

The Molenkamp GRIETJE family

Successful result of mixing B&W and R&W

Thanks to the discovery of the red factor, the pure Dutch bred Molenkamp Grietjes turned into one of the most influential red and white families worldwide in just 10 years time. The Grietjes and their sons top the genomics lists everywhere. Read about this all-round cow family, 'barn-proven' for high lifetime production.

At the Eurogenes Summer Sale held on May 25, RZH Gwen-P sold for 36.000 euro the third high selling individual in the sale and the highest sold red and white. The Ladd P daughter with +153 RZG and +2080 GTPI is the number one RZG polled heifer and sold as an embryo to Marco Hellwig, Germany. Gwen was bred from one of the most famous cow families in the Netherlands: Molenkamp Grietjes. It's a story about a black and white cow family which became famous after finding the red factor, but even more it's a story of strong transmitting cows with extreme durability, strong feet and legs, high protein yield and lots of type. The sort of independent cow farmers like to work with because you never notice them.

"In breeding we focus on genomics, young animals and fast intervals,"

Grietje breeder Mark van Wichen commented. "But as a farmer we really appreciate the Grietjes because they are easy, trouble-free milking cows with a high lifetime production. That's what counts for farmers and that's what makes the Grietjes special, they are barn-proven."

Jocko daughter with red factor

The A.I. interest for the Molenkamp Grietjes started with Grietje 28. She was without a doubt one of the best Jocko Besne daughters in Europe, and carried the red factor. "We didn't know she had the red factor until CRV called to ask if they could test Grietje. We had no idea which heifer she was, we had to search for her in the barn," says Mark van Wichen who runs with his parents, Henk and Gerrie, a farm in Maasbommel, in the middle of the Netherlands. "Grietje's great-granddam was a daughter of the red bull, Granduc Famous, after three generations Grietje still had the red factor." They flushed Grietje 28 as a heifer with a Stadel-son, Classic, and it resulted in Molenkamp Farfan. "That was very special for us, our first bull to AI," remembers Mark. He is the number five for NVI daughter proven sires in the Netherlands and the number two for type. Unfortunately the A.I. had



Han Hopman

Molenkamp Grietje 28 *RC VG-89-NL

Red Factor Jocko Besne dtr and the foundation behind the great Molenkamp Grietje cow family



Molenkamp Grietje 58 VG-87-NL 2yr.
Tremendous Mr. Burns dtr, out of Grietje 28



Molenkamp Grietje 99 VG-87 2yr.
Jerudo x Goldwyn x Grietje 28



Molenkamp Grietje 61 *RC VG-88-NL
Nom. Global R&W Cow of the Year '13 (H)

to put him down before he started his test period. But Grietje got another chance. She also delivered Molenkamp Andy, a red factor Goldwyn son and CRV has promoted him as a sire of sons. “Andy was for us the proof that the Grietjes are not only excellent milkers, but they are also able to deliver great bulls.” Andy is the number two red-factor sire and the number 10 for type in the Netherlands. The high testing

“Thanks to genomics the Grietjes were set on their true value”

on genomics was not a surprise, Mark shared. “Before the genomics period, the indexes of the Grietjes were very common. Although they accelerated in our herd from the 1970’s when the first Grietje entered the barn. Their indexes were underestimated, thanks to the genomics the Grietjes were set on their true value. The good news is also that all Grietjes test high on genomics. It’s typical for a real strong cow family that they transmit their good characteristics to the next generation, whatever sire you use.”

Powerful Grietje

In the meantime Grietje scored 89 for type, with 93 points for dairy strength. “She has huge dairy strength, after her first calving she already showed a lot of power. Her top production wasn’t extremely high with 34 kilos of milk, but she was very persistent.” Ten year old Grietje 28 is still alive and kicking on the farm with 140 cows, three milking robots and an average production of 10.932 kilos milk with 3,97 % fat and 3,39 % protein. “Grietje 28 is dry now, despite of her age, the strength in her feet and legs is remarkable, she can go on for many more lactations.” Her lifetime production is about 60.000 kilos milk with 3,86% fat and 3,44% protein in three lactations. Mark doesn’t really worry about his ‘brood-cow’ to calve for the fourth time this year. “She is heavy and fat, but she will start the lactation easy, I am sure. She will start eating and produce milk, no problem. I don’t know how, but she can handle this transition easily.” High, lifetime production is also very typical for the Grietjes. Her Looking Major

mother, Grietje 23 Very Good-87, broke a leg in her fifth lactation otherwise she probably could have made more milk than her lifetime production of 57.401 kilos. The best example of the cow family’s durability is Grietje 13, the grandmother of Grietje 28. The Very Good-85 Cash daughter calved 12 times and produced over 110.000 kilos milk. “And she is in calf again”, mentions Mark proudly. Grietje 13 has seven daughters who scored at least Very Good-85.

