Genetics that pay off: building a more efficient dairy herd

Hoenhorst Farms Ltd. in Canada successfully optimizing its 490-cow milking herd to reach 100% capacity without expanding its footprint. By combining genomic testing with a targeted sorted semen and beef semen strategy the farm accelerated genetic progress, improved animal health, and increased profitability.

The strategy: keep it simple

More production efficiency

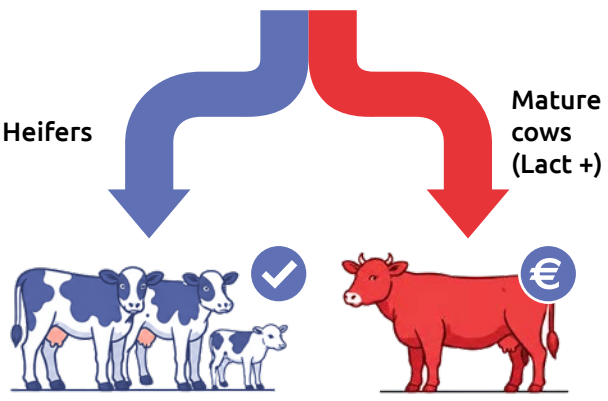
Maximize production efficiency while delaying new construction by focusing on genetics and inventory.

Benefit from genomic testing

Sample all newborn Holstein heifer at birth to predict future performance accurately.

Use 100% sorted semen

Use only sorted semen to ensure elite replacements and high-value calves.

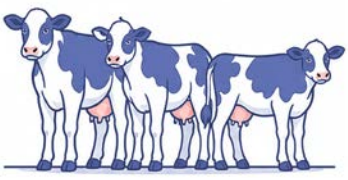


100% sorted semen
= No shortage of elite replacement heifers.

100% beef semen
= Higher value beef-on-dairy calves for sale.

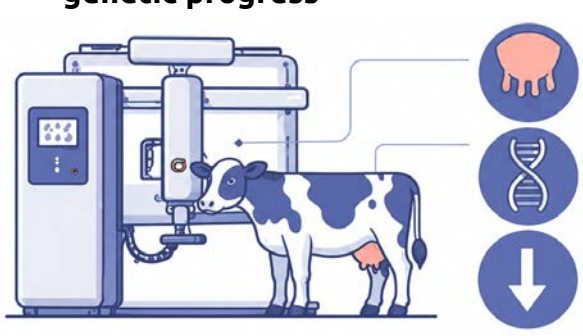
Real results & sustainability

Consistent heifer supply and year-round calving



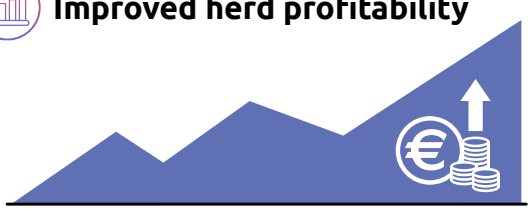
A reliable supply of replacement heifers (no shortages!) to support future herd development and consistent calving throughout the year for a more balanced and predictable herd management strategy.

Accelerated robot-friendly genetic progress



Improved udder traits and immunity + selection lead to healthier cows and fewer treatments.

Improved herd profitability



Rising trends in fat and protein production drive higher profitability per herd.

Enhanced sustainability

Supporting a more future-ready and resilient farming operation.

Sell more calves and support your sustainability ambitions!

Sorted semen in combination with genomic testing has significantly improved the herd and created a more efficient, future-ready operation for Hoenhorst Farms. This strategy delivers consistent calving throughout the year, ensures a reliable supply of replacement heifers, accelerates genetic progress and creates opportunities to sell more high-value calves. The result is a stronger herd, improved profitability and a more sustainable farming system for the future.

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Source: Presentation Cox Wensink from Hoenhorst Farms in Canada