

CRV Forward

WINTER
2024/2025

Magazine for a healthy and efficient herd



Switch to
Dutch genetics

All breeds
under one roof

New bulls
fortify portfolio



BETTER COWS > BETTER LIFE



Dear reader,

What is your breeding goal? How many times have you been asked that? Visit any dairy farm in the Netherlands and the answer is usually “I want to breed more 100,000 kg cows”. To get those you need – strong legs and feet, fertility, udder health, longevity and kilograms of fat and protein. These are things that CRV have focused on for decades. As a result, the Netherlands has more 100,000 kg cows than any other country.

CRV ensures dairy farmers all around the world have access to a comprehensive bull portfolio. From European Holstein sires, to grass-fed bulls in New Zealand, from all-round Fleckvieh bulls to Jersey sires from the US. And to meet the growing demand for beef-on-dairy crosses, CRV also provides semen from the very best Belgian Blue and Angus bulls.

The CRV beef stud is moving from strength to strength, with our sister company BBG in Flanders our farmers are

getting some fantastic Belgian Blue calves from the likes of Flocon, Koreas P and our polled blue bull Officier PP. CRV is also bringing in progeny tested beef semen from our stud in Czech. Husar is proving popular, with a native pedigree (dam and sire both exported from Scotland). This Angus bull is offering calving ease with good growth rates. Interest in other breeds has increase of late, so we are now bringing in one polled Charolais and an ‘easier’ calving bull Herry P. In addition, we have an easier calving Limousin, Hereford and to meet the demand, a Wagyu.

Ben Hunt is one of our farmers who visited the Netherlands, liked what he saw and has decided that CRV is one to work with (read about him later). If you are interested in visiting the Netherlands to visit our Feed Efficiency farms, Dairy Breeding Center, as well as many other commercial units. Or alternatively you might wish to learn more about our Fleckvieh programme – do not hesitate to get in touch!

Ian Stavert | breeding advisor CRV UK

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Cover photo Two Everton daughters from Belgium (photo: Alex Arkink)

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CRV, leading
in health and efficiency



FACEBOOK



INSTAGRAM

Top conformation and power

Broekhuizen Peter P combines top conformation with an all-round breeding pattern. His pedigree traces back to Pietje 52, a cow that has produced highly successful cows and several breeding bulls.

With a score of 112 for conformation, Broekhuizen Peter P (Panorama x Eloy) ranks among the top five available bulls. He passes on compact, robust daughters with substantial body depth, excellent udders (109), and outstanding legs (109). Additionally, he scores 107 for openness, 106 for chest width, and 110 for locomotion. Breeder Wim Schrijver from the Broekhuizen dairy farm in the Netherlands praises the frame and build of the animals in the maternal line.

Peter P inherits the easy management typical of this cow family, producing daughters that yield effortlessly, while maintaining high components. These cows are built to handle it. They calve easily, are less prone to ketosis, and keep their udders and hooves healthy, with persistent production.

The cow family behind Peter P began at Broekhuizen with the purchase of

a breeding programme embryo from Impuls daughter Pietje 52. This donor stood out due to excellent markers when genomics were introduced.

Pietje 52 immediately fulfilled her high expectations as her son, Delta Potter P, became an all-round breeding bull. Additionally, through her son Incentive, she is the great-granddam of Delta Jacuzzi.

In the female line, Pietje 52 has also proven to breed top animals. Pietje's daughter Delta Peta (by Maicon) is the dam of Malcolm daughter Delta Paulina (EX 90). At CRV's test farm Van Berkum, Paulina's lifetime yield has so far reached 94,142 kg of milk with 3.70% protein, with an average daily milk production of 48 kg. She is the granddam of Delta Paddock PP and Delta Prominent.

The direct line from Pietje 52 to Peter P starts with Pietje's daughter,

- **Complete profile**
- **Strong daughters**
- **Excellent udders**
- **Great feet & legs**

Broekhuizen Petra-Red (VG 85, by Bruchter Passe), who produced 61,316 litres of milk with 3.81% protein. Her daughter by Carnival, Petra 4 (VG 87), has now completed three lactations with high components. Her daughter by Japan is Peter P's grandmother.

Satisfied with full sisters

Wim Schrijver milks five full sisters from Peter's grandmother. "The Japan daughters are all classified VG and easy to handle. They're remarkable for being unremarkable, they handle everything well. I expect they'll have a long productive life", he says. "We are milking three full sisters of Peter P's dam. They're doing well." Two have already been classified, receiving ratings of 86 and 87 points. They're also productive, with lactation values of 114 and 116.

