



Why Holsteins?

With dairy farming in the UK under continued downward financial pressure, milk producer numbers have fallen sharply over the past decade, from over 40,000 in the early 1990 to 27,000 in 2001.

However, we have seen a different picture at Holstein UK. Membership has held up well, amounting to around 30% of UK milk producers, and the numbers of cattle registered has continued to rise.

So why should this be? Our members tell us it is down to their awareness that every enterprise on the farm must pay its way, and the genetics of their dairy herd should be no exception.

By putting the genetics of the herd to work – by implementing a structured breeding programme – our members discover that they not only make more money from milk, but they also reduce their veterinary costs, lower their replacement rates and often have surplus stock to sell.

It is not a myth that stock registered with Holstein UK are more productive and, therefore, more valuable. In 2005, cattle registered in our herdbook recorded average milk production of 8,173 kg, which is fully 15% higher than the national average of all milk-recorded herds. Registered cattle also have increasingly good conformation, reflecting the growing use of our type classification service. And these better conformation cattle are proven to have longer lifespans and more trouble-free lives.

Average number of lactations

Registered Holstein cattle	3.42
All milk recorded animals	3.05

Becoming pedigree

With good farm records, upgrading a herd to pedigree status is easy. Animals can be registered using their official ear tag identity; by phone (freephone) or the internet. Using our advanced computer links, Holstein UK will also transfer information to BCMS at no additional cost, giving you one less thing to worry about.

For more details, contact us now.

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