inseminated heifers receive prostaglandin. Any heifers not inseminated by Day 20 are checked by the vet. The average LNM of service sires is +\$553.

## GOLD

**Adirondack Farms, LLC, Peru, N.Y.**

**Owners: Jake Swyers and John Rauf**

Adirondack Farms, located west of Lake Champlain in northern New York State, raises Holstein heifers specifically for the Adirondack Farms dairy. The heifer facility team has executed a breeding program with top-notch results. Heifers are visually observed for natural heat as well as heat detected through the use of paint. If estrus is not observed, heifers receive prostaglandin. The heifers are bred to sexed semen for the first service except during the summer heat. This program has produced a 44% pregnancy rate along with a 60% first service conception rate. The herd's conception rate is 66% for conventional semen and 46% for sexed semen. Herd sires average +\$607 LNM, which represents the 97th percentile among bulls.

## SILVER

**Coleman Ponderosa, Coleman, WI**

**Owners: John and Kim Pagel**

**Manager: JJ Pagel**

Coleman Ponderosa raises Holstein and crossbred heifers for Pagel's Ponderosa dairy of Kewaunee, Wis. The reproductive program for heifers includes a voluntary weight period of 400 days for crossbred animals and 415 days for Holsteins. Heifers are pregnancy checked each week. If they are open and have a CL, heifers receive prostaglandin. If the heifers are open and do not have a CL, they are re-enrolled in a prostaglandin program. Heifers that have been artificially inseminated and are still open after the fourth insemination are sold. The heifer facility proudly maintained a 48% pregnancy rate and 69% first service conception rate. Jersey service sires used in the herd average +\$488 LNM and Holstein service sires average +\$651 LNM. Starting in January 2012, the top 15% of heifers as ranked by LNM will be bred to GenChoice 90™.

✔ Circle Bar Heifer Ranch



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