Delta Japan and Delta Eloy, the sire of Peter P's dam, have endowed Peter P with additional genetic advantages. Peter P thus combines all-round traits with top conformation. Besides that, half of his offspring will be polled.

Broekhuizen Petra 4 (by Carnival), great-granddam of Peter



For more information
about CRV bulls
check our website

Switch to Dutch genetics

Despite high production levels, Ben Hunt decided a year and a half ago to shift the breeding strategy of the Wyndhurst Farm dairy herd. “There were some traits I wanted to address, and I also wanted more genetic diversity.”

Reproduction practicals, research into calf behaviour patterns, and cameras for rapid disease detection. The Wyndhurst Farm in Langford (North Somerset), which is part of the Bristol Veterinary School at the University of Bristol, is not just an average commercial farm. It also provides a practical teaching environment for hundreds of veterinary students and serves as a research facility. The state-of-the-art dairy unit, equipped with sand cubicles and a central feed passage, accommodates 230 dairy cows. The herd is divided into two groups: one for first- and second-lactation cows, and another for cows that have calved three times or more. The cows are housed all year-round and are fed a TMR diet consisting of maize, grass, caustic wheat, lucerne, straw, a blend, and a few other ingredients. The farm spans 160 hectares, primarily used for growing grass and maize, with a small portion allocated to lucerne.

While groups of students visit daily, the farm doesn't compromise on productivity. The cows deliver an average yield of 40 kg of milk per day. Despite the high production

levels, farm manager Ben Hunt, who works for farm management company Velcourt Farming, decided in 2023 to shift the breeding strategy. “We had a productive and fertile herd, but there were some traits I wanted to address,” he explains. “Rear teats were becoming too close, the back legs were getting too straight, and we were concerned about the level of inbreeding.”

Optimistic attitude

Some people advised Ben to opt for crossbreeding, for example with Scandinavian red. However, that wasn't the route he wanted to take. “We're a pedigree Holstein herd. I didn't want to lose that. I wanted more genetic diversity, but I didn't want to start crossbreeding. Ian Stavert from CRV seemed to understand that.”

The decisive factor in choosing CRV was a visit to the Netherlands in 2023. Ben Hunt, together with his herd manager Lou Jones, visited several dairy farms, including CRV's Dairy Breeding Center in Wirdum and the dairy farm of the breeder of Double W Ranger. “I was a bit afraid of losing milk and productivity if I switched to using Dutch genetics. But the farms we visited put those fears to rest. They were highly productive farms with great-looking cows. It struck me how well organised, clean and efficient all of the farms were.”

What impressed Ben the most, however, was the attitude of the Dutch farmers. “Everyone was so optimistic and relaxed, even though Dutch dairy farmers have to comply with so many laws and regulations. I just felt that that's something we should strive for in the UK as well.”

Robot-ready

In November, Ben began inseminating his cows with CRV sires. By August, the first cows started calving. They now have their first young stock from CRV, including calves sired by Zuri, Rovelli, Borax, and Primetime.

“We have been really impressed with the calves so far. Obviously it's too early to see some traits, but the strength and vigour has been really encouraging,” says Ben. He has also started using BBG Belgian Blue bulls on the

The farm uses Ovalert to detect cows in heat





Company information

Farm name	Wyndhurst Farm
Farm manager	Ben Hunt
Location	Langford, North Somerset
Herd size	235 cows
No. of young stock	185
Average yield	40 kg milk, 4.1% fat and 3.35% protein
Calving interval	397 days
Land managed	160 hectares



Herd manager Lou Jones and farm manager Ben Hunt

cows not selected for sexed semen. “The blue calves we have had from Elk 41 and Flocon de Fastré are also really encouraging. Most range between 45 and 50 kg birth weight, making it easier to sell quickly which is more cost effective.”

When selecting bulls, Ben prioritizes longevity, a slight increase in milk production – “the production is good enough at the moment” – and ensuring that the feet and legs are not too straight, and that udder conformation is optimal. “We are now milking the cows in a 24 herringbone milking parlour, but we hope to switch to robotic milking at some point in the future. We want to make sure the cows are robot-ready by then.”

