

Knonaudale Jasmine: One of the Most Consistent Transmitting Show Families of the Breed

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Knonaudale took third place in the Breeders Herd class at the Royal with three generations from the same cow family: Jasmine EX-96, Mudpie EX-94 and Orangecrush EX-91.

Rarely do cow families compete at the top level in the show ring for more than a generation or two. However, this past show season four generations of the Knonaudale Jasmine family made their mark at the big-time shows. Here is a look at one of the hottest cow families of the Canadian show scene at present.

“The great ones are where you find them.” It’s a commonly held sentiment. Indeed, many of the leading prize-winners at the major shows have been through a similar history, having been purchased and developed by one of the specialized show herds. It seems multiple generations of the same family rarely dominate at the shows. However, there is a fast emerging dynasty being developed around the cow Knonaudale Jasmine, the EX-96 Goldwyn that was 2nd Long-time Production cow at the Royal last fall and Reserve All-Canadian for her owners Kingsway Farms. And her story demonstrates just what can be developed from rather humble beginnings.

FOUNDATION

Knonaudale is owned by Chris and Bobbi-Jo Uhr and is based at Chrysler in eastern Ontario. Chris was just 6 years old when his parents Hans and Vreni Uhr moved from Switzerland and purchased the farm in 1980. At the time the farm had a mixed breed commercial herd, and as the Uhr’s wanted to move into purebred cattle they purchased two registered Holsteins. ‘One of them was a 3 quartered cow, but that’s all they could afford at the time,’ explains Chris. ‘The Jasmine family traces back to that 3 quartered cow.’ By the late ‘90s, a Hanoverhill Jethro grand-daughter of that foundation cow became the first to be flushed at Knonaudale, with 4 Storm daughters resulting, including one that went EX. However, it was a daughter by a home-bred Prelude son that proved to be the next link in the chain. She produced an EX and 5 VG daughters, though it was a GP-83 2-year-old Mason that became the dam of 4 Cousteau’s. ‘We’ve done a lot of ET work here and we now usually use sexed semen with it,’ continues Chris. ‘I always give quite a deal of thought to which one from the next generation to flush, and it’s not always the highest scoring sister that I use either. The Cousteau produced 4 Lyster daughters, and the one I flushed was a little high in the pins but had nice dairy bone and a great udder. Another sister, Evike, was higher scoring and did better at the shows. She went EX-92 for Eastside and was All-Atlantic Senior 2-year-old. The one I flushed, Elsy, was 2nd at Maxville and went to MilkSource where she later went 92. We had already flushed her to Goldwyn, Damion and Promotion.’ The 4 Goldwyn females from the flush included Knonaudale Jasmine.

SUPERBLY BALANCED

Jasmine has never been the biggest cow in her class, but is an angular, clean boned cow with super udder, great feet & legs and has impressive width and spring to the rib giving her tremendous overall balance. ‘She’s exactly the kind of cow we like to breed,

dairy, balanced, good-uddered cows. We really don't want the big, woody kind: We like the flat dairy bone,' remarks Chris. The Uhrs sold a half interest in Jasmine to the McMillans of Kingsway Farms at Hastings, Ontario, in 2011 when she was a 2-year-old. She was Reserve Grand at the Northumberland County Show and Quinte Exhibition in 2013, and Grand at the Stormont County Show and Peterborough Exhibition in 2014. At the Knonaudale Sale in 2015 the McMillans paid the 2nd high price of \$15,500 to purchase Jasmine outright, and have purchased 3 more generations of the family. As a 9 year-old in 2017 Jasmine was Grand at the Autumn Opportunity Show and the Northumberland County Show before placing 2nd at the Royal. 'We really have to give a lot of credit for the success of this family to Kingsway. We only show at local shows here, but by selling Jasmine to someone who could develop her out and take her to the major shows it has really given the family a lot of exposure,' comments Chris. 'They do a great job. Being prepared to sell the good ones to people who can take them to the next level has been a big part of our success.'



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One of Jasmine's Sid daughters, Knonaudale Muddy EX-93, is a current star of the Knonaudale barn: She was Grand Champion of the Stormont County show.

ATTENTION

Jasmine had been flushed as a 2-year-old to Sid, with the results including 3 cows that are now classified EX. The highest scored is Knonaudale Mudpie EX-94 who topped the Knonaudale Sale in 2015 at \$26,000 selling to Kingsway. Mudpie attracted attention at the shows, and by the fall that year was owned by MilkSource of Wisconsin. She was 2nd in her class in Madison and was Honourable Mention Intermediate Champion. A Reginald daughter of Mudpie, Knonaudale Orangecrush, also spent some time at Kingsway before selling to Mike and Julie Duckett of Wisconsin, and she finished 2017 receiving nominations in the All-Canadian and All-American competitions as a Junior-3. A Solomon daughter of this cow, Knonaudale Blue Crush, was the 2nd high seller of the Beckholm Tag Sale at \$18,000 selling to Lilyking and Trekill, while there are still a number of Doormans, a Solomon and an Armani-Red from Orangecrush at Knonaudale. 'We are trying to add another aspect to the family by putting some red into the pedigree too,' explains Chris. A second Sid from Jasmine is Knonaudale Muddy EX-93, who is one of the stars of the Knonaudale barn at present. Muddy was Grand Champion of the Stormont County Show last year, while one of her Brewmaster daughters, Knonaudale Pretty Mud, was Junior Champion at the same show. The third EX Sid from Jasmine – Knonaudale Mud EX-90 – is at Milvalea Holsteins, Baltimore, Ontario. Indeed, all classified daughters from Jasmine are either EX or VG. Another notable is Kingsway Windbrook Jazz VG-89, who was first 4-year-old and Grand Champion at Peterborough in 2017.

WILLINGNESS

Jasmine has 2 EX sisters, a Damion and a Goldwyn, though there is also an 87-point Goldwyn that is proving to be a top brood cow too. This cow is Knonaudale Jupiter who transmitted her sharp dairy bone to her EX Braxton daughter, and has numerous younger heifers including a 2 month-old Unix calf. The Knonaudale herd consists of 95 cows with over 220 head in total and more than half come from the Jasmine family. The herd has a 305 day average production of 10,500kg 4.3% 3.5%. With the exposure created by the Jasmine family there is strong demand for embryos at present, especially from Japan. One of the highlights of the 2017 show season was the Knonaudale Breeders Herd group that placed third at the Royal: It consisted of 3 generations of the same cow family with Jasmine EX-96, her daughter Mudpie EX-94, and Mudpie's daughter Orangecrush EX-91, all owned by different owners. And to add to it, the second prize Breeder's Herd came from Kingsway and included another daughter of

Jasmine, Kingsway Windbrook Jazz. With extensive and judicious use of ET, Knonaudale has established one of the most consistent transmitting show families of the breed, and their willingness to market the top animals and allow others to develop them to the next level has captured international attention.

♀ **Knonaudale Anna VG-88**

(Silky Cousteau)



♀ **Knonaudale Elsy EX-92**

(TCET Lyster)



♀ **Knonaudale Jasmine EX-96**

(Braedale Goldwyn)



♀ **Knonaudale Mudpie EX-94**

(Pine-Tree Sid)



♀ **Knonaudale Orangecrush EX-91**

(Regancrest Reginald)

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