

SiryX A heifer calf again... and again!

SiryX sexed semen offers dairy farmers across the world the opportunity to breed the next generation of milkers from cows and heifers that offer the best genetic gain. Inseminations with SiryX semen will result in 90%, or more, heifer calves.



SiryX is being produced with the use of flow cytometers

The advantages of using SiryX:

- **Assured production of heifer calves for replacement or expansion**
The number of heifer calves born can be optimised by using SiryX. Farmers who want to expand their herd with their own stock can do this more efficiently with SiryX
- **Reducing the number of difficult births**
Heifer calves are smaller than bull calves and by using SiryX, particularly on heifers, the number of difficult births will decrease. As a result, the heifers will have a better start to their lactation, with lower veterinary costs, and will get back in calf more easily.
- **Higher turn over**
By insemination part of the herd with SiryX, a larger proportion of the herd can be inseminated with beef bull semen. Farmers can profit from this because they can boost their income from the sale of cross-bred calves.
- **Faster genetic progress**
Using SiryX on the highest genetic merit cattle in the herd to breed the next generation milking cows will result in faster genetic progress. Theoretically this effect is the highest when using SiryX on heifers, due to the genetic superiority of heifers on most farms compared to the rest of the herd.

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SiryX in Spain

El Palomar is a farm with 100 cows, located in Flores de Avila in Spain. Its owner, Juan Carlos Alonso, has been using CRV SiryX for more than a year now. We asked him why he decided to use SiryX. And he said it made economic sense and also because his wife, Esperanza, encouraged him to try it. "It is very profitable to get only females from the sires I want to have," says Juan Carlos. "In the beginning I started using Harpet Kirkland but, having seen some good fertility results, I am now using Paramount and Nitro," he adds. Juan Carlos and Esperanza are very surprised with the fertility results. "I've achieved a heifer fertility rate of 90%," he explains. The couple already have four SiryX calves – and they are all female. "They show good vitality and are all healthy and growing normally." Juan Carlos is very satisfied with SiryX so far. "In fact, I have many heifers in calf with SiryX semen of Paramount and Nitro. Practically all the semen I now use for heifers is SiryX," he adds.



Juan Carlos Alonso and his wife Esperanza show the heifers in calf to SiryX sires

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Expansion at the Quellenhof in Germany

At the farm 'Quellenhof' in Nordfriesland in Germany the Storm family is milking 105 cows using two robots. "My objective is to expand the herd to 140 uncomplicated milking cows with a lifetime yield of at least 30,000kg," explains farm manager Ingo Storm. In December 2007 the family started to successfully inseminate their maiden heifers with SiryX sexed semen. They used sexed semen to get enough heifers for replacement and herd expansion and to avoid difficult calvings. "The semen fertility is good and, until now, only female calves have been born". Important traits for breeding selection at the unit are teat placement and teat length, due to robotic milking. And a lot of emphasis is put on sires that inherit a good longevity and good feet and legs. Sires like Fortune, Nevada, Surprise and Yankee are used.



Nevada SiryX calves at the Quellenhof in Germany

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Something 4all

Igor Alfred Tschizik from the Itapeva dairy farm in the São Paulo region of Brazil is partner in the Gestor leite programme, which is CRV Lagoa's dairy breeding programme in Brazil. He speaks enthusiastically about SiryX: "We've used Holstein sexed semen from CRV Lagoa since 2007. We use sexed semen on heifers and cows, after selection on reproductive traits. We have had good results with this product. Sexed semen allows us to breed female replacements with a faster rate of genetic gain and avoid producing bull calves that command poor prices at market."

Igor Alfred Tschizik is enthusiastic of the high number of female calves born with SiryX



CRV's sexed semen is also being used successfully in the Brazilian beef sector. Victor Heringer from the Heringer Agropecuária farm breeds the tropical Nelore breed and is a partner in CRV Lagoa's beef breeding programme, called PAINT. "The results obtained with the use of CRV Lagoa sexed semen surpassed our expectations. We had 94% of births within the chosen gender, and we also saw good fertility with the sexed semen, with an average (over all the years of sexed semen use) 1.76 straws per pregnancy, while with the conventional semen the average was 1.4 straws per pregnancy.

"The pregnancy rate of SiryX sexed semen won't disappoint," according to Victor Heringer, farmer in Brazil"

"One aspect that also contributed to these results was the training that our employees received from CRV Lagoa, ensuring professionalism and commitment to our staff. Sexed semen is cost effective because it allows us to produce more male calves to supply a market that values beef calves from breeding programmes and allows greater efficiency and profitability."

