



Changing the Breed

We all define a "Great Cow" in different ways. For some it's show winnings and generations of near perfect phenotype while for others it's extreme production, a high index or a bull mother. For us, the true measure of "Greatness" begs the question, "How has one individual contributed to the advancement of her breed" From this perspective, the truly great cows of any breed can likely be counted on a hand or two — Tenn Haug E MAID is one such cow.

MAID was born in September of 1992 at the University of Tennessee Dairy Experiment Station. She was a high fat cow in a world that was very focused on milk and protein — even anti-fat. Nearly, six years later she came to Oregon (as did we) to become part of Sunset Canyon and would eventually define us as breeders. It was really a combination of the Tillamook Cheese high fat payout and the fact that there was inbreeding concerns among the U.S. Jersey population that thrust MAID into the forefront of the breed — her time had come.

Tenn Haug E Maid

Excellent-93%

6-0 365 26,014 7.0% 1,829 4.3% 1,107 DHIR



After calving in July of 1998 MAID was put on an intense ET program and produced 62 offspring. Five years later her son, Sunset Canyon Maximus, was the first bull in the breed to exceed the 100 lb. fat barrier. Other sons would follow suit as "Militia" sat on the top of the JPI list for several runs while "Matinee," "Mecca" and "Maximum" held in the top 5. A double great-grandson, Sunset Canyon Megatron was the breed's first 100 lb. fat genomic bull and today, his son, SC/RV Transformer, is the highest G-bull available for combined fat and protein. As of December 2014 (22 years after the birth of MAID) 5 of the top 10 JPI bulls, 7 of the top Cheese Merit bulls and 8 of the top 10 fat bulls have at least one cross of MAID in their pedigrees.

Not only has MAID had a positive effect on us at Sunset Canyon, she has made an enormous contribution to the entire Jersey breed as well as the dairy community as a whole. Please join us in honoring this GREAT COW. *Eric Silva*

Industry perspective

Fifteen years ago, as we entered this new millennium one of the greatest concerns within the U.S. Jersey community was the escalating rate of inbreeding within our breed. Dr. John Wilk addressed the AJCA convention on this topic. Predictions for the level of inbreeding by the year 2010 were a serious matter of concern. And yet, by the time 2010 arrived it was clear that the rate of increase in inbreeding had clearly moderated, and our breed was significantly less inbred in 2010 than anticipated 10 years earlier.

Tenn Haug E Maid had come to the rescue of the U.S. Jersey population! Clearly, this one cow had done more to slow the escalating rate of inbreeding during that time frame than any other single animal, male or female.

However, that's not all that MAID brought to the breed. In order to have such a broad influence, and at such a rapid rate, the cow needed obvious attributes: MAID had the genetic ability to dramatically increase fat test, unlike anything U.S. breeders had seen since the origin of multi-herd daughter proofs.

One more attribute from MAID that was very obvious, but more difficult to measure was male fertility. Bull stud personnel that worked with the sons of MAID were soundly convinced that MAID sons would produce acceptable units younger than their contemporaries, and could be counted on to generate outstanding non-return rates when used broadly across the country.

In summary, one cow arrested the accelerating rate of inbreeding, increased price per cwt. for all that used her sons, and indirectly improved conception rates and reduced days open. Is it any wonder that Tenn Haug E Maid was the most influential cow of the first decade of this new century? *Dick Smith, ABS Global*

Sunset Canyon



Jerseys

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MAID—she's an obvious choice!

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