



Lucky Leo

Frankenhof Lucky Leo – following the Burke tradition

Being a privately sampled bull, Lucky Leo was an uncommon phenomenon in the Dutch breeding industry. But due to his high protein and type indexes, pleasing show results of early daughters, and an appealing cow family, the Ugela Bell son was popular with many breeders. His proof is now based on 1105 daughters, including the national junior champion and several highly sought-after bull dams.

In the last couple of years large breeding programs are again becoming increasingly interested in sampling sons from national show icons, especially in North America. For instance, just think of the sons from Blackrose, Star Lily, Tony Beauty, and the brand-new Madison and Royal champion Tri-Day Ashlyn being sampled. Even though the type qualities of their dams form no waterproof

guarantee, there are plenty of examples this strategy can work. This summer the French-German proven bull Mateo RC, the red factor RC Matt son from the French champion Etoile EX-97 (by Melwood), has been a good example. Frankenhof Lucky Leo is another good example. As the son of the successful show cow, Frankenhof Lenora 2 EX-93, this Ugela Bell son produced a number of in-

demand bull dams in the Netherlands. His trademarks are sound type in combination with very good protein and longevity.

APPEALING DAM

Many HI readers will (still) not have traces of Frankenhof Lucky Leo in their herd. First of all because the semen of this privately sampled bull was mostly marketed in the Netherlands (and in parts of Belgium and Germany), and secondly because the oldest Lucky Leo sons will not receive their indexes until 2003. Nevertheless, the bull deserves further attention. Lucky Leo was born in 1991 as the son of Frankenhof Lenora 2 EX-93, one of the most appealing cows from the Dutch Holstein history. This outstanding cow was sired by the milk transmitter Nehls Chief Crusader, and she became the reserve national champion in 1990. Nehls (Pawnee Farm Arlinda Chief x Harborcrest Happy Crusader) was sampled in the Netherlands. At the preliminary version of the current European National Show in Brussels, Lenora 2 was the lead cow of the winning Dutch team. She comes from a show cow family. Her dam, OAT Lenora EX-

Thanks to a combination of high protein and outstanding type there is lots of interest for the best Lucky Leo daughters, such as QG Emie VG-86 (Lucky Leo x Mountain x Mascot x Blackstar x Rotate Ebony) of Quality Genes from the Netherlands with a record of 2.02 305d 10,302 kg 4.15% 3.54%.

90, was also the reserve champion at the national show 6 years earlier. This Hagemans Tempo daughter was imported by Hidde Osinga from the German breeding area Osnabrück as a pregnancy in her Apache dam at the end of the '70s. A few years later Lenora was sold to the Oosterink family in Velp. In the meantime the Lenora's have developed into a large and valued family at Frankenhof. 'Our most productive two-year-old last year and also our highest index cow is a Lenora,' Sam Oosterink confirms. This two-year-old, Lenora 253 VG-87 (Ronald x VG-87 Dannix) is special for a number of reasons. Her grand-dam, Lenora 79 VG-85, comes from the same ET-flush as Lucky Leo. 'Lenora 79 doesn't have that extra bit of style but she does have a super udder and very strong feet & legs. So far she has produced a total of 75,331 kg with 4.15% fat and 3.65% protein and I think she will last for another couple of years.' Longevity and high protein seem to be anchored in the family. Lenora 2 made a lifetime total of 107,331 kg 4.28% 3.56% and the foundation cow, Lenora – who lived to be a 14 year old – made 88,060 kg 4.83% 3.65%.

UNFORTUNATE DECISION

Lucky Leo should have gone to Great Britain to make his career, but because he tested positive to BLAD he couldn't go. He presented a good opportunity to Dutch dairy farmer Gerit van 't Hof from Oosterwolde who purchases and raises 40 natural service sires each year. 'I frequently visited the Oosterink family to buy bulls and every visit I was impressed by Lenora 2. I was thrilled to have the opportunity to buy her BLAD positive Ugela Bell son. As soon as time allowed, I used him heavily on my own herd.' In the following years, Van 't Hof leased the bull to two other dairy farmers for natural service while a total of 10,000 units of semen were custom-collected in this period. With this inventory and due to a leg injury Van 't Hof decided to cull Lucky Leo a few months before his proof came through. 'In retrospect this was a bad decision,' Van 't Hof admits. He

milks 20 Lucky Leo daughters now and two of them have been classified EX already. 'Our oldest Lucky Leo daughters have calved five times. They continue to develop and have large, powerful frames.' The bull sires lots of udders and feet & legs. 'His daughters have sound udders. If you look at the fine details, they lack the last bit of length to the fore udder, just like their grand-dam, Lenora 2. I keep it in mind when making breeding decisions.'