Wilson Lemos de Moraes Junior from the Nova Pousada farm in the Goiás region of Brasil is a crossbreeding specialist. "We have been using sexed semen from CRV Lagoa since 2006 with good pregnancy results in crossbreeding of Bos Taurus and Bos Indicus. As we manage the cattle on an intensive feeding system so it is important to have male calves. They command better market prices and perform more efficiently on this system. The sexed semen has helped us to improve our physical and financial results."



In Brazil, Wilson Lemos de Moraes Junior uses male sexed semen for crossbreeding.



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Fast growing calves in The Netherlands

Sales representative Rene Bos from The Netherlands got a nice response with a photo from Egbert Harmsen, a satisfied SiryX user. We see five healthy calves of Onedin. Egbert Harmsen tells that until now only female calves from SiryX are born, with an average of 2 straws per pregnancy on maiden heifers. "We feed our calves pretty much, about 7 litres of cow milk divided in 5 times a day, so they grow very well" explains the satisfied farmer.



Thirsty Onedin heifers on the Harmsen farm in The Netherlands

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SiryX successes in Luxembourg

"I had had enough of all the male calves," was the answer from Jean-Paul Haas to the question of why he started using SiryX sexed semen.

Jean-Paul has been using SiryX since 2008 on his herd in Flaxweiler, which is in the southern part of Luxembourg. "Before I used CRV's sexed semen there was a time that I had only one heifer calf out of a total of 19 calves." While telling his story, vital young SiryX heifers are running around in the clean and freshly bedded barn. Of the eight straws of Olympic and Paramount that he used in 2008, six maiden heifers were pregnant after the first insemination. And after nine months Jean-Paul was lucky again – all the calves born were female. So far this year he has inseminated six maiden heifers using SiryX semen and the result has been five pregnancies. He milks 60 cows and also uses conventional Olympic, Support and Paramount semen. So what are the future plans for his herd? "I will inseminate all the maiden heifers with sexed semen and maybe even some cows too."



Jean Paul Haas from Luxembourg is happy that he is able to avoid producing bull calves

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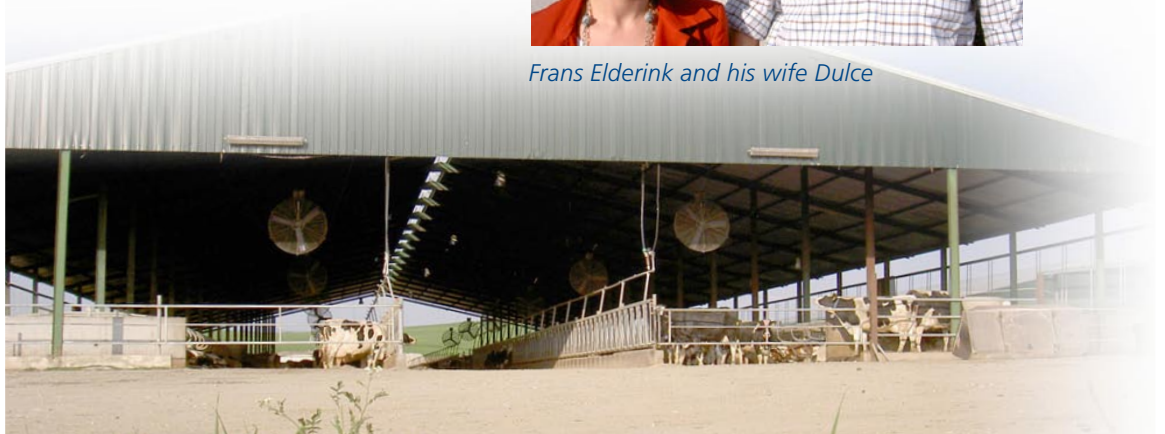


Expansion in Portugal through sexed semen

Frans Elderink and his wife Dulce own a farm in the south-eastern part of Portugal. Today he milks 350 dairy cows at his farm, expanding the herd hasn't been easy. In 2005 disaster struck in the form of a Brucellosis outbreak – all his cows and heifers had to be culled. Frans had to start again from scratch but managed to rebuild his herd rapidly. And today he has plans to expand his herd from 350 to 600 milking cows within two years. So he now inseminates all his maiden heifers with sexed semen. In 2008 he used top bulls Paramount, Olympic, Canvas and Kian and the first calves are in the calf pens now. Frans is more than satisfied. "I am getting almost 100% heifer calves. All the calves are born easily. Their gestation length is almost eight days shorter and, as a result, I can milk them one week earlier."



Frans Elderink and his wife Dulce



Farmer Elderink wants to expand his herd with the help of SiryX



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