

# 2017 Eastern Cape Holstein Club **Herd Competition**

- Wikus van der Merwe

Beautiful cows, sunshine, great atmosphere, green pastures and of course, wind! Yes it was time for the East Cape Holstein Club Herd Competition again and this year I had the honour of judging the event with Herman Duvenage. A total of 9 herds were judged over two days and as always the event is attended extremely well by breeders and interested industry people. Great cows and lively conversation around them! Myself and Herman had a great time judging the herds at Vergaderingskraal, Sarnia, Bloekomlaan, Alpha, Saragossa, Milagro, Andrich, Groenwei and Puttergill and in every herd we found quality cows that are functional, dairy and of a very high standard! The competition was rounded off very well with a great evening prize giving at the beautiful Intle Game Lodge. The perfect setting to cap off a great event!

We looked for functional cows with good dairy strength and capacity, a strong topline, correct rump, a good mammary system and sound feet and legs. Cows were presented in groups of 5 first-, second- and third and more- lactations per herd and three progeny groups per farm. I would like to commend every breeder for the way the cows were presented, we know the amount of effort that goes into a competition like this and we also know that it is not only the effort of presenting them on the day but the year round effort over many years that enable breeders to present cows of such a high standard. For that, every breeder in this competition has to be applauded! Loudly!

The first lactation class was of a high standard and the final three cows ended up as a close placing. First place went to Puttergill Gold Chip 15101 a very well developed young cow with great dairyness and a very good udder. In second was Commander 15098 exhibited by Saragossa, a young cow with a tremendous future and definitely one to look out for in years to come. In third place in the first lactation class was Paradise 15202 exhibited by Bloekomlaan. This young cow made a great impression early in the competition and her balance, dairyness and great udder made her an easy choice in the top three of a very strong class of the competition.



The second lactation class got more and more tense as every farm had cows of great quality and only three points separated the first five placings! In first was Milagro Lavanguard 14029, a cow with great length, dairyness, balance and a super udder! In second was Puttergill Observer 14014, a strong, very well balanced cow with a great udder and in third Saragossa Guthrie 14001, a young cow with a tremendous frame, she was all about dairy strength, length, capacity and quality. This class was a tight one and not only the individuals but also the groups showed very good quality across the board. The way the cows develop from first to second lactation is very satisfactory and promising for the future of all the herds involved in the competition.

The mature cow class was another strong one and in the end topped by the very impressive Dundee 9027 exhibited by Saragossa. A cow with a great udder, exceptional frame and considering she is 8 years old as well she was a worthy winner. She looks ready and able to continue for many more years! In second was a cow we saw early on the first morning that made a big impression, Steady 11166 exhibited by Fredskraal was a very well balanced 6 year old cow with a solid frame, strong topline and a very well attached, quality udder. In third was Kolton 355 exhibited by Alpha, she is a long bodied, open ribbed cow with a very good udder and great balance. Again this class was a close one and small things made the difference in the placing of great mature



cows that are proof of the quality the Holstein breed has to offer when it comes to functional dairy cows that last and produce profitably under tough conditions.

Progeny groups are always fun to judge and here a very uniform Dorcy group exhibited by Saragossa took the number one spot. These three cows had great overall balance, sound feet and legs and super udders! The second place Doorman group exhibited by Milagro impressed us with their great udders, the uniformity in their udders and their standout dairyness is what got them to second place in the progeny group class.

In third place was a very impressive group of Paradise daughters exhibited by Bloekomlaan. This was a group of very functional, strong cows with very good udders and they showed great ability to produce well too. The High Producer class was won Andrich Boerdery's Jungle 1266, strong, wide, dairy and with a super udder and she was standing solid on a great set of feet and legs. Progeny group and high producer classes in events like this always make for great conversation and interaction and definitely make us think about our breeding decisions more closely. The important thing is to build on the many positives we learn from these classes and to build on them for the future.

The most uniform herd prize went to Puttergill Holsteins and the herd achieving the most points in the individual classes was Saragossa. Our Grand Champion Cow was Milagro Lavanguard 14029 and Reserve Grand Champion Puttergill Gold Chip 15101. Two great cows and a pair of Champions that we were proud to award on the day. Congratulations to Mario Marais and your team on organizing an event that is very enjoyable and attended by so many people positively contributing to the dairy industry in the Eastern Cape. It is an event that makes people come back for more and it gets better every year!

## KLUBS *Clubs*

### **OOS-KAAP HOLSTEIN KLUB/EASTERN CAPE HOLSTEIN CLUB**

Mario Marais  
Posbus 392, Jeffreys Bay, 6332  
Email: [mario.marais@afgri.co.za](mailto:mario.marais@afgri.co.za)  
Cell: 082 854 5110

### **NATAL HOLSTEIN KLUB/NATAL HOLSTEIN CLUB**

Craig Rees  
PO Box 89, Blackheath, Cape Town, 7581  
Email: [craig@rees.co.za](mailto:craig@rees.co.za)  
Cell: 083 560 0040

### **WES-KAAP HOLSTEIN KLUB/WESTERN CAPE HOLSTEIN CLUB**

Chris Fourie  
Tottumstraat 16, DURBANVILLE, 7550  
Epos: [dmcchris@gmail.com](mailto:dmcchris@gmail.com)  
Sel: 082 920 4887  
F: 086 660 1345

### **VRYSTAAT HOLSTEIN KLUB/FREE STATE HOLSTEIN CLUB**

Wikus van der Merwe  
Posbus 100828, Brandhof, 9324  
E-pos: [Wikus@embryoplus.com](mailto:Wikus@embryoplus.com)  
Sel: 084 240 6517

### **TRANSVAAL HOLSTEIN KLUB/TRANSVAAL HOLSTEIN CLUB**

Ruben Redelinghuys  
PO Box 265111, THREE RIVERS, 1935  
Email: [red.rubie@hotmail.com](mailto:red.rubie@hotmail.com)  
T: 016-324 4045  
Cell: 083 535 7163