High genomics

Back to Grietje 28, almost all her sons went to A.I. and at Molenkamp about 19 daughters are already milking. In their heifer production they scored 13% above herd average and VG 85,1 for type. One of the most heavily contracted daughters is Grietje 48. She is a red Spencer daughter and scores (like all the Grietjes) high on genomics. Her full sister Grietje 53 is also a very popular bull dam. She scored Very Good-86 and has a polled Asterix son at CRV: Molenkamp Griffith P,

“A real strong cow family transmits their good characteristics to the next generation, whatever sire you use”

the No. 2 polled red bull on RZG. Her Mr. Burns daughter Grietje 92 (VG-87 and producing 23% above herd average) is the No. 6 on the NVI list and her Danillo son went to ABS. The Beacon daughter from Grietje 48 calved on the day of the Summer Sale where her Ladd P was sold for a huge price. “She has a fantastic udder,” shares Mark. “Like her two full sisters. They can easily score 85.” With Ladd P x Beacon x Spencer x Jocko, it is a very interesting pedigree for red and white. “Now that we put American and Canadian bloodlines in the Grietjes, they not only score on NVI and RZG, but also on TPI, that makes them interesting for every market.”

And there is another Spencer daughter: Molenkamp Grietje 50 RF. This black and white has the highest genomics of the Spencer sisters. “We didn’t flush her at first, because she had three red and white sisters which we found were more interesting because of their color. Af-

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The interest of A.I. organizations is already a generation further. Red factor heifers from Vendairy Wonder are being flushed. “I like to use red bulls on red factor animals,” mentions Mark on the conditions for mating. “I want red or red factor animals. When we use a red factor bull on a red factor cow, we can get a black and white animal without the red factor.” To stay in front he uses polled bulls. “For some extras, but only if it really combines well with the Grietjes.” On his older cows he combines with sexed semen of high genomic bulls, “To make more heifer calves with hopefully high genomics and interesting bloodlines.” And if the genomics are not high enough, it’s not a problem. “The Grietjes are excellent milking cows. We never have enough of those easy working cows in the barn.”

ter we ran the genomic test, Grietje 50 RF was the highest. Over 80% of all Grietjes score on genomics higher than their pedigree expectations,” says Mark. Grietje 50 has a Very Good-88 red Fidelity daughter: Grietje 90. She is the No. 2 NVI milking cow for red and white in the Netherlands and has a Bookem son scored +150 gRZG. Her Wonder son, Molenkamp Parzival RF, scores high on NVI and type and Pleasure sons went to ABS and CRV. “The combination of Grietje 28 and Spencer was extremely successful,” evaluates Mark. “Spencer didn’t have a breeding value when we used him, but his scores on protein and daughter fertility were good. The Spencer daughters are not the heaviest cows, but Grietje 28 could compensate that easily.”

Index and show

From all Grietjes daughters we will mention one special one: Molenkamp Grietje 58 is the barn favorite. “We never bred a more beautiful cow than Grietje 58, with her we went to our first national show, another milestone.” The Mr. Burns daughter scored 87 and represented her father in a daughter group on the NRM 2010. On this national show she was chosen the best first calf Mr. Burns daughter. “She has show and index,” Mark mentions. “She is our best cow ever. She is

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long, deep, tall and heavy and also produces a lot of milk.” In her first lactation Grietje 58 produced in 305 days 11.725 kilos milk with 3,52% fat and 3,38% protein: 38% above herd average. She has numerous sons in A.I., like Xavi, a red Alchemy son at AI Total, but also sons of Fiction RF, Matrix-Red, Pleasure and Destry. In Germany, the No. 1 genomic bull for type is her son, Kuyt Red sired by Destry. The five year old cow has been flushed a lot to fulfill all her embryo contracts, including embryos for Japan. Before she went dry, she weighed over



RZH Gwen-P Red - Ladd P x Molenkamp Grietje 111
DE 04/13 RZG 153 - #1 RZG Polled Heifer World Wide
Here in the EG Summer Sale ring, sold for € 36.000

1000 kilo Mark mentions. “We can weigh the cows in the robot.” She calved for the second time on Christmas 2012 and looks super. We hope to flush her again with sexed semen.”

The Grietjes develop themselves not only as interesting bull mothers, but also as show cows. For example, Molenkamp Grietje 61 RF is a Goldwyn daughter out of the Jocko and a full sister to sire of sons Molenkamp Andy RF. At national shows this Very Good-88 cow walks in the top five of the classes. All eyes are focused on her offspring: in combination with Jerudo Grietje 61 send Molenkamp Jego to CRV and Molenkamp Jergan to RUW. Their two full sisters produce 'super'. Grietje 99 Red is the No. 1 Jerudo for RZG and her sister Grietje 101 red scores 209 NVI in the Netherlands and is a high -very important for the breeding program- outcross cow. “In the RZG top 50 list we have five bulls out of the Grietjes, unique and it makes us very proud.”



Alex Arkink

Molenkamp Grietje 53 (s. Spencer) | Dam to Molenkamp Griffith P and Grietje 92 Red

The Molenkamp GRIETJE cow family

