

# Sire report: Lucky Mike

Even though the bull was privately sampled, the European program of Alta saw the high protein and type potential as plenty of reason to heavily use the Dutch Ugela Bell son Frankenhof Lucky Leo as a sire of sons. The most popular result from this decision is Lucky Mike, the son that combines good (protein) production with appealing type.

Ever since his debut in November 2003 Lucky Mike has been one of the most talked about bulls in the Netherlands for one reason or another. First of all because of his appealing ratings for frame, legs, and overall conformation in combination with sound production numbers. Secondly because Lucky Mike became a common topic of discussion with his unknown background to most people. At the time of his debut almost nobody knew about his breeders or his cow family. Thirdly Lucky Mike had a relatively small number of 1st crop daughters by Dutch standards. As a result, his first proof was greeted with a logical amount of skepticism. And this skepticism seemed justified when the bull went down for kg of milk 3 months after his debut. But in the meantime we have had 2 more index runs and Lucky Mike made up for those losses. And this creates confidence. Not just among dairy farmers but also among sire analysts in and outside of the Netherlands.

**HIS BREEDER**  
Klaas and Albert Stoker were the “unknown” breeders of Lucky Mike until last year. In Nij Beets in the north of the Netherlands these brothers milk 170 cows with replacements. Albert is Lucky Mike’s architect. Due to the intensive nature of their operation, Stoker always selected strongly for production (Inet). The bull Blackstar and several sons gained lots of influence in the herd. Over the past couple of years Stoker has readjusted his selection criteria. ‘Maybe because we were breeding too much for dairyness our cows became ultra productive but also more vulnerable physically. That’s why I now choose bulls that sire daughters with more body strength. I still value production potential in our herd very much though and certainly try to maintain it.’ The Stokers run a commercial operation. And because of the high animal stocking rate and their housing system, cows don’t get much of a chance to show off their type potential. The brothers only rarely have VG two-year-olds in their herd. And as a result the high type transmitter Lucky Mike doesn’t have one VG cow in

the Albertje maternal line from which he comes. Even though the Albertjes have excelled within the herd for both production and type for a number of generations, sire analysts waited for a long time before contracting the family. But thanks to the enthu-



siasm and determination of Albert Stoker, Alta was the first AI to take the risk. And Lucky Mike is the result.



Lucky Mike is a much talked about Lucky Leo son for a number of reasons.

**HIS SIRE**  
Frankenhof Lucky Leo (Ugela Bell x Nehls Chief Crusader) is the sire of Lucky Mike. In spite of his CVM and BLAD status he is one of the most successful sires of sons in the Netherlands. He also fathers the international sire of sons De Crob Dynasty, the top type bulls Fitlist and Woudhoeve Superior, and the all-round bulls De Crob Bingo and Veldhoek Luxor. In Germany he has also produced the sire of sons Lucifer. Lucky Leo was privately sampled and died before the end of his 1st crop period. He has many fans in the Netherlands with his high protein and type proof. The July 2004 issue of HI featured a special on Lucky Leo.

**HIS FAMILY**  
An important cow in the maternal line of Lucky Mike is Albertje 46, a Ruann Golden Nugget Klark daughter from a K-Way Apostle King Vic dam. In the mid ‘80s she produced 50% more than her herd-mates. Another cow that stands out in the pedigree is Jabot Albertje GP-84 (Jabot x Sunny Boy x Astro Jet x Albertje 46). Following the family tradition she also was a highly productive cow and according to Stoker an impressive cow. Her high indexes and the positive experience with the maternal line made Stoker decide to flush the Jabot daughter. Since then Jabot Albertje’s daughters by Ronald, Cash, Lord Lily, and Celsius quickly made the family grow. Daughter Cel J Albertje was classified GP-84 as a two-year-old and was one of the top classified two-year-olds of her generation. After a very productive career the



Cel J Albertje GP-84 proves her family's type potential via her son Lucky Mike.

