



CMSS Newsletter February 2014

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Genotype Sample Collection Project

So far, genomic testing and evaluation services have not yet been made available for the Milking Shorthorn breed. This is largely due to a small reference sire population as well as a lack of routine MACE evaluations for the Milking Shorthorn breed. If genomics are to become a reality for our breed in Canada, we will need to sample a large number of females as well as males.

One of the problems is that while we are probably a couple of years away from genomic testing in our breed, given the current evolution of genomic research, we have some older cows and genetically unique individuals that may not be alive when genotyping becomes available. For this reason, I am proposing that Milking Shorthorn breeders work together with the Society to establish a gene bank of samples that the Society would store until needed for genotyping. This would have several advantages, including:

- Safe and secure storage of samples in one location
- Preservation of samples on animals that may not be alive in future years
- Having a large group of samples ready to go immediately when a research or testing project is approved and financed
- Also serves as a back-up for cows that may need to be parentage tested in the future for embryos or sire testing purposes.

My proposal is that each CMSS member contribute samples to the gene bank. For members with small numbers of animals, this may involve 1 or 2 samples. For members with larger herds, they may choose to contribute as many as 10 or 20 samples. There would not be a limit on samples received. Sending a sample would not require that sample to be tested in the future and there is no financial commitment by contributing samples.

Samples would be in the form of hair samples in the way that samples are currently collected for parentage testing by GenServe. 15 or more tail hairs with intact follicles would be pulled for each animal, taped to a piece of paper, and placed in an individual white envelope, with the animal's name and registration number written on the envelope. These envelopes would then be sent to me for organization and safe-keeping until needed in the future. The only cost to the member will be their time in collecting the sample and posting the samples to the office, but that cost should be minimal.

I propose that these samples be taken this winter while animals are inside and easy to access and there are fewer other competing priorities. While a sample could arrive any time and be kept, I propose an early deadline of March 31st, 2014. As an incentive, three members who submit samples by March 31st would have their names drawn at random to win promotional item prizes from the CMSS (hats, toques, bags, books, etc).

Priority animals for collection:

- Cows over 5 years of age
- Cows in the Top 100 LPI cows
- Cows by AI sires
- Cows by older sires that are currently unavailable (Peerless, Prince Edward, Nell's Prestige, Outlaw, Peri's Champ, Roxie's Rodd, Lance, etc)
- Cows with high reliability percentages (50% or higher)
- Cows with large numbers of progeny
- Cows that have had a son used as a herd sire or as an AI sire
- Cows with extreme values for traits (both high and low), including fat and protein %, Somatic Cell, milk, and various type traits.

We want to get a cross section of the breed and not just top animals, so I could encourage breeders to consider sending samples on lower producing or low classification cows as well. These animals may be valuable in future genomic testing to improve accuracy by being able to differentiate top genetics from poorer genetics.

Breeders would be contacted before any of these samples would be submitted in the future for genomic testing. At that point, there may be costs for genotyping unless submitting as part of a research project. Also, I would encourage the sending of a hair sample on any sires being used in the herd. This could be invaluable to filling in pedigree holes in the future.

If you have any questions about this program, please feel free to contact me at any of the methods listed below. I hope that you will consider participating in this project in an effort to set the breed up for future success!

Looking for a host for the 2014 Field Day

A quick note to say that if any breeders are interested in hosting the 2014 Field Day, please contact Ryan at (902) 439-9386 or milking.shorthorn@gmail.com. Most of the expenses are covered by sponsorship for this event and it is a great opportunity to connect with fellow breeders and showcase your herd. The Field Day is usually scheduled for mid to late July, but there is room to discuss date options.

2014 National Sale

The CMSS Board of Directors have approved a plan to have another National Sale later this year, likely in late August or early September. Breeders interested in consigning to this sale should contact Ryan. Full details on the sale will be shared later this year.

Now Available: Lady Grove Conrad

The new CMSS Syndicates – Semex sire, Lady Grove Conrad, is now available from your local Eastgen, Westgen, or CIAQ representative. Conrad is sired by the #2 LPI bull (Ace) and out of the #1 LPI cow (Chardonnay), so he should possess a powerful index package! Thank you to breeders that chose to be part of the Conrad Syndicate.

