

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



Jan Dirk van der Voort's Jerseys in the Netherlands.

from Germany, originating from Danish imports, were introduced into the Netherlands and van der Voort was one of the main founders of the Nederlands Jersey Stamboek, the official Jersey herd book and breed society established in 1966. Van der Voort became president of the new association. Over a period of ten years he changed the Friesian herd to Jersey.

The van der Voort family farm

Peter van der Voort ran the farm until 1981, when his son Jan Dirk van de Voort entered into partnership with him. Their farm had been mixed with cattle, poultry and pigs, but now they decided to keep only dairy cows so they doubled the herd and built a new loose-housing barn with a rotary milking parlour.

When the barn was completed, 80 Jersey heifers were imported from Denmark. In 1982 the herd numbered 130 cows, but this was decreased in 1983 to 100 cows following the introduction of milk quotas. The Netherlands had around 2,000 Jersey cows in 1982.

Jan Dirk had a vision for the future of the farm. He wanted to make a special product, so to begin with he manufactured Jersey butter on the farm. Next following a course in cheesemaking he began to produce traditional Dutch Gouda cheese made using his Jersey milk.

In the Netherlands today around 500 farmers following a long tradition in making Gouda cheese on their farms from raw unpasteurized milk. This meth-

od makes it possible to conserve the good taste of Jersey milk in a raw milk cheese.

In 1994, Jan Dirk converted to organic farming with no use of fertilisers or chemicals, and a feed program for the cows based on 89% grass and maize silage with just 11% concentrates. Of around 1000 cows in 25 herds with purebred Jerseys, seven herds are organic. (Source: Jersey in the Netherlands, 2002)



A stable number of animals

The number of Jersey farmers in The Netherlands has been stable for several

years and the Dutch Jersey association has 30 commercial dairy farmers and 13 others interested in the breed.

In 2009, 488 females and 265 male calves were born, and 3,827 inseminations to Jersey were carried out. The 2009 national production for Jerseys was 489 cows, 5,178 kg milk at 5.81% fat and 4.07% protein with half of the Jersey herds being organically farmed.

In addition, 1,853 cows with between 50% and 75% Jersey blood averaged 7,489 kg milk at 4.79% fat and 3.69% protein. (Derrick Frigot, 2010)

Country	The Netherlands	
First import of purebred Jerseys	1962	
Name of the national Jersey association (in English)	(NJS) Nederlands Jersey Stamboek (Dutch Jersey Society Board)	
Year of formation (possibly end year) of association	1965	
Date of 1 st herd book (1 st edition or earliest)	N/A	
Size of Jersey population, latest figures (registered and total)	489 registered and 1,200 in total	
% of the national dairy cattle population	0.1%	
Average herd size	60 cows	
Average production	N/A	
Average 305-day production	5,187 kg milk 5.81% fat 4.07% protein	
Breeding program with bull testing?	No	
And number of bulls tested per annum	N/A	
General management	Mostly grazing in summer; grass and maize silages in winter.	
		
% of organic herds	50%	
Use of sexed semen	35 %	
Names of the oldest herds	Oegema and Ormel and Van de Voort	