

Ralma Juror Faith

# Having Faith in the Holstein Breed



Bruce Kuehl

**Ralma Juror Faith EX-91 GMD DOM**  
dam of 23 VG 2 year olds!

## Facts

- Ralma Juror Faith produced 23 VG 2 year olds!
- Ralma alone have genomic tested nearly 60 females from the Juror • Faith family with great results!
- Rugg-Doc Carmodity (s: Million) is the highest GTPI female from the Ralma Faith family with a GTPI+2267 (04/10) and is owned by Affinity Genetics, Canada
- Ralma Goldwyn Carmen is the youngest Goldwyn dtr of O-Man Cookie, and is the #3 Goldwyn dtr in the world with a GTPI+2255!
- 3 O-Man sons from Ralma Christmas Fudge all returned with positive breeding values
- Members of the Juror Faith family have consistently topped sales all over the world!
- Sandy-Valley Go Firelite VG-88 2yr (s:Goldwyn) sold for a top price of \$110,000 in the Top-10 sale 2008

Within the Holstein industry, there are always certain cow families which like cream- rise to the top. Over recent years the Ralma Faith family has done exactly this, largely thanks to the major impact of one cow- Ralma Juror Faith EX-91. In this issue of Hotspots, we look at the global sensation this family has created in recent years and consider what the future holds for this truly remarkable cow family.

## The beginning at Ralma

Whilst today, descendants of the Faith family can be found all around the world, it was the Minnesota based Ralma herd of brothers Mark and Al Schmitt, that really put this cow family on the Holstein map.

The story of the Faith family really begins back in the late 70's, when the foundation cow Yendora Jaque Pioneer was purchased as a young heifer at a dispersal sale. Purchased for the princely sum of \$810 by Mark and his father, she developed into a herd favourite at Ralma, scoring EX and producing over 67,000kgs of milk. Her daughter, the first of this family to carry the Ralma prefix – Ralma Nugget Goldie classified VG-86 and produced an impressive lifetime yield of over 93,000kgs, it was her daughter sired by Walkway Chief Mark- Ralma Golden Fortune VG-88 that first initiated the AI interest in this family. Two of Fortunes sons achieved proven sire status; Ralma Treasure (s: Bell Troy) at Genex and Ralma Mister (s: Southwind) at Sire Power. Fortune also produced Ralma Melwood Fortress, the unclassified grand-dam of Juror Faith. Fortress was unfortunately lost shortly after having her first calf and so never got the opportunity to see the classifier, generations before her had rated amongst the best cows at Ralma, so this was ultimately a real blow, but she did leave a legacy, as that first calf she had was Ralma Leadman Fashion- the dam of Juror Faith! Leadman Fashion was an extremely

long bodied cow, that walked on phenomenal legs and feet, she scored 89 points as a 3 year old, making her best record as a 4 year old. Because of the break in her pedigree, she failed to generate the interest of the AI studs “She could have easily scored 92 points really, but we didn’t pursue it at the time because the break in the pedigree” comments Schmitt. Her influence could have been much greater on the family when the decision was made to do embryo work on her, but sadly she died in a freak accident, subsequently bleeding to death from a punctured milk vein.

## Enrico Dadati, Sire Programme Manager-CIZ, Italy

“Having visited Ralma on several occasions, I have never left disappointed. The Juror Faith family consistently transmits great type, making large capacious cows with deep open rib and epitomises dairy strength!

The introduction of Durham, resulted in some great stylish daughters, I really admired Ralma Christmas Fudge, and her dtr Cookie was the best O-Man dtr I have ever seen! The Ralma family has been so consistent over the years, in terms of classification and production, and now in this new Genomic Era, many family members feature highly in the rankings- ensuring they will play a role in our programme at CIZ”



**Ralma Christmas Cookie VG-89 1st Lac**  
One of O-Mans most popular daughters, she is due to calve again in June this year



**Sandy-Valley Go Firelite VG-88 2yr**  
The Goldwyn dtr of Ralma Durham Fireball EX-92, that Shema Holsteins sold for \$110,000 at a Top-10 Sale.



**Ralma Goldwyn Carmel VG-89 2yr**  
Owned by Dr Jeff Rugg, WI, she also has 4 stunning clones which exhibit her exemplary type and high genomic indexes

## Juror Faith- a Breed Legend!

In the Fall of 1996, the now legendary Juror Faith was born at Ralma, “She always exhibited tremendous scale, in fact in later life-to satisfy our own curiosity, we took her to a local feed store where she weighed in at over a tonne (1000kgs) !! She was particularly long, and had unbelievable body depth” says Schmitt. Her sire Ked Juror typically sired these traits, but her great legs and feet and impeccable locomotion are more characteristic of her maternal grand-mother sired by Leadman. Classified EX-91, Juror Faith made a 2nd lactation of 21,715kgs in 365 days, and achieved GMD and DOM status. Her exemplary type and production ensured that she would not be overlooked at the time, and she captured the attention of many breeders and studs alike. Any cow that can breed 23 VG 2yr old daughters deserves recognition, the Schmitts are the first to admit this is an even more remarkable feat when you take into consideration that many of the bulls used on Faith as a young cow were typical high production bulls with less emphasis on type. Faith established a great and multiple family at Ralma through the use of ET, however they say bad luck comes in threes, and like her dam and grand-dam before, Faith came to an untimely end when she was injured in a foot trimming accident.

