

## Export of Danish Jerseys 1954-1965

Bulgaria . . . . .	14 bulls
Czechoslovakia . . . . .	514 heifers/cows, 15 bulls
GDR . . . . .	11 heifers/cows, 41 bulls
Hungary . . . . .	18 heifers/cows, 23 bulls
Poland . . . . .	358 heifers/cows, 14 bulls
USSR . . . . .	757 cows/heifers, 316 bulls
Romania . . . . .	71 heifers/cows, 8 bulls
Yugoslavia . . . . .	2,288 heifers/cows, 4 bulls

## The European Communist countries imported many Jersey bulls

After World War 2, the European communist countries "made big efforts to improve the productivity of the cattle by selection and crossing to build up a modern large-scale farm system. For intensifying cattle production and accelerating genetic progress, modern selection methods (performance and progeny testing of bulls, selection of cows on basis of the first lactation etc) as well as crossbreeding programs, with USA-Canadian Holstein, Danish Jersey, Finnish Ayrshire and other high producing breeds, was practiced.

*"Commercial crossbreeding experiments with beef breeds (Charolais, Hereford, Limousin, Angus) as well as breeding of specialized female lines for beef production and their combination with male lines was in progress, on the basis of vertical and horizontal co-operation of large-scale units.*

*"The COMECON member countries made great efforts to co-operate in the development of gene-pools and commonly used breeding systems. The investigation and integrated comparison of new cattle types and imported specialized breeds, for improving their productivity under large-scale conditions, was continued almost till 'the wall broke down' in 1989. As well as the research work in the field of the population, biochemical and behaviour genetics was going on." (Janos Dohy: Recent developments in cattle breeding research in Eastern Europe, with specific reference to Hungary)*

### Jersey sires made more milk solids

Jersey-sired crosses have been a group in almost all crossbreeding studies over the past 50 years. First generation females have on average shown higher performance than reciprocal crosses. These crosses have been highest in percent fat and solids – not fat yields – above other crosses in breeding efficiency and near the top in yield of milk per unit of cow size.

It should be noted that Jersey-sired crosses do not have as high a proportion of fertility problems as those from Jersey dams. F1 females mated to produce three-breed crosses either excel or equal other crosses in most traits.

Crosses by Jersey sires were especially popular in eastern European countries like

Bulgaria, Poland, Hungary and USSR. In Bulgaria, Jersey crosses were liked for their milk fat content as a readily marketable product from remote rural areas and low feed requirement per kg of FCM (fat corrected milk). Jersey crosses were highly recommended for small farms in mountainous areas. The Jersey cross was also valued in Poland and Hungary since it has the highest milk yield per unit of cow size.

### Jersey crosses did well in the USSR

There are many reports from the USSR and they continue to come. Jersey crosses performed well compared to local breeds in a number of areas: Gotsrirdze (1984) and Guri et al (1983) claimed Jersey was best for crossing in central USSR based

on high performance and response to domestically produced milking machines.

Productive life is good, up to 6.76 years for quarter Jersey crosses. Milk of Jersey x local cattle crosses is richer in amino acids and gives higher quality butter. Receipts for quality milk favoured crosses by 20%. Jersey x Russian Black Pied (RBP) crosses had lower age at first breeding and feed units per kg of gain than Friesian x RBP; Russian Red x RBP; or pure RBP or pure Kortroma. (Source: R.E. McDowell: Evaluation of Research on Jerseys, 1988)

