



# S.A. Holstein

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Dear Holstein producer

As the custodians of the Holstein breed in South Africa I am writing this letter to inform you of recent developments that will positively impact on the Holstein breed in Southern Africa.

The South African Holstein breed is a member of the World Holstein Federation (WHFF) whom has the mandate to promote and protect the breed throughout the world. With this in mind, there are a number of important developments over the last few months that you as a producer, stud or commercial, need to be made aware of:

It is most important that SA Holstein producers only receive one BLUP EBV analyses for Southern Africa. The South African Holstein Society (SAHS) will in collaboration with the Agricultural Research Council (ARC), University of the Free State (UFS) and the Australian Dairy Herd Improvement Scheme (ADHIS), whom are collaborative partners, provide a genetic evaluation to all Holstein producers.

For the record, ADHIS were the very first institution in the world to implement a BLUP system that enabled all male and female animals to receive BLUP EBVs (called the animal model). This was done in 1983. They were also one of the first to introduce the “test” day model to take better account of fluctuations in environment between test days, and to use records in progress. ADHIS now routinely calculates Genomic EBVs for Holstein dairy cattle and the research behind genomic EBVs is far advanced compared to many other developed countries in the world. Dr Kon Konstantinov, a senior staff member at ADHIS was a highly respected researcher in South Africa and his personal contribution in South Africa was to establish the BLUP analyses for type traits.

The SA Holstein Society will continue to work with our National Government and the ARC for the benefit of the producers in South Africa. The BLUP evaluation will be a collaborative venture between ARC and ADHIS and we are in the process of signing a memorandum of understanding with the ARC for further collaborative work.

The South African Holstein Society are the custodians of all pedigree and type data that is required for a comprehensive analyses. This also includes grade and stud animals. **ANY ALTERNATIVE BLUP EVALUATION WILL NOT BE ENDORSED BY THE SOUTH AFRICAN HOLSTEIN SOCIETY OR THE WORLD HOLSTEIN FEDERATION.**

The Society, as custodians of the Holstein breed must be in charge of their own destiny in order for the breed to prosper and remain a world leader. We would like to do this with your support and government and ARC backing.

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**Dairy Recording and sample collection:** As a Holstein producer you have a number of alternatives. You need to continue to support the laboratories and sample collection agencies. The South African Holstein Society has recently implemented its own dairy recording system called Dairy Express that has been made available to all dairy producers in Southern Africa. The infrastructure supplied and serviced by Taurus, Lionelsvet, NIQL and ARC are in place and they have agreed to provide the necessary data and transport services to the system. Invoicing will from now on be done directly by the society. The various costs structures and overview of Dairy Express will be provided in a separate letter. Details of the Dairy Express system can be found on the website: <http://www.dairyexp.co.za>.

The Society has proved over the years that it has the necessary infrastructure to produce a comprehensive service to all producers in Southern Africa.

If there are any questions please do not hesitate to contact Mr Herman Duvenage on 0825727309 or myself on 0823234286. The email address is [herman@saholstein.co.za](mailto:herman@saholstein.co.za).

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Mains-Sheard', is written over a faint, light-colored rectangular stamp or watermark.

**STEPHEN MAINS-SHEARD  
PRESIDENT**