## Task Terry

Although not typically renowned as a type specialist, the combination of Task Terry on Juror Faith enjoyed some impressive results. Ralma Terry Fleet remained in the active sire line up at ABS for some considerable time. Ralma Terry Flirt classified EX-91, and was a favourite at Ralma, having produced a big record of over 19,000kgs in 305 days as a 6 year old, whilst typifying the Excellent type the Juror Faith exhibited. Her full sister Ralma Terry Freedom scored VG-87 and bred Ralma Durham Flurry VG-89 who is dam of an exciting heifer RR Ralma Buckeye Flurry at Reinerman in Germany where she has scored VG-87 2yr!

## The Introduction of Durham

Durham is a bull that needs little introduction, quite simply he has proven himself to be one of the most consistent type transmitters the Holstein breed has ever seen. The combination of Durham X Juror Faith has arguably created the most elite lines of the family or certainly those that feature most regularly.

Over the festive season of 2001, the Schmitt family received possibly some of the best Christmas presents ever. Born on Christmas Day and therefore appropriately named Christmas Fudge, the first Durham daughter of Juror Faith was born at Ralma, followed by Frisky and Fireball.

## Brian Carscadden, Semex Sire Analyst, Canada

“Semex has always been impressed with the Ralma herd as well as the many branches of the family that are now spread around the world . They are big framed cows with a will to milk from sound mammary systems . One member of the family that I personally have worked with extensively is Ralma Goldwyn Carmel (VG 89) . She was one of my all-round favorite Goldwyn 2 yr olds with a powerful frame,a great udder and a will to milk . We will genomic test her sons by at least 8 different matings over a 15 month period ! Semex is excited to see the Ralma family evolve and hopefully supply the industry with as many influential males as they have females in the future !!”

## Fireball

Ralma Durham Fireball classified EX-92, and made a record of 2/05 13,032kgs 305days 4.0%F 3.3%P, she was sold to the Sandy Valley herd in Wisconsin, where she has established some great lines of her own, where she has now bred 2 Excellent and 13 VG daughters. One of her daughters Sandy-Valley Go Firelite (s: Goldwyn) sold for \$110,000 when Shema Holsteins in Iowa offered her in the Top Ten Sale 2008. Sandy-Valley SS Firesong VG-87 (s:Shottle) another daughter of Fireball has already achieved DOM status and has bred multiple progeny with exceptional genomic results. A grand-daughter of Fireball, Sandy-Valley Shottle Oreo VG-88 2yr is the former #1 CTPI cow and was sold to Markwell Holsteins. When questioned about the Faith family at Sandy Valley, Greg Bauer is extremely complimentary, “Quite simply they are consistent, whether it be type, production or components this family has to be the most consistent we have ever worked with” comments Greg.

## Frisky

Ralma Durham Frisky was the more powerful of the 3 Durham daughters, she sold to the Kings Ransom herd in New York as a calf and went on to score VG-88 in her 1st lactation whilst producing over 15,000kgs



in 365 days, before being purchased by Diamond Genetics. In 2009 a daughter -Bouw Shottle Frisby VG-86 2yr sold for EUR 19,000 at the Tulip sale, her Goldwyn daughter- Bouw Goldwyn Femmy- GTPI +2050 is just fresh and looks extremely promising, over 50 embryos were sold from her as a maiden heifer. In the US Frisky's daughters by Throne have been successful at creating great daughters particularly for Farnear Holsteins.

## Christmas Fudge

Ralma Christmas Fudge scored VG-88 as a 2 year old and made a first record of 12,433kg in 305 days 4.1%F 3.2%P, having been flushed extensively, she has bred daughters by Shottle, Goldwyn, September Storm, Bolton, Duce and some exceptional daughters by Opsal Finley including Ralma Finley CF Choice VG-88 2yr, who in turn produced Ralma Shottle Camouflage VG-88, who sold for \$101,000 topping the Planet Holstein Sale, and is now owned by Ontario based Holstein breeders Erbcrest and Nith Crest. CF Choice exported quite some embryos to mainland Europe, her Bolton dtr Puttercrest Bolton Liz is just fresh for de Volmer Holsteins and is the cover girl of this issue of Hotspots!, Another dtr of CF Choice is Texel Beauty SH Choice (s: Shottle) who classified VG-88 2yr for the Boogaard family. At JK Eder Holsteins a Mac daughter looks extremely promising and is due to freshen soon.