Celsius daughter is not in production anymore. She did recently calve out with a Katshaar Kirby daughter though. Addi CJ Albertje GP-83, the Addison two-year-old from Cel J Albertje, is the current star of the herd with a first record of 2-6 305 11,186 kg 3.93% 3.51% (40% over herd average). She is a very strong cow that was flushed for Holland Genetics to Nevada and Lightning. Her sire Addison also produced two outstanding daughters in combination with Jabot Albertje’s Lord Lily daughter. ‘Since then a lot of new Albertjes have entered production but none of them make it to the level of these 3 Addison daughters. This trio really stands out,’ explains Stoker, who uses a lot of Lucky Mike semen on his own herd. ‘We milk a number of 1st crop daughters that do very well. Besides, I have looked at his daughters in other herds. The bull really meets my breeding goal: strong cows that keep up a high production potential.’

**HIS SAMPLING PERIOD**  
René Te Wierik, sire analyst at Alta’s European breeding program, is not surprised by Lucky Mike’s breeding values. ‘Within the herd of the Stoker family this cow family belongs to the absolute top. At 84 points his dam was probably the highest classified daughter from a group of almost 40 two-year-olds.’ Lucky Mike has 78 daughters in his production index and Te Wierik expects this number to increase to a maximum of 85. In the meantime 26 daughters have started their 2nd lactation. The newest (preliminary) information clearly reveals that Lucky Mike daughters produce above expectation in their 2nd lactation. Since his debut Alta has

been using Lucky Mike as a sire of sons in Europe and a total of about 20 sons will be sampled. Te Wierik thinks that the combination with Aaron daughters is perfect. ‘Lucky Mike sires wide front-ends, a deep first rib, and a long and sloping rump. For rump width, rear udder height, and udder ligament – Lucky Mike’s not so strong traits – they complement each other very well. In addition, Lucky Mike sires somewhat sickled legs while Aaron sires straight legs.’ Alta employee Adrion Van Beek also thinks the combination with Aaron works really well. Van Beek saw almost all of the Lucky Mike daughters, some of them a number of times. ‘Lucky Mike will work out well on daughters of a range of bulls because he has almost no weak points in his type profile. His daughters consistently show lots of stature, style, and are upstanding with a flat bone. In spite of their size they are athletic cows. During their 1st lactation some daughters show a little extra muscularity. As 2nd calvers however, every single one stands out with their open and dairy frames. The udders show good front attachments but the rear attachments could be a little higher. Moreover, you could wish to see the ligament a little clearer in the upper udder.’ Lucky Mike scores very well for almost every linear frame trait. The only exception is rump width (96). When it comes to all the other traits such as strong fore udders, ligament (99), and leg set rear view (111, parallel) the linear numbers are a confirmation of the field reports. With Lucky Leo as sire and Celsius as maternal grandsire, Lucky Mike doesn’t have a high pedigree index for cell count. This is part of

PRODUCTION	
base/reliability	NL/86%
daughters/herds	78/59
kg milk	1286 kg
fat (%/kg)	-.19%/38 kg
protein (%/kg)	-.01%/43 kg
production index	193 Inet
total index	257 DPS
source	NVO
TYPE	
base/reliability	NL/80%
daughters/herds	44/33
total type	118
udder score	110
feet & legs	111
stature	114
capacity	108
rump angle	108
rump width	96
front teat placement	107
teat length	99
fore udder attachment	107
udder depth	103
rear udder height	105
rear udder width	-
udder cleft	99
legs side view	98
foot angle	106
SECONDARY TRAITS	
somatic cell score	99
longevity	107
milking speed	103
calving ease	105
aAa	153
owner	Alta

**STRONG POINTS:**

- Overall conformation
- Frame

**PROTECT FOR:**

- Rump width
- Suspensory ligament

the reason why he scores below population average in a several Interbull rankings. In the Netherlands his cell count rating went up from 96 when he made his debut to 97 now. Finally: Lucky Mike is suitable for use on virgin heifers, he is in great shape, and is available in all markets around the world. ●