

AE Inspiration Janette: Her conformation power shines to this day



Brothers Marcello (at left) and Ercole Ladina in a picture taken in 1991, together with their special cow AE Inspiration Janette. At the time she was a show winner herself, today she is at the basis of new successes.

It was an imposing picture: The white Stormatic daughter stood in the center of the ring at the European Championship in the Italian city of Cremona, and with her impressive style and her fantastic udder she represented the very top of an entire continent's Holstein population. However, for those who know the scene, the Intermediate Champion title for M.e.dal Ilma still has another meaning. In a unique way, Ilma gave the importance of deep, dominant transmitting cow families special emphasis. In this case it was the family of the Italian icon, AE Inspiration Janette.

She embodies all that is the modern kind of show cow increasingly favored by judges around the globe. It is the kind that impresses rather through balance and harmony than through power and front end. In addition to the consistent importance of the udder, the quality to the leg more and more takes center stage. And Ilma, that impressive Holstein from Italy, perfectly matches that modern style. Her qualities are not based on coincidence. In fact, Ilma is the latest representative of an outstand-

ing conformation family that always played an important role in the show ring. It's a family with innumerable EX members, a family with particular strong points in the production and fertility area. An EX-93 Inspiration with numerous famous daughters, Janette takes center stage. But the dam of Ilma, M.e.dal Ilary, too is the focus of attention within the scope of that unique story about one of Italy's most important cow families. A 13-year-old Rudolph daughter, and a granddaughter to Janette, she

is the new matriarch in the widely-branched family tree.

IMPORT

We meet Ilma in her barn at Pandino, a city in the North Italian province of Cremona. Here, about half way between the cities of Cremona and Milano, is the home of the Ladina family's herd. Their prefix, M.e.dal, stands for the people behind the polished breeding program with its special liking of conformation and deep pedigrees. 'The "M" in our prefix stands for my uncle, Marcello, the "e" for my dad, Ercole,' explains Marco, who is primarily responsible for today's breeding program of the Ladinis. 'The "dal" represents the first 3 letters of our family name, Ladina.' Those animals with the M.e.dal prefix that stood out in the past and stand out today with high classification scores or first-class show results, come mostly from the Janette dynasty. Over 75% of all animals in the 30-cow herd hail from that family, and Marco admits that it is difficult for him to select the best animals from the whole string of outstanding family members. That's easy to understand, since when talking here about cows that don't score VG or EX, then we talk about a very small minority. However, you shouldn't take it for granted that the Janette family members have been able to shine due to limited competition. In the 1960s and '70s, Ercole Ladina had been among the first and biggest importers of Holsteins from Canada, and for quite a while he himself owned a farm in Canada. To this day, the Ladina breeding program is consistently upgraded by some of the numerous animals Ercole imports from throughout Europe. 'With our purchases we presently focus somewhat more on indexes and genomics,' says Marco without hiding his enthusiasm for conformation. The Janette family continuously has to face new rivalry, though they've always been able to repulse.

DOMINANCE

The members of the Janette family have easily countered the pressure resulting from the permanent competition with other highly talented families. Imported to Italy by Ercole after her first successful appearance at the Royal in Toronto, the 2nd dam to Janette, Flettdale Marquis Janet, laid the foundations for that ability. The Marquis daughter went on to score EX-94, and was backed by VG daughters of Roybrook Telstar and Penstate Pathfinder Ivanhoe. The mating of that imported Marquis daughter with Elevation resulted in the Ladinis' first masterpiece: Sace Elevation Janet EX-96. That Elevation not only went on to claim

Grand Champion honors at Italy's National Show but also laid the foundations for her family's extreme conformation level by leaving a number of VG and EX daughters. 'We've had many outstanding daughters from Janet, though Inspiration Janette clearly was her best and most influential daughter,' comments Marco Ladina. In addition to 22 sons, Janette supplied 44 daughters. She herself had numerous titles to her credit, including class victories at the National Show, and the European title the Italian team claimed in 1993. Quite a few of her VG and EX descendants are still to be found in different European countries such as Switzerland, Germany, England, Belgium, and Scotland. Her excellent fertility and the good flush results formed the basis for the immense spread of her offspring. Janette's direct daughters alone would fill 2 pages, and it is difficult for Marco to make his choice. 'Her most famous daughter clearly is M.e.dal Starbuck Janet EX-95, the 2001 National Champion, who herself left many outstanding EX and VG daughters and granddaughters. One of the currently hottest cows in our herd is a VG-89 Storm out of a VG-87 Skychief daughter from Starbuck Janet. With several EX daughters, Janet's Rudolph daughter, Josie EX-92, as well as very influential,' explains Marco.

RAIDER ILARY

Yes, you just have to look at Marco to see that he really is not happy with the fact that he can't list all the high-scoring members of that family at this point. He would like to detail the facts about Janette's Astre daughter Fabulous EX-90 or Fabulous' Broker daughter Fantasy EX-92, who in turn left an EX-90 Terrason. However, they are just a few examples. For

each of those family members Marco could add the names of additional daughters or siblings, production information, or major show titles. He is right when saying that especially the listing of the successes achieved by the numerous individuals highlights the importance of the entire family. But let's cast our eyes again at Ilma. Thanks to her European title, she of course is the currently most important representative of the Janette family. Classified EX-92 already as a 4-year-old, the Stormatic calls the attention also to the currently most important brood cow in the family tree: M.e.dal Rudolph Ilary, the dam of Ilma. By now, the Ladinis do see



Ilary on a par with her 2nd dam, Inspiration Janette. 'Yes, Ilary is a 13-year-old, though we still flush her with outstanding results. Ilary has completed 7 lactations with records of between 10,200 kg and 13,500 kg. She has EX daughters by Mason, Stoneham, and Cousteau that work in various Italian barns as brood or show cows. Ilma is an amazing cow, though her dam Ilary is the key to this brand-new chapter of the Janette family's story.'

NEW OPTIONS

For the Ladinis the chapter "Ilary" also has special importance for another reason. Just once in a blue moon, sire analysts have shown an interest in the family that features a high will to milk though frequently somewhat limited on components. However, the tide could turn in the genomic era. The Ladinis did genomic tests on individual family members especially among Ilary's offspring, and their high conformation figures could serve as a door opener for the spreading of Janette's genes also via the male side. 'We have an attractive genomic Outside daughter that traces back via an EX Capri and then an EX-92 Mason to Ilary as well as a high Goldwyn daughter out of a Blitz half sister to Ilma. It will be thrilling to see whether the family will manage to enter the breeding programs of AIs. However, that wouldn't change anything when it comes to our view on the qualities of the Janettes,' concludes Marco. ●

Article published by: **Holstein INTERNATIONAL**
www.holsteininternational.com



M.e.dal Starbuck Janet EX-95, Janette's most famous daughter, won the Italian National Show in 2001.



By claiming Intermediate Champion at the 2010 European Championship, M.e.dal Stormatic Ilma EX-92 brought one of Italy's most consistent conformation families into the spotlight again. Thanks to genomics, the family is going to be increasingly of more interest to AIs.