Genomic testing

Ben aims to use sexed semen on 30 percent of the herd. “We rank the cows and heifers based on their parent averages for milk production. We also address traits like corkscrew claw that impact longevity, and we try to reduce this in the herd. Additionally, we avoid breeding cows with a history of Johne’s disease, neospora, or bovine TB.” Although Ben is not yet genomic testing the herd, he acknowledges its advantages. For now, he uses the breeding management programme SireMatch, which provides tailored mating advice for each animal. SireMatch is also linked to Ovalert, which helps Hunt detect cows in heat. “It really works well. I especially like the insemination

window Ovalert provides, allowing us to easily determine the ideal moment to serve the cow.”

Since switching to CRV, the farm has also adopted DIY AI, with help from a local company Somerset Cattle Breeders when required. “Having the flexibility to choose the insemination moment is a great advantage.”

The blue calves the farm has had so far are encouraging



SERIES: 150 YEARS LIVESTOCK IMPROVEMENT

2024 marks the 150th anniversary of CRV in the Netherlands and Flanders. The world changed in that time and so has CRV. In a three-part series we will dive into 150 years of innovation.

- ⋮ Part 1: History
- ⋮ Part 2: CRV's bull stars
- ⋮ **Part 3: CRV goes international**

All breeds under one roof

In 150 years, CRV has grown into a major global player in the field of cattle breeding. The consistent focus across all of CRV's breeding programmes is on health and efficiency.



CRV Holstein EU
Problem-free, long-lasting cows that produce milk with high components. They excel in feed efficiency.



CRV MRIJ
Strong, problem-free, red-and-white dual purpose breed with high protein milk.

From grass-fed bulls in New Zealand to European Holstein sires, from all-round Fleckvieh bulls to Jersey sires from the US, CRV's breeding programmes offer something for every dairy producer worldwide. And to meet the growing demand for semen from beef bulls for beef-on-dairy crosses, CRV also provides semen from the very best



CRV Holstein US
Highly productive and efficient cows with good health traits and a high longevity.



CRV Jersey US
Long-living and attractive Jerseys that convert feed efficiently into component-rich milk.



CRV Tropical
Robust breeds that produce and perform well in tropical conditions.



CRV Beef
Various beef breeds for purebreeding or crossbreeding.



CRV Jersey NZ
Efficient and fertile Jersey breed that produces valuable milk.



Belgian Blue and Angus bulls. This way, CRV ensures that dairy farmers always have access to a comprehensive bull portfolio tailored to their needs.

Change in breeding landscape

This was not always the case when CRV started 150 years ago. Over the past century and a half, the breeding landscape has changed dramatically. In the early days, dairy farmers purchased bulls from neighbouring farms. It wasn't until after the Second World War that AI cooperatives were established on a large scale. By the 1960s, during the heyday of dual-purpose breeds, the Netherlands had over 100 cooperative AI associations. The selection of bulls was managed by dairy farmer-led breeding committees, which regularly visited prominent breeding herds to find suitable bulls. Back then, these were exclusively Dutch farms, as international breeding was not yet on the agenda. That changed as dairy farmers gradually began using

Holstein bulls from North America, which originally descended from Dutch cattle exported to the United States in the late nineteenth century. Slowly but surely, the breeding industry opened up, allowing dairy farmers to benefit from the best bulls from other countries. This expansion wasn't limited to dairy breeds. Today, dual-purpose breeds such as Fleckvieh, as well as beef breeds like Belgian Blue and more recently Angus, are an integral part of CRV's portfolio. CRV now operates professional and progressive breeding programmes for various breeds in different regions of the world.



Focus on health and efficiency



Whether it's Holstein, Fleckvieh, or beef bulls, the common thread in all of CRV's breeding programmes is health and efficiency. The focus is on enhancing the traits that ensure healthy and efficient milk and beef production. These traits are combined in the CRV Health and CRV Efficiency indexes, which provide breeding values that help dairy farmers worldwide produce milk and beef at lower costs with less labour.



"Dairy farmers want to breed cows that achieve high lifetime production efficiently and without problems," explains Jaap Veldhuisen, head of product development at CRV. "Within our breeding programme, we select using a unique combination of health and efficiency traits, summarised in the CRV Health and CRV Efficiency merit indexes," he adds. CRV Health combines the most important breeding values for health per breed. For example for Holsteins the breeding values for udder health, hoof health, and daughter fertility are being used. The CRV Health score is expressed as a percentage, showing how much the combined breeding values of a bull differ from the population average. For example, a score of +6% CRV Health means that daughters of that bull will experience three percent fewer health problems.

