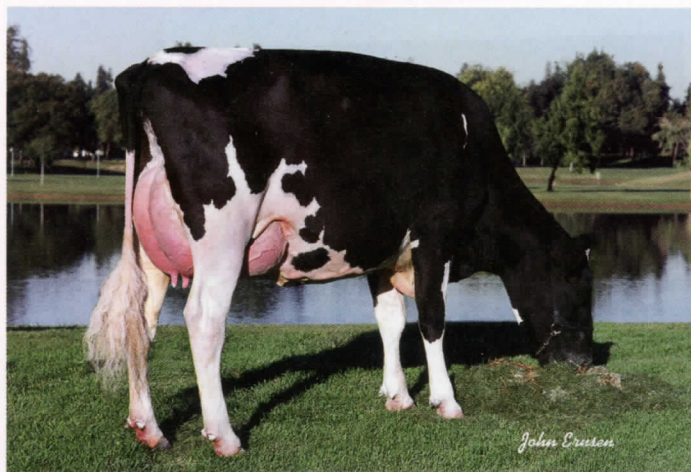


Bliss: Barbie's Lesser Known, But



Rgncrst-RH Durham Bliss VG-89 had 11 EX and 8 VG progeny in the US alone.

- ♀ **Regancrest Board Chairman Bea EX-90**
(Cal-Clark Board Chairman)
- ▼
- ♀ **Regancrest Mark Chairman Bea EX-91**
(Walkway Chief Mark)
- ▼
- ♀ **Regancrest Aerostar Bert EX-90**
(Madawaska Aerostar)
- ▼
- ♀ **Regancrest Juror Brina EX-92**
(Ked Juror)
- ▼
- ♀ **Rgncrst-RH Durham Bliss VG-89**
(Regancrest Elton Durham)

Regancrest Juror Brina EX-92 had 8 Durham-daughters and 2 other daughters by Terry and Outside. But out of these 10 daughters, only 2 reached "Gold Medal Dam" status – her most famous daughter, Regancrest-PR Barbie EX-92, and her eldest Durham-daughter, Rgncrst-RH Durham Bliss VG-89. Time to find out how Bliss achieved this accolade.

IZZY WHITTAKER

History is full of success stories stemming from one of the greatest brood cows of all-time, Regancrest-PR Barbie. 15 years on from when she first step foot on this earth, the "Barbie" bloodline is still a go-to source for solid type, consistency and marketable cows. But, what do you know about her full-sister? Some of you will be familiar with her, some of you will not be. Here we bring to light the story of Rgncrst-RH Durham Bliss VG-89 who, despite also being very successful, slipped into Barbie's shadow... until now.

FATE

'We first saw Bliss as a 4-month-old calf at the 2000 Iowa District 1 Show in Waukon. She was a very feminine heifer with a bossy personality,' explains Aaron Palmer, 'We liked the cross of Durham-Juror and that her maternal line was filled with VG and EX cows from Regancrest's homebred "B" family. Her dam Juror Brina was Grand Champion and Best Udder of Show. There was certainly something special about Bliss from the moment we laid eyes on her!'

A couple of months later Bliss was consigned to the Regancrest Command Performance II sale. On sale day, the Palmer family were considering another Durham heifer from a high-indexing branch of the family, until they were advised to choose 6-month-old Bliss. And remember, as Bliss is 16 months older than Bar-

bie, at this point her famous sister wasn't even born and the Palmers didn't realise that Bliss had the potential to be a genetic powerhouse. Bliss's owner partnership consisted of brothers Eric, John, and Aaron Palmer and their father Greg. Greg provided the facilities and recipients, Eric and wife Stephanie managed much of the day-to-day feeding, breeding, herd health, calf delivery and calf care. Aaron was the marketing contact, whilst John raised some of Bliss's bull calves at his nearby farm. Right from the start her success was based on team effort and a lot of good fortune!

Aaron: 'We thought that Bliss would make a good show heifer which would give us the opportunity to flush and merchandise her embryos and offspring, but we never imagined how great she would become. Our timing was fortunate as Durham was a very popular bull in those days, at a time when most breeders favoured high type over extreme components and fitness traits. We were also fortunate that she tested free of CVM as a bred heifer.'

