

Impressive consistency:

How the Kanu family stands up to the frantic competition in the Wilder barn

When the Colt son Kanu-P celebrated his breakthrough 10 years ago, it was the kickoff of a breeding program that has held the international scene captive ever since. Not many German prefixes have influenced Europe's breeding in a similar way to that of Wilder Holsteins. And that with several different families, whereby those of the sires of sons Hotspot-P and the Apprentice son Wilder Mark-RC are currently the best known internationally. But what is with the Kanu family? Viewed from the outside, its influence seemed to dwindle under the overpowering competition in its own barn. However, the Kanus are still there. And with a bigger presence than may be expected.

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When the August breeding evaluations ran a few weeks ago, the outstanding achievements of the Wilder bulls on the German and international top-lists once more saw the light of day. With Born-P-RC, bred from the Massias, and the full brothers Hansa-P and Hotspot-P, bred out of the Reserve Global Cow 2021 (Wilder Herz-P VG-85/Outside Kora family), three of the most intensively used German sires were able to defend their positions on Germany's polled top-list despite hundreds and thousands of daughters. With Home-PP-Red and Move-PP-RC, the Herz family also delivered two of the highest genomic and

homozygous polled black and red young sires. The two half brothers out of Wilder My Dream Hoy VG-87 are currently among the most popular sires on offer from the RUW. The debut of the Semex sire Mark-RC was also impressive, who was able to achieve 3337 PLI (+6 Conf.) on the basis of his first daughters and is surely among the most noteworthy RC sires in the Canadian top-60.

TOP

Just as we could present more results of highly interesting sires from the breeding program of Wilder Holsteins, we should also explain the

results of several young female animals. Alone in the female top-40 on RZG basis, 4 heifers from 3 different families (Juror Faith, Roylane Shot Mindy, Aija Out Joy) could be found. No other barn was better represented in the upper echelon of the German female RZG list in August than the Wilder farm, led by the Holtkamp family (also see herd report HI 03/2019). And this is as true for black and white as for red and white. Which finally takes us to the Kanu family. So far, we have primarily touched on the highlights from the black and white segment of the Wilder program, but you should know that it hardly worse in the red and white sector,



At Holtkamps in the German town of Vreden they work with various internationally desired top families. The only one, aside from the Kanu family, that was developed from the beginning at Wilder Holsteins, is the M family. And it is also very successful, as shown by Wilder Supershot Mayn EX-90. The dam of the Semex sire Wilder Mark-RC has so far produced 75,000kg/165,347lb in 5 lactations.



The recently EX-90 classified Wilder Kasalla is a perfect representative of the Kanu family. The Salvatore daughter out of Wilder K25 is not only an outstanding dairy cow with a currently daily production of 70kg/154lb, but also the basis for various branches of outstanding index animals.

thank to the Kanu family. Whereby the reference to red and white basis does not indicate any discount in value, as the Kanus can also compete on black and white basis. And this is as true for breeding values as it is in the barn of Wilder Holsteins itself.

CLOCKWORK

Despite the enormous competition in the Wilder barn, the members of the Kanu family never really disappeared. Really, the opposite is the case. 'Naturally,' explains Norbert Holtkamp, 'you always have to invest in new families if you want to compete at the top. The competition between various pedigrees in our herd is not by chance. But over the course of time, you get to know families better independent of their current breeding value levels. Basically, all the families we work with have good, competitive values, even if there are times that certain families grab more attention with particular individuals. There are simply fluctuations. How well and especially how different the individual families are is primarily seen on an everyday basis. The longer one works with a family, the more precise your evaluation. Aside from the Kanu family, the Outside Koras have the most representation. They have a very clear profile with moderate milk yields, unbelievably high components and thoroughly top udders. We are milking 10 cows from this family in their third or higher lactation none of them is lower than EX-90 for udder. When we see the profile of the bulls from this family, including Hotspot, this pattern is easy to recognize. Another family

'The Kanu family breeds like clockwork! They are real milk machines!'

that has always been in the barn is that of Wilder Shamrock Meta, the great-granddam of Mark-RC. All members of the M family milk far above average and this production potential is also seen with Mark and his breeding values. However, the family with the most consistency is that of Kanu. Above all Wilder K25 EX-90, the Brekem sister to Kanu-P and the dam of Baymax-Red, breeds like clockwork. All offspring that go back to her are real milk machines!

WAVE

Indeed, the Kanu family was never quite as far to the side as one may have thought. After Kanu-P-Red, there were again and again interesting young sires that went to an AI stud. And many of them were able to prove themselves, like Matt-RC (Battlecry x Wilder K25), who was successful as a sire of sons in France, and his Bagno brother Baymax-Red, Germany's Nr.1 daughter-proven sire in the past year and still one of the best red sires in the country, show. Even among the genomic young sires the Kanu family has remained present on Ger-

many's top-list. For example, Skipper-P-Red. The sire of sons (Star-Swingman) bred by Aalhorst Holsteins in the Netherlands is currently the highest red polled sire with 156 gRZG, and accordingly popular. On black and white bases, the Hotspot son Hokaido-PP and the Durable son Domino (150 gRZG) are among the most interesting representatives of the Kanu family. And the presence of Kanu offspring is unlikely to decrease in the future. As mentioned, there is a whole row of interesting young females that are being flushed by Holtkamps. In this group are two daughters from AltaTop-Red and Star-P that place in the German top-25; both are out of Wilder Kasano, one of the highest red factor carriers on TPI basis in Europe and a great-granddaughter to K25 via Salvatore-Battlecry. Germany's highest female PP heifer is also from the Kanus. Wilder Kito (152 gRZG) is a Star-P-Match out of Wilder Silky Koni VG-88. Many of you will likely know her as dam of the Spanish top-sire Wilder Solitair Sicario-P-Red, another example for the continuing competitiveness of the Kanu family. The Kanus of Wilder Holsteins remain a weapon in the top segment of Holstein breeding. ●

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