### Black Pied Dairy Cattle (SMR) in East Germany

The development of this breed in the former East Germany started just after



## DANSK KVÆG TIL RUSSISK LANDBRUG

RUSSISKE Opkøbere er kommet til Danmark for at udvælge 300 Stykker af vort fineste Jersey Avl kvæg, der skal danne Grundstammen for Sovjetunionens kommende Bestand af denne fins, højtydende Race. Ordren har danske Kvægsavlere faaet efter haard Konkurrence med England og Holland. Russerne var et helt Aar om at bestemme sig. Det er en Kompliment til dansk Landbrugs høje Stæde, siger den russiske Indkøbsleder, Dyrlæge Wladimir Pawlovskij, der selv er med rundt i Landet for at udvælge hver eneste af de 100 unge Tyre og 200 Kvier. Gaar Handelen og Transporten godt, er der Sandynlighed for endnu større Ordre, for Russerne har ligesom Danskerne fundet ud af, at Jersey Racen er en af de bedste for et moderne Landbrug. — BILLED-BLADET har fulgt den russiske Indkøbskommission paa Tur rundt i Vendsyssel, og som det fremgaar af Billederne, gaar Pawlovskij og hans Kollega Nikolaj Koeobko meget grundigt og uhyre fløist til Værk. FOT. MOGENS AMISLØR

Russerne lægger Vægt paa en vis Robusthed. Her vurderer Pawlovskij den 2-årige August — en af Vendsyssels Støttheder.

*It took a year for the USSR to decide upon purchasing 100 Jersey bulls and 200 heifers in Denmark in the early 1950s. This was to form the backbone of a similar population in the Soviet Union. The event attracted some attention in the Danish press.*



1945 when Black Pied Lowland cattle were crossbred with a small number of East German Fleckvieh and the remnants of Red Highland cattle.

In 1961 a constructive upgrading program was started, in which the first step was to cross the higher yielding of the national herd with Danish Jersey bulls, to create a broad basis of F1 females which combined a high milk yield with a 5% fat content. As the F1 cows lacked height, the next step was to breed them to Holstein bulls.

The result was a breed consisting of approximately 25% original German Black Pied Lowland, 25% Jersey and 50% Holstein. Black Pied Dairy cattle (SMR) in 1989 made up 99% of the former East German cattle population with 1,999,457 cows, of which 311,189 were herd book registered.

SMR cows stand 135 cm and weigh approximately 600 kg. The average milk yield is 4,180 kg at 4.11% (4,897 kg) fat or 4.26% fat for herd-book cows.

At the state farm of Köllitsch, the center breeding farm of Sachsen with 13,000 head of cattle, the cows gave 7,600 kg with an average 4.58% fat and 3.77% protein.

*"It was however expected with the unification of East and West Germany that the amount of Holstein blood would amount [increase] and by 1992 the SRM breed already had been greatly reduced in numbers." (Marleen Felius, 1995)*

### The breeding programme in Hungary

The Hungarofries was the end product of a breeding program begun by the Hungarian government in 1966 to produce a hardy, productive dairy animal. The program was a successful one, and Hungarofries cows, which are an amalgamation of Jersey, Holstein and Hungarian Spotted cattle, are said to produce, on average, nearly 5,000 kg at 4.27% fat per lactation.

*"Due to its productivity potential, it was the expected before 'the wall' broke down that the Hungarofries would become the most important breed in Hungary." (Marleen Felius 1985)*

*Today, however, the Hungarofries breed according to the FAO is registered as extinct.*



*Jerseys in the Netherlands.*

### The Netherlands has Jerseys and impressive Jersey cheese

The pioneering farmer Peter van der Voort of Lunteren introduced the first three Jerseys into the Netherlands from Germany in 1963. Together with two friends, he drove them into the 'polder country'. At that time it really was strange to breed Jerseys in a population of two million Dutch Friesian cows.

Van der Voort was born in 1926 and as young man he served as a soldier in Indonesia and then stayed for a time in the USA where he first became ac-

quainted with the Jersey breed. When he returned to Holland, he took over his ancestral farm in Lunteren located between Utrecht and Arnhem.

His US experience with the Jersey breed was crucial in deciding to buy the three Jersey heifers in Germany, he particularly remembered one of the heifers very well. She produced 5,200 kg milk, at 8.75% (450 kg) fat in her second lactation.

Some Dutch farmers soon became interested in this new breed because of its efficiency, so in 1968 some 1000 Jerseys