CRV Efficiency, on the other hand, is calculated using the most important breeding values for efficiency per breed. For Holsteins production, longevity, and feed efficiency are incorporated. A score of +6% CRV Efficiency indicates that, over their lifetime – including rearing and dry periods – the daughters of that Holstein bull will produce three percent more milk than the daughters of an average bull, for the same amount of feed consumed.

With exclusive breeding values for feed efficiency, CRV Health, and CRV Efficiency, CRV makes it easier than ever for dairy farmers to breed trouble-free herds that produce milk efficiently and cost-effectively.



CRV Fleckvieh
Robust, healthy breed that excels in fitness and efficiency and is suitable for crossbreeding.



CRV Friesian NZ
Superior, robust Friesian breed that converts grass efficiently into valuable milk.



CRV Crossbred NZ
Trouble-free crossbreed between Holstein and Jersey with benefits of both breeds.

Fourteen cows per day achieved the status ‘hundred tonner’

For the first time, more than 5,000 cows in the Netherlands surpassed the milestone of producing 100,000 kg of milk in the past financial year. Between 1 September 2023 and 1 September 2024, 5,168 cows achieved the status ‘hundred tonner’. That’s over fourteen cows per day and more than 450 more than the previous year, according to figures from CRV.

The number of cows producing 10,000 kg of fat and protein also showed progress. Never before there have been so many ‘ten tonners’ in the Netherlands as in the past financial year. A total of 466 cows earned the ten-tonner distinction, compared to 406 the year before.

The total number of hundred tonners in the Netherlands is



Record number of Dutch cows with 100,000 kg milk

now nearly 58,000, while the number of cows with ten ton fat and protein is approaching 5,000.

Bull dam collection at Holland Holstein Show

Under the name The Elite Collection, CRV showcased a group of bull dams at the Holland Holstein Show. The group made a strong impression with their combination of high (lifetime) production figures – reaching up to 80,000 kg of milk – powerful frames, and well-attached udders. Among them was Delta Joys, a daughter of Jorben from the Delta Orange PP cow family. Joys produced nearly 65,000 kg of milk with 3.66% protein over four lactations. In her latest lactation, she achieved over 16,000 kg of milk in 305 days.

Another standout in the ring was Jeans Jantina 292. This Martin daughter, classified with VG 88, comes from the same family as Jeans Hummer PP. Fresh from her third calving, Jantina has so far produced over 33,000 kg of milk with 3.82% protein.



Woody popular among Dutch dairy producers

With over 17,000 first inseminations, Willem’s-Hoeve Woody was one of the most popular bulls in the Netherlands last year. Genomic bulls Delta Fast Lane and Delta Podium were also in high demand as breeding partners for Dutch dairy cows.

In the red-and-white segment, many dairy farmers opted for homozygous polled bulls. Delta Drone PP recorded nearly 7,000 first inseminations, while Delta Launch PP achieved just over 6,100.

Table 1: Most popular UK-registered sires in the Netherlands in 2023/2024

ranking	name	no. of first inseminations
black and white		
3	Willem’s-Hoeve Woody	17,487
4	Delta Fast Lane	13,354
5	Delta Podium	12,113
8	Delta Boreso	11,331
13	Delta Encourage	7,054
14	Double W Ranger	6,854
red and white		
3	Delta Drone PP	6,878
5	Delta Launch PP	6,132
8	Delta Orange PP	5,496
10	Delta Jacuzzi	5,248

Czech beef bulls

For many years, Belgian Blue bulls have featured in CRV's beef catalogue. CRV also offers Angus bulls for beef-on-dairy. The latest addition are beef bulls from the Czech Republic, for which extensive management traits are available.

The latest additions to CRV's beef portfolio were born in the Czech Republic, where beef cattle farming is a serious business. The Czech Beef Breeders Association has existed for 35 years.

It operates across the entire country and connects breeders of 25 different beef breeds. It also maintains a herd book with 35,000 purebred beef cows. However, its most remarkable task is coordinating and organising a selection programme for all beef breeds.

Thorough testing

Before Czech beef bulls become AI bulls, they undergo a thorough test at a performance test station. All animals are grown according to the correct testing methods. They are weighed upon arrival, as well as on day 120, day 210 and day 365. The test ends when the bulls reach the age of thirteen months. Based on their own performance, breeding values, physical appearance and compliance with breed standards, a breeders' committee selects the bulls that are promoted to AI status. The average daily gain during the test period is between 1,600 and 1,800 grams.

Until 2000, selection work was based on animal weights (growth potential) and observations of calving ease and birth weight of calves. In 2000, breeding values were published for the first time. The calculations cover calving ease, birth weight, weights at 120, 210 and 365 days, conformation, and

daily gain at the performance test station. Breeding values are estimated separately for direct and maternal effects.

