


10th Mid-Atlantic Dairy Grazing Conference

What's on the Horizon for Grazing Genetics?




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Matthew Costello
CRV Sales Project Specialist

Cattle Improvement at CRV

- Established in 1874
- Mission: "CRV is a leading customer-focused cattle improvement co-operative, fully committed to adding value for farmers."
- CRV helps on various fronts
 - consultants on the farm
 - management products
 - research focused on new solutions
 - services
- Several breeding programs



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The Role of Breeding in New Zealand

New Zealand breeding objectives changed over time:

- '60's – 80's Fat
- Mid '80's Fat + Protein
- Post '96 Economic efficiency – account for cost of dry matter for maintenance
- Now Also includes non-production traits like Survival, Fertility and SCC

The increased economic efficiency achieved on dairy farms in New Zealand from genetic improvement in dairy cows has been one of the critical factors in maintaining the economic viability of the dairy industry.

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Economic Efficiency

Goal: Improve net income per unit of feed consumed
Improved output over input


MORE WITH LESS

	Milk ltr	Kg F	Kg P	P%	P%	Lact days	P/ day	Body Weight	DM require ment	Solids/kg DM (KG) *
US Holstein	10,607	389	326	3.67	3.07	365	0.89	699	7750	11
NZL Friesian	4,414	195	161	4.42	3.65	211	0.76	468	4400	12

* Utilizing Metabolic live weight and Dry Matter requirements for Maintenance and milk production

BIGGER ISN'T ALWAYS BETTER.....but...

Can improvements be made?



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Crossbreeding the NZ-way



Criss-Cross – little black cow
Manage size by using Jersey or Friesian
Maiden heifers to jersey
Anything that looks like jersey goes to Friesian and vice versa
F8J8 animal is the goal.
Hybrid vigor is bonus

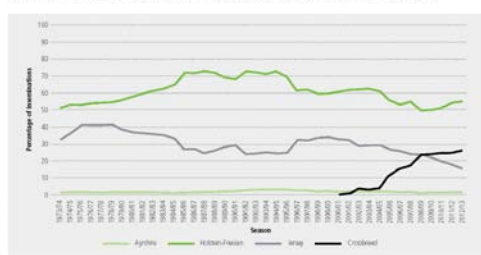


Using Crossbred bulls
Simplicity is key –what to use on Xbred-cows
Hybrid vigor not the focus
Want to stabilize breed make-up,
¼ Friesian through to ¾ Jersey
Merge desired traits from 2 dominant breeds to design cow that meets farm and management system

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Changing the Breed

Graph 4.10: Trend in the percentage of inseminations of each major breed for the last 40 seasons



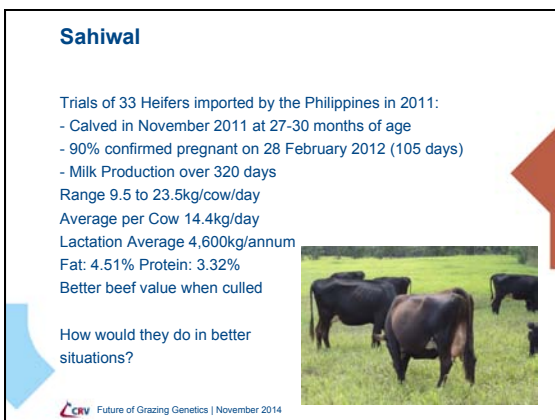
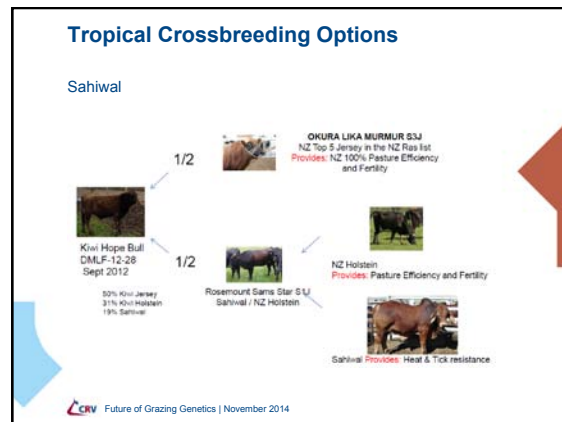
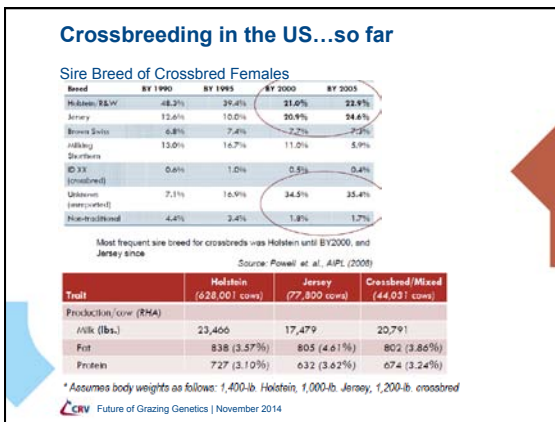
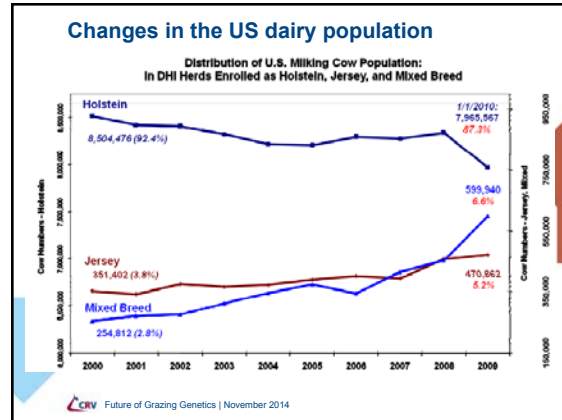
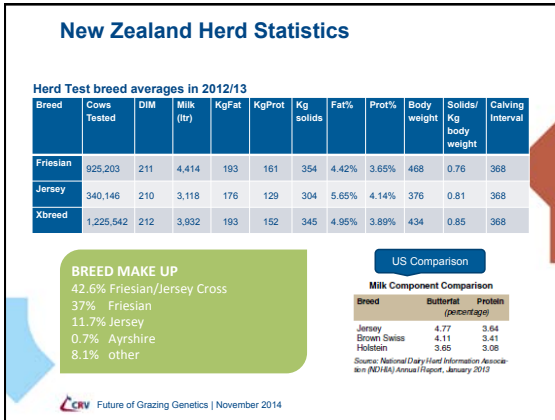
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Girolando

Production Statistics:

- Average age at first calving 35 months
- Calving Interval of 468 days
- Daily milk yield 12.3kg/day
- Lactation yield 4,400kg/305 days
- Fat 4.0% Protein 3.7%
- Good carcass yields



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Other Possibilities

Unfortunately we can not import semen from Brazil


What are our other options?

- Heat Tolerance Selection
- Create selection indexes for improved performance

Key to Success:

Make the cow to fit your system, and get the most return from your grass.



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Thank You

Any Questions?



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