PALMCREST LIFE

Select Sires contracted Bliss as a heifer, resulting in sons by Forbidden and Blitz going into AI. Blitz-son Palmcrest Blade graduated and sold more than 500,000 units worldwide. Other sons that achieved proven status were Breakout (by Outside) at ABS and Monument (by Morty) at Accelerated. The day after Bliss

freshened in May 2002, she was put in a tie stall near the barn entrance. Frank Regan visited Palmcrest the next day and said she was too good for a stall and that she should be kept in one of two maternity pens. Aaron: 'The extra care was worth it as she blossomed into an All-Iowa Jr-Two-Year-Old, Junior-All-American nominee, and reached a max score of VG-89 with an EX-91 mammary. Interested buyers from around the world flocked to our farm to see this special cow. It was a fun and exciting time and a new experience for us! We put Bliss on a monthly flush schedule after the 2002 show season. Sires used were Outside, Stormatic, Machoman, Champion, Morty, Throne and Best. She produced more than 50 offspring born on our farm, sent 10 bulls to AI, and exported more than 30 embryos.' Today Greg, Eric and Eric's wife Stephanie operate the 160-head Palmcrest herd. Stephanie: 'At least 1/3 of the herd descends from Bliss either maternally or from her sons. The descendants typically are nice, sound cows with good udder qualities, nice feet and legs, and have a great will to milk. We are a commercial herd, and breed for longevity, health traits and sound cows that milk hard and last.'

LEGACY

One of Bliss's most interesting descendants is her Shottle grand-daughter, Farnear-TBR Bailey VG-87, who is out of Palmcrest Blackcap

at Extremely Talented Full-Sister



© HAN HOPMAN

3 generations on from Bliss we find De Volmer Atwood Bailey EX-90, owned by the Wijnker family in The Netherlands. Bailey is out of Farnear-TBR Bailey.

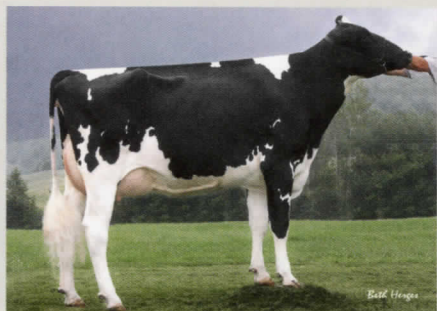
EX-90 (<Champion). Bailey sold for \$25,000 in the 2009 Holiday ET sale and is dam of the daughter-proven Atwood-son Mars Yorick (3.15 PTAT). But this high-type breeding prowess doesn't just stop with Yorick – his full-sister is the former Nr.1 PTAT heifer in Europe, Willemshoeve Atwood Baily 653 VG-88-2yr, who is the dam of one of the highest genomic PTAT sires, McCutchen-son Willemshoeve Baily Chen (3.63 PTAT). Another full sister to Yorick is De Volmer Bailey (lead photo), dam of the

Spanish AI sire Basket (<Bradnick) at Aber-ekin. Farnear-TBR Bailey's full-sister, Farnear-TBR Gold Baylee, also has sons in AI like Hass-Acres Braveheart by Baxter.

As you may have guessed from some of the prefixes just mentioned, this family is very strong in Europe. Adolf Langhout (ALH Genetics) explains: 'We imported embryos from Bliss when she was a 2-year-old by Champion, Throne and Morty – a total of 30 embryos. The most successful was the Throne

and Morty flush. We sold a Morty, Mesland-ALH Morty Briann EX-90, as a heifer to Jan van der Wal (Bolleholster, NL) and we sold a Throne, Brittney VG-87-2yr, to Theo van Vliet (Giessen, NL). We flushed Palmcrest Brittany EX-92 (Outside-Bliss) to Sanchez and there are some nice daughters milking in the Netherlands.' Another of Bliss's Morty-daughters to mention is Palmcrest Mystic who had 4 Shottle-sons in AI: Myrik, Mystical, Moonlight and Magnitude. And keeping in with the European success stories, one of Germany's highest type bulls is Missan (read more HI 5/16). At 143 gRZE (type) and scoring 144 for udders, he is a Missouri-McCutchen from Farnear Banji Bikasa by Observer who traces back to Bliss via Goldwyn, Shottle, O-Man and Forbidden.

As you can see, Bliss is not just Barbie's full-sister, she is a great transmitter in her own right. With topical sires like Yorick, Missan and Bailey Chen now at the fore-front, Bliss is finally receiving the attention she deserves as a world-class brood cow. ●



One of the most successful brood cows from Bliss's line is Farnear-TBR Bailey VG-87, dam of high-type sire Yorick and grand-dam of top PTAT genomic sire, Bailey Chen.



Farnear Gold Banji EX-91 is the great-grand-dam of the Nr.1 UK Type sire Missan (3.92), who also ranks highly in Germany.