

The Jersey breed keeps growing in Europe. High milk prices throughout 2017 and especially higher price on butter fat affected the demand for Jersey cattle. The interest in using sexed semen also increased and more Jersey breeders has started to genomic test their Jersey heifers, even they do not have an national genomic test program. Late 2017 and early 2018 milk price has dropped, and it seems milk price will stay low for the rest of 2018.

Albania

The number of pure breed Jersey cows is approximately 19,000. Jerseys and its crosses represent approximately 100,000 heads or about 30% of the total number of cattle in Albania. In Albania, a program for identification and registration (IR) for all cattle has been implemented, but still we do not have a program of production control and registration of animal data in Herd Book. Anyway, two local Jersey associations, Elbasani and Shkodra district, are implementing a pilot program for IR program. Milk production control in two associations includes approximately 800 pure breed Jersey cows. This pilot project is financially supported, partially by Albania government and from our association.

Number of members of "Jersey Farmer's Union - ALDA Jersey" are seven local associations with 350 members. Jersey semen doses distributed in the country annually is: about 23,000 doses.

ALDA Jersey aims:

- to protect and increase number of "Jersey" cattle breed in Albania, encouraging farmers to improve breed quality of animals and to increase dairy production.
- to encourage and support farmers and local associations of "Jersey" cattle breed to protect and improve resources in agriculture, livestock, agro-processing and agro tourism, on interests of sustainable development of farms and improving quality of life, through implementation of projects, services and supply with equipment's and other imputes

During the year 2017, ALDA-Jersey imported 1700 pure breed heifers from Denmark through Danish Jersey Export Company. Importation was financed from Albanian Government and realized from Natural Farm SHPK Albania.

Through a project prepared and implemented from our association, beneficiary farmers of Jersey heifers are supported with training, technical assistance and supplied with 1000 doses of high quality of jersey sexed semen from "Viking Genetics" company.

Actually, heifers are in calving periods and we are looking for some funds to make possible evaluation of impact of this project and continue technical assistance to preserve and improve this genetic capacity of heifers.

Denmark

The interest in Jerseys keeps growing. The use of sexed semen has reached 40%. Genomic testing of heifers is very high. App. one third of all heifers are tested. Test results are used to help selecting heifers to breed next generation (with sexed semen) of females and to define which ones to sell or breed to beef.

Export of heifers were sky high in 2017 and has continued in 2018. Biggest customers has been Russia, Albania, France and UK

New goal (Breeding goal) for Danish Jerseys year 2025, has been described. Please see: www.vikinggenetics.dk/racer/jersey/jersey-info. Here you find a very detailed goal for the Danish Jersey breed.

Herd size keeps increasing. Now 210 cows on average (20 cows more than in Holstein herds). Average annual production last 12 months is 7,419 kg milk, 5.97% and 443 kg fat, 4.21% and 312 kg protein. Record high protein percentage.

The Jersey Nucleus herd, owned by VikingGenetics is a great success. More and more bulls for AI are bred here. In 2017 two bulls were purchased outside Denmark, one in Ireland and one in Belgium. The ratio of genomic bulls used for insemination has now increased to 98% and there is no demand for daughter proven bulls any longer (only kept alive for export purpose).

France

Milk control data 2017:

- 653 herds with 7174 Jersey cows in total
- Out of which : 72 herds (11%) with 100% Jersey cows
- These 72 herds have 3756 cows (52.4%)

No of cows	Kg milk	Kg fat	Fat%	Kg prot.	Protein%	F+P
7174	4982	279	5.60	203	4.07	482

Jerseys are milking 2.8 lactations on average and 25% of the cows are in 4th or later lactation. Average age at first calving is 26 months and calving interval is 409 days. Number of Jersey inseminations has doubled since 2014. In 2017, Jerseys were responsible for 36.400 inseminations (+29.7%) of which 31% were sexed semen. 44.4% of all Jersey inseminations are done on other breeds than Jerseys (mainly Holsteins)

Germany

Number of registered cows in VDJ (German Jersey Association): 2678 (that is an increase of over 600 compared to year before)

There are some Jersey cows registered in other herd books (Holstein Herdbook), so the total number should be about 3000.

Most used bull in 2017 was VJ Rodme.

Of all semen used, 50% was sexed and 50% conventional.

Highest producing cow in 2017; the Medacit daughter "Krone", owned by Werner Kiehne, Birkenmoor: 9836 kg 7.49 fat 4.45 protein

Highest 1st lactation record was the Valentino daughter "Roni", owned by Kloeck & Hartmann, Bidingen: 305 days 7727 kg 5.83 fat 3.96 protein

Please see impressive results on German Jerseys in the German Jersey Journal ("Jerseyblatt"), on the German Jersey web page: <https://prismagen.de/jersey/>

The German Jersey Journal also contains news from Switzerland

Holland

Growing interest in Jerseys and lots of import of live animals, due to new environmental restrictions. From January 2018 the phosphate quotas has been fully implemented. When measuring quotas, it has been taken into account that a Jersey releases less phosphate than a Holstein. As a result of this you can milk app. 15% more Jerseys per hectare than Holsteins.