Launch beef-on-dairy programme

In 2021, CRV Czech Republic launched a beef-on-dairy programme. The focus of this programme is on low birth weight of calves and easy calvings. Growth is another key factor. For conformation, a bull should always score above average and have functional feet and legs. Finally, temperament is a key trait in the selection process, with polled or homozygous polled bulls having an advantage. The main breeds in CRV's breeding programme are Aberdeen Angus, Charolais and Limousin, although some Wagyu and Hereford bulls are also being tested. Most of the bulls in the line-up come from top Czech farms.

Angus bull Husar, for example, was born in Czech Republic, but both his sire Balmachie Rodger and his dam Black Angel were imported from Scotland. Husar is a bull with very good growth, perfect conformation and great character. His strengths are body length, muscularity, and rib eye area. A special mention goes to the Limousin bull Chán. This homozygous polled bull, with an excellent pedigree and production figures, is the first Czech bull on the Meadow Quality Superior Sires List. Chán PP is of average frame but excels in above-average muscularity and great growth. His breeding values predict easy calvings.

The roots of Angus bull Husar go back to Scotland



Limousin Chán is on the Meadow Quality Superior Sires List



New bulls fortify portfolio

Delta Everton • CRV Health 4% • CRV Efficiency +7%

UK dairy farmers are very pleased with their Everton daughters. The daughter-proven Delta Everton is coming out of the Esmonique cow family, which is also the foundation of the bulls Delta Eloy and Delta Endless. Everton's dam, Delta Evelyn, is a standout in the herd of Dutch dairy producer Hans Boschloo. "She isn't very big, but she is well put together, and her long, firmly attached udder is particularly striking. As a heifer, she received VG89 for this. Her teats

are perfectly positioned, making it an ideal robot udder."

With +4% CRV Health and +7% CRV Efficiency, Delta Everton (E Profit x Jorben) is an excellent example of a bull that sires problem-free dairy cows. Everton breeds solidly built cows with excellent udders (110), sound feet and legs (105), and impressive longevity (+497 days). Like his sire, E Profit, he passes on high milk components with +0.13% fat and +0.15% protein.



- High components
- Excellent udders
- Strong management traits

Halogen • CRV Health +7% • CRV Efficiency +10%

The dual-purpose bull Halogen (Highness x Mercedes Pp) has one of the most balanced profiles in the Fleckvieh breed. He combines strong milk production (+905 kg with neutral to slightly positive components) and beef traits. Halogen excels in calving ease (114), longevity (120), daughter fertility (115) and udder health (119). Halogen's daughters have udders with longer teats and perfect placement. Halogen boasts excellent

conformation qualities, making him a versatile choice for balanced performance.

Halogen's cow family originates from a farm run by Georg Dinzenhofer in Raubling, near Rosenheim. In his barn, you can still find the great-great-granddam Bruni, a Vogt daughter, who is currently in her 10th lactation. Bruni's average milk production per lactation is 9,907 kg with 4.69% fat and 3.49% protein.



- Milk and beef fitness
- Calving ease
- Top conformation

Space Pp* • CRV Health +10% • CRV Efficiency +9%

With +10% CRV Health, Space Pp* (Sputnik x Verismo PP*) is an ideal bull for breeding trouble-free Fleckvieh cows. Space has breeding values of 120 for daughter fertility, 113 for udder health, and 105 for hoof health, along with a vitality index of 117. He is also a calving ease sire.

Space Pp* demonstrates balanced production, transmitting +781 kg of

milk, +0.04% fat, and +0.03% protein.

He scores a GZW of 140. His type evaluation highlights his exceptional udder score (117). His daughters are expected to have long fore udders (114), with a strong central ligament (111) and closely placed teats (122).

In her first lactation Space's dam Ferisma produced 9622 kg of milk with 4.21% fat and 3.55% protein.



- Milk and components
- Daughter fertility
- Vitality index

Jeans Hummer PP • CRV Health 5% • CRV Efficiency +12%

Nearly a decade ago, Dutch dairy producer Jeroen Sturkenboom purchased a heifer named Jantina. Today, over a third of the 400 cows and heifers on his dairy farm carry the name Jantina. “You can never have too many Jantinas,” says Sturkenboom. “They are pleasant cows to work with. They produce high milk yields easily and are trouble-free. They have healthy udders, no cases of digital dermatitis, and there isn’t a single poor one among them.