UNIQUE COMBINATION

After his debut in August 1997, Lucky Leo's high breeding values were questioned. In the Netherlands privately sampled bulls are an uncommon phenomenon. On the other side, he did combine high protein with high type at 84% reliability. The high type part of the story was supported by the show victories early daughters claimed. One example is Grietje 79 VG-89 from Wim Oostendorp in Kampen. Via her well-known Esquimau daughter, Grietje 80 EX-91, she is the grand-dam of the popular young sire Home-run (by Lord Lily) that will soon receive his first index.

Jan Advocaat marketed the Lucky Leo semen. Lucky Leo's semen was mostly used in breeding herds for ET purposes and for use on high type cows.



This is how numerous Lucky Leo embryos were also exported. The bull is BLAD positive, and based on experience in the field, he could also be a CVM carrier.

In May 1999 Lucky Leo's production index was based on 84 daughters. Since his initial proof in August 1997 his milk proof

had dropped 200 kg of milk. He is not a real milk bull and his second crop daughters confirm this. His most recent index (11/2001) is based on 1105 daughters and amounts to +424 kg -0.03% +0.12% f244 Inet. While many of his daughters are only average for production, others are outstanding producers. Amongst the latter group, there is a number of the most sought-after Dutch bull dams. Besides his good protein index, Lucky

Leo continues to score very well for type (112) and longevity (DU 113, 84% rel.). It is not often that a popular bull dam claims champions' titles. Just like their granddam Lenora 2 10 years ago, this unique achievement has also been accomplished by Lucky Leo daughters Usselviendt Roza 137 VG-89 (mgs. Lexus) of the Puttenstein family in Wezep, and Southland Dellia 2 VG-88 (mgs. Largo) of the Van Beek family in Teteringen. In contrast to many other index bulls, Lucky Leo sires strength and capacity. The feet & legs tend to be coarse sometimes. In practice this means that Lucky Leo is not labeled as a feet & leg bull even though he scores a respectable 107 for this trait.

INBREEDING ON W.A.B.L.

Zwartkop 365 VG-89 of the Van der Ploeg family in Warga is another example of the top cows Lucky Leo is capable of producing. She was the junior national champion in 2000. She also demonstrates Lucky Leo's distinct qualities of capacity and udder quality. In the pedigree it is not hard to trace these qualities. His pedigree is not one that stands out with a long line of famous transmitters. However, it is quite remarkable that 4 generations have been intensively inbred on Wisconsin Admiral Burke Lad, one of the foundation sires behind the Holstein breed. Ugela Bell, Nehls Chief Crusader, Hagemans Tempo, and Chapel Bank Apache trace at least 21x, 15x, 12x, and 4x back to him respectively. Halfway through the 20th Century the Burke bloodlines were admired for their strong constitution and outstanding udders. There is lots of Burke blood (15x) in Nehls Harborcrest Dee Dee EX-92 (Harborcrest Happy Crusader x Paclamar Astronaut), the dam of Nehls Chief Crusader. Nehls not only is the maternal grandsire to Lucky Leo, but also is the sire of the most heavily used bull of all times, Skalsumer Sunny Boy. Another brood cow from Lucky Leo's pedigree with lots of Burke blood (10x) is Andfar Astronaut Cinderella EX-94, the grand-dam of Ugela Bell. This French sampled Bell son distinguished himself from a lot of the Bell sons with his powerful and great uddered daughters. This same Burke bloodline pattern can be seen in the daughters of his son, Lucky Leo. In addition, they are the kind of cows that fit well on cows with (lots of) Ivanhoe blood. The best evidence of this is the bull of the century, RORA Elevation. ◀◀

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