Latterly Fudge has had extensive IVF work done on her resulting in more calves by Shottle, Goldwyn, Mac, Million and Sanchez, she was then sold to Marlin Bontrager of Shema Holsteins, who continues to enjoy working with numerous members of this great family. Thanks to the advances in science IVF has enabled them to have multiple pregnancies by Atwood, and heifers by Goldwyn, Mac, Alexander and Big Apple Red whom will create an interesting Red Factor branch of this family. Fudge is perhaps the line that most Holstein enthusiasts are familiar with, through the successful introduction of O-Man blood. O-Man daughters are not generally renowned for having show-winning type, but he appeals to a broad spectrum of global milk producers due to his ability to produce easy managed cows, capable of producing high volumes of milk whilst maintaining body condition, subsequently excelling in fitness traits. Few could have envisaged O-Man siring a heifer that would classify VG-89 in her first lactation, but this is exactly what happened when Fudge was flushed to O-Man. Ralma Christmas Cookie was born, and from the same mating came Ralma Focus, Ralma O-Man CF Crest and Ralma O-Man CF Cricket, all three sires which have returned positive breeding values.

Ralma Christmas Cookie scored VG-89 in her first lactation whilst completing a record of 2/06 11,022kgs 305days 4.5%F 3.3%P. The impressive

## Dr Jeff Rugg, Rugg-Doc Holsteins, US

"I have had the privilege of knowing the Schmitts for a number of years, and they really are a great family with a real passion for Holsteins. It was their integrity, hospitality and most importantly their knowledge and complete understanding of genetics that made me comfortable with investing in the Ralma family. Certainly for me, this cow family has far exceeded all my expectations; they are just great cows to work with and I look forward to what the future has in store for them!"

## Ralma O-Man CF Cricket

Cricket originates from the former joint venture of CRV and CRI, with O-Man semen in short supply in Europe, both companies agreed to produce more O-Man sons in the US; when the joint venture ended they divided the sires and Cricket was one of the sires that went to CRV.

Cricket combines the best from O-Man and Durham. Both sires are greatly acknowledged for their transmitting qualities-Durham for type and O-Man for production and fitness traits. Cricket distinguishes himself as an O-Man son with high type and outstanding udder health qualities. He sires animals with great frame and capacity like Durham, with shallow udders, but needs a little protection in rear udder height and central ligament. In May 2010 his NVI stands at 183, whilst he is +702kgs milk based on 139dtrs, he also excels as an easy calving sire.



### Ralma O-Man Cricket

The Juror Faiths most popular sire to date, marketed through CRV he has a NVI 183. He combines the best of O-Man and Durham bloodlines into one unique package.

pictures of this VG-89 O-Man daughter quickly travelled the globe, and she was soon attracting global interest and contracts galore. Cookie was flushed on a couple of occasions to Goldwyn, Carmel (detailed below) was a result of the first flush whilst a later flush produced Goldwyn daughters Ralma Goldwyn Carly VG-88 2yr, Ralma 14 Carat Gold VG-88 2yr- and the youngest daughter Ralma Goldwyn Carmen, the #3 GTPI Goldwyn dtr in the world with a GTPI +2255. O-Man Cookie herself is due to calve again in June.

## Rugg-Doc

Dr Jeff Rugg, a Veterinarian specialising in dairy production medicine and owner of Rugg-Doc Holsteins had tried to purchase Cookie from Ralma, but she wasn't for sale. Having been a long time fan of the family he purchased three 1st choices from her-Ralma Goldwyn Carmel, Ralma Classic Marion VG-87 2yr and Ralma Mac Candid (who will calve in September). Carmel scored VG-89 as a 2 year old having calved in at 24 months old, she produced 15,867kgs in 365 days at 4.0%F 3.7%P!! For Jeff Rugg, Carmel has exceeded all of his wildest dreams; first choices and live heifer calves from Carmel have consistently brought in excess of \$50,000 at various sales, and her Million daughters are amongst the very best in the world occupying the #2 and #4 positions in Canada's GLPI lists. In addition to this Diamond Genetics contracted Carmel for 100 embryos! Semex have been quick to secure many of the bulls from her, and she has further contracts to fulfil. Carmel herself has developed into a huge cow, and both her and her progeny have tested well in the genomic era. With a GTPI of +2078 (04/10) Carmel is amongst the best Goldwyn daughter in the breed, and when the decision was made to clone Carmel it produced four clones which share identical genomics and share her stunning cut and great looks.

The first daughter of Goldwyn Carmel in Europe was sold at the 2008 Holland Masters sale, sired by Billion, she is now in the Willsbro herd and due to calve shortly, whilst one of the highlights at the Nosbisch Dispersal sale on May 29th will be the opportunity to acquire a 1st choice Million or Ashlar calf from Carmel.