On top of that, they are beautiful.” The Jantina family is the foundation of Jeans Hummer PP (Warren P RC x Launch PP), a new addition to CRV’s portfolio. His daughters are expected to excel with +12% CRV Efficiency. They combine high milk production with excellent persistence (113) and a significant advantage in feed efficiency (107). Strong legs (107) will also be a key trait of Hummer daughters, along with high scores for hoof health.



- **Productive and efficient**
- **A2A2, BB and PP**
- **Strong and healthy feet and legs**

Delta Smash • CRV Health +5% • CRV Efficiency +12%

A recent addition to CRV’s portfolio is Delta Smash (Jeronimo x Martin). Smash originates from the relatively unknown Margreet cow family, which has delivered consistently strong performance over generations on the Van Aert family farm. “The cows from the Margreet family are solid cows with excellent functional traits, capable of producing high milk yields while achieving good longevity.” The daughters of Delta Smash are expected to fit seamlessly into this

profile. They are moderately sized and produce milk with high components. With a feed efficiency score of 107, Smash is also a true FeedExcel bull. Additionally, Smash excels in health traits, with a CRV Health score of +5%. He scores well above average for fertility (104) and transmits strong hoof health (109), which fits excellent in grazing systems. The type evaluation of Smash highlights strong feet and legs (107), with scores of 108 for locomotion and 106 for rear legs rear view.



- **High components**
- **Fertile cows**
- **Healthy hoofs**
- **Suitable for robots**

Delta Endless RC • CRV Health +3% • CRV Efficiency +10%

Delta Endless RC (Jacuzzi x Finder) now boasts over 3,200 daughters in milk, confirming his genomic breeding values with an impressive NVI of 235 points. Like Delta Everton, Endless hails from the widely used and highly successful Weelder Esmonique cow family. Endless excels as a production sire, combining a substantial milk yield (+357 kg) with significant increases in components (+0.29% fat and +0.13% protein). Moreover, his daughters achieve this production with relatively

low feed requirements, boasting a feed efficiency index of 106. Dutch dairy producers Gerben and Leon Heijink milk ten daughters of Endless. “We are very pleased with them,” says Leon Heijink. “They are robust heifers. At calving, they are sometimes a bit light, but they grow well afterwards. The Endless heifers all have excellent feet and legs, and their udders are very good too. The animals are not too big, but that is exactly what we want.”



- **Persistent producers**
- **Very high components**
- **Healthy udders**
- **Excellent feet and legs**

Impressive Fleckvieh in Bavaria

CRV organised a farmers tour to Bavaria in Germany. One of the farmers who joined the tour was Miles Saunders. He milks 400 cows with an average of 6,900 litre on Steps Farm in Faringdon. The herd was traditionally British Friesian, Holstein blood was introduced to give milk. Unfortunately, too much Holstein made the cows weaker with less condition. “I am now trying to breed a stronger Holstein”, Saunders says. “When TB hit the farm, we decided to use some Danish and Scandinavian Red, these are used alongside Dutch Holstein.” Saunders joined the tour to Bavaria to find out more about the Fleckvieh breed. “I thought that Fleckvieh was just to put strength into Holsteins, but I was impressed with the breed in so



The farmers who joined the CRV tour to Germany

many ways. The yields in pure breeds were very impressive – around 9,000 litres at 4.5% fat and 3.5% protein, and the cows were strong – not fat.” An eye-opener for Miles is that the usage of sexed semen is not that common in Bavaria, while there is a strong demand for bull calves, which

are making up to € 500 at four weeks old. “Overall, I was very impressed with the cows, I think that the Fleckvieh breed would fit into my breeding plan, especially on the weaker and leaner cows by giving them more strength. Also, with the added benefit of adding a 3rd breed into my X-bred cows.”

Strength and production in Holland

A group of British farmers joined the CRV tour to the Netherlands last November. They visited the Dairy Breeding Center in Wirdum, a feed efficiency test farm, but also the farm of Frank Winter. Winter judged the Skelton Show last July and gave a talk about his farm. Right now producers from this region visited the farm of Winter. One of the farmers was John Harrison of Crossrigg Farm. “I was impressed by the strength and the production of the cows over in Holland, particularly the components”, he says. “Since returning I have decided to use HerdOptimizer to start genomic testing my herd, to try and correct conformation and improve the feed efficiency and profitability, especially since I have a contract with Arla.”

A group of British farmers visited Frank Winter’s farm during the CRV tour to the Netherlands