Ireland

Information and contact details on the Irish Jersey Cattle Society:

<http://www.irishjerseycattle.com/index.php>

Italy

For the year 2017 the registered no. of cows in the Italian Jersey Herdbook were: 6728 - with an average production of 6518 kg milk, with 4.87% fat and 3.94% protein.

No. of classifications in the same year 2017, through our classifiers of Holstein Italy:

First lactation (heifers in milk): 1422, of this 858 GP or better - 74 VG and the rest Good. Re-classified cows: 200 - of this 22 EX.

During 2017 we are also genomic tested 400 young heifers all around Italy to see the actual situation of the Genetic national level.

At our National Jersey show last October in Cremona, our own herd (La Jersina) was appointed Best Breeder and Best exhibitor of the Show.

Jersey Island

Cattle numbers on the island remain static at about 5,000 head, with the same number of 21 herds. Four herds will be retiring in the next two years and a further 2 larger herds are merging, so there will soon be just a core of 15 herds where, in the majority of cases, productivity per cow continues to rise through genetic and managerial influences.

The Society has commissioned UK geneticist Dr Maurice Bichard to carry out two reports during 2018. The first is a ten year review, recording the effects of using imported pedigree Jersey genetics since that first consignment in 2008. The second report will investigate options for the Island in terms of setting targets for yet further improvements in the local herd, not just in production but other health traits and even maintaining a degree of uniqueness against other Jersey populations.

In line with this second report the Society has been co-ordinating the genomic evaluation of a 75 heifers, selected from all herds and from a range of global and local genetics. This full set were tested against USA Jersey indexes, whilst a smaller subset have also been tested against the Viking Jersey base for comparative purposes. These outcomes will help sculpt options for the future.

Jersey Dairy, the farmer owned co-operative continues to supply the majority of dairy produce within the island, whilst pursuing niche markets for exports, primarily in Asia.

Norway

Norsk Jersey hosted the European Jersey Forum meeting and tour in August 2017. A very successful meeting and our with app. 50 delegates. For the first time Norwegian Jersey cattle will have breeding values this year, as they have joined the Nordic evaluation system, together with Denmark, Sweden and Finland. Genomic testing of Jerseys in Norway is coordinated by the Norwegian Jersey Association, and it has become very popular.

Sweden

The numbers of Jersey are still app. 2,000 pure bred and milk recorded cows. The Swedish Jersey population is enrolled in the Viking Jersey breeding program. Genomic testing is very common and the genetic level is high. Lately the first son of VJ Quintana has been purchased by Vikinggenetics in Sweden.

Switzerland

The average milk production in 2017 was 5718 kg milk, 5.26%F + 3.85%P 521kg F&P per cow. Total 3166 cows in milk recording 2016/2017.

All herd book work is made by braunvieh.ch, where the Swiss Jerseyzuchtverein (Swiss Jersey) is associated.

Two cows produced more than 80,000 kg milk in 2016/2017: "Sunehof Sultan Xundi" EX 91: 86,480 kg milk with 5.42% fat and 4.08% protein, and "Mirage Mascha" EX 91: 80,397 kg milk with 5.79% fat and 3.94% protein.

Champions at major shows 2017/2018:

Swiss Expo: "Sparky Nikita" EX 94, and heifer was "Studerama Oliver P Olina"

Swiss Jersey Night: "Supreme May Pomme D'Api" VG 89

United Kingdom

The numbers of Jersey females registered with the Society fell slightly in 2017 as did the number of milk recorded females contributing to the annual performance trends. Just under 17000 Jersey lactations produced an average yield of 5967 kgs at 5.46 fat and 3.86 protein. Production and component percentages have remained relatively constant in the last 4 years. Whilst registered numbers have declined slightly the interest in the breed continues to grow with many new large herds being established and existing dairy enterprises converting to the Jersey breed.

Changes to our type classification standards were made during the year lowering the height limit for a VG 2 Year Old and making VG89 the maximum score achievable by a second calver. With heifers calving at a younger age height is not such an important trait indeed there has been some concern that the breed has been getting too tall. Requiring a cow to have 3 calves before being eligible for an EX classification brings us into line with all other UK dairy breeds.

The cost of genomic testing in the UK may be contributing to its slow uptake. Genomic testing is something we feel needs to be encouraged as this is what is driving the semen market. The genomic results particularly in relation to American JX bulls has caused problems with some semen companies interested in marketing such individuals. Making members aware of the issues relating to JX and pedigree registration has been difficult. This will be further complicated by the new EU rules relating to Herd Books coming into force later this year.

European Jersey Forum, EJF

In EJF 12 national member organizations are working with various topics, in relation to Jersey breeding and the economics of having Jerseys. During the last year purity of Jersey bulls and purity of the breed has been discussed. A letter has been sent to ICAR, to have their recommendations in relation to this.

Defining breeding goals for National Jersey breeds is a task for EU Jersey Cattle Associations, this year. Breeding goals will be discussed at the next meeting in Albania. Albania hosts the EJF meeting and tour from September 28th to October 1st, 2018. The Albanian hosts will show delegates lots of Jerseys in different production systems, culture and nature in their beautiful, but still very poor country.

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