LADY GROVE CONRAD

200MS0122 MSCANM11682145
Born November 5th, 2012 79.1% Purity
Beta Casein: A1/A2
aAa: 153624 DMS: 234

December 2013 Parent Averages:

+1993 LPI 25% Rel
EBV: +412M +47F +0.50% +16P +0.11%
+10 Conf +9 MS +5 FL +6 DS +5 RP



Sire: **Kulp-Gen Jurist Ace**

#2 LPI Sire (+1835) in Dec'13
+325M +46F +0.55% +17P +0.19% +8 Conf
14 class daug: 2 VG 9 GP 3 G

Sire: **Lands-Brook Chardonnay EXP**

Classified VG-86 (2-5)
#1 LPI Cow (+2151) in Dec'13
+499M +48F +0.45% +15P +0.03% +11 Conf
2-4 305d 7413M 347F 4.7% 253P 3.4%
3-5 305d 7994M 380F 4.8% 282P 3.5%
4-11 305d 9438M 430F 4.6% 309P 3.3%

PGS: **B Jurist**

#1 LPI Sire (+2003) in Dec'13
+569M +48F +0.41% +24P +0.20% +8 Conf
22 class daug: 5 EX 4 VG 8 GP 5 G

PGD: **Rovin Derek Ali Accent-P EX-92**

6 Star Brood Cow in Canada
6-6 305d. 10,786M 583F 5.4% 448P 3.4%
Grand Champion, Winter National 2005

PGS: **GMC Rebel Logic**

#3 LPI Sire (+1734) in Dec'13
-129M +17F +0.39% -1P +0.05% +14 Conf
52 class daug: 5 EX 24 VG 18 GP 5 G

PGD: **Lands-Brook Christie EX-94-4E**

7-2 305d 12,145M 495F 4.1% 356P 2.9%
9-5 305d 12,245M 627F 5.1% 366P 3.0%



Maternal Sister to Conrad:

Lady Grove Aramis Cherie VG-85 (2-11)

Sired by Panorama Aramis

+1757 LPI (Dec'13)

EBV: +136M +24F +0.31% +4P +0.02% +11 Conf
2-9 305d 6,800M 302F 4.4% 225P 3.3%

2014 Improver: Call for Advertising

I will be starting work on our annual magazine, The Improver, in the coming weeks, with the goal of having it completed and out to breeders by the first of April.

Advertising rates are:

	Colour	Black & White
Full Page	\$285	\$175
Half Page	\$200	\$115

Other ad sizes are available...contact for details.

To book your ad, **please contact me by February 20th**. I can help you design your ad at no additional cost.

Also, if you have anything to contribute to the Improver in terms of news items, please feel free to pass them along.

Delays at Livestock Records in Registry Work

I was informed recently by Ron Black, the General Manager at Canadian Livestock Records Corp (our registry service provider) that they have discovered that they were not receiving the majority of their mail in December and early January. For some reason, it was being diverted to a holding for bulk mail sorting and then wasn't discovered until last week.

As a result, they received about 500 pieces of mail just the other day. If you sent work in by mail and haven't received anything yet, this is probably why. CLRC will try and work their way through the backlog ASAP. If you have questions, please contact one of the registrars (Betty or Lisa) at CLRC.

Looking for Cattle or Embryos? Check the CMSS Marketplace

The Society is continuing to provide our CMSS Marketplace page on the website, which lists animals, embryos, and semen available for sale. Breeders looking for animals are also free to submit a listing for the page. It is free to put a listing on the Marketplace, and only animals that sell are subject to a small commission. If you have too much milk or too many heifers in your pens, give Ryan a call at (902) 439-9386 or send an email to milking.shorthorn@gmail.com.

If you are going to submit a listing, here are some tips to successful sales:

- Listings with photos always sell better than those without
- Provide registration numbers, breeding/calving dates, and service sires. Listing specific animals that can be linked to their pedigree details sell better than generic "animals available" listings.
- Provide a price for each animal. Even if you are negotiable on price, it is better to provide a price that will encourage interested buyers to contact you.