NEWS / IDEAS / HOT TOPICS / TRENDS



It's time again for the WestGen Annual Meeting and WestGen Days! It's a great opportunity for you



to step off the farm for a few daysand spend time engaging with your peers, learning about new initiatives, viewing some farms and socializing with friends. WestGen Days is about respecting our past, taking pride in our ownership, and ensuring that the next generation of members can benefit too.

Come join with us on March 28th! Learn about how your organization fared in 2016, and about plans for growth in 2017. It's an opportunity for you to have your say advising the directors who represent you on the board about what you value and where you want the focus to be placed. Have your say - this is your company! We have a fabulous agenda lined up including 3 Dairy Producers Bruno Divorne, MB; John Hylkema, SK and Michael Van den Dool, AB to discuss Strengthen Your Herd: Genetic Planning and Strategies that Contribute to the Success of Their Farming Operations.

Enjoy some hospitality and social time get to know some of your out of province neighbours. Tours of 3 interesting farms will take place the following day and there will be a few informative seminars. It will be an enjoyable and educational few days that promises to return you home with new ideas to consider on how to Strengthen Your Herd.

We look forward to have you join us at the 2017 WestGen Days!

TRAVEL INCENTIVE AVAILABLE!

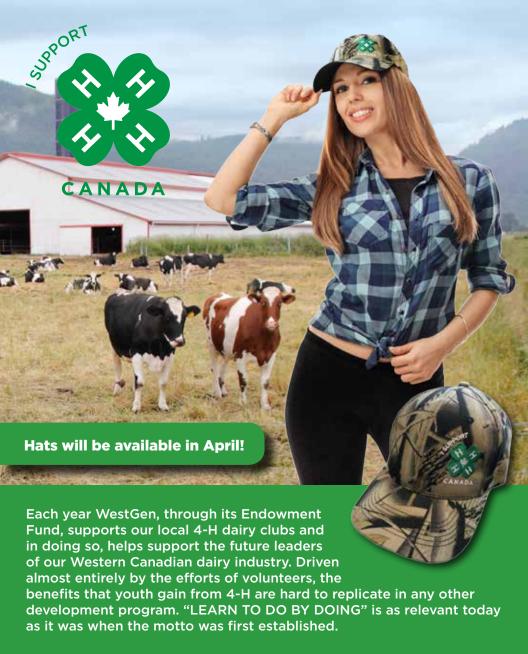
As a WestGen Member, we welcome your participation in WestGen Days. WestGen subsidizes the travel costs for out-of-Province guests, as well as guests travelling from Vancouver Island or BC's interior. Please talk to your WestGen Rep regarding the available travel subsidy for members that attend the AGM.

Venue: Quality Hotel, Abbotsford

36035 N Parallel Road, Abbotsford, BC | **Phone:** 604-870-1050 **Room Rate:** \$89.00+tax | **Booking Code:** WestGen / 2750372

Monday, March 27, 2017					
8:00 pm	Wine & Cheese with Special Guest Speaker: Melissa Bowers, Boviteq: <i>The IVF Option</i>				
Tuesday, March 28, 2017					
9:00 am	AGM Registration				
10:00 am	Annual General Meeting	WestGen			
12:00 pm	Lunch	STRENGTHEN YOUR HERD			
1:00 pm	Guest Speaker: Jay Shannon, Semex Alliance Semex Genetic Update				
1:30 pm	3 Dairy Producers: Bruno Divorne, MB; John Hylkema, SK; Michael Van den Dool, AB; to Discuss: STRENGTHEN YOUR HERD: Genetic Planning Strategies That Contribute to the Success of Their Farming Operations				
2:30 pm	Guest Speaker: Dr. Gordon Atkins, University of Calgary The Importance of Foot Conformation, Foot Trimming and Cow Comfort to Reduce Laminitis				
3:00 pm	Guest Speaker: Lisa McCrea BSc, DVM, Agwest Making More Milk				
4:00 pm	Conclusion				
6:00 pm	Dinner Theatre - Please RSVP by March 20 th				
Wednesday, March 29, 2017					
8:30 am	Seminar: Jay Shannon, Semex Alliance: <i>New Tools to Help Build Your Genetic Plan</i>				
9:30 am	Seminar: Brent Fawcett BSc, DVM: Making More Milk in the Future: Heifer Rearing, Repro and Genetics Alison Vaughan PhD, Agwest: Data, Benchmarking and How it Benefits Farmers				
11:00 am	Farm Tour: Country Charm, Abbotsford				
12:00 pm	Lunch				
1:00 pm	Farm Tour: Dicklands Farm, Chilliwack Guest Speaker: Melissa Bowers, Boviteq: <i>Pooling and Commercial Options</i>				
2:30 pm	Farm Tour: Gracemar Farms, Chilliwack				
5:00 pm	Dinner at a local restaurant	*Itinerary is subject to change, check www.westgen.com for updates.			

Don't forget to RSVP! We look forward to seeing you there!



SHOW YOUR SUPPORT, BUY A HAT!

This year, WestGen created a one of a kind Camouflage hat to show your support for 4-H. Each hat is available for purchase through your local
4-H Dairy club. Get your hat for only \$20 each while they last!





annual dairy show in the southern hemisphere-International Dairy Week.

Our sincerest thanks goes out to Brenda and Yolanda McVilly; Chris and Julie Vogels; Craig and Sophie Bennet: Brandon, Heather, and Tyson Sinclair; and Lynette and Lance

Greenwood for their hospitality during the tours of their farms, and to our partners at Semex Australia for their outstanding help putting the whole adventure together. We'd also like to thank all the WestGen producers who participated for being such excellent

travellers, and for helping to make the trip so incredible!

You'll have to wait until our upcoming AGM to hear the full tour report, but until then, enjoy this sneak peek of a few photos from the 2016 WestGen Australia Tour:







Kookaburi









Two exceptional mid-round Additions to the Genomax list

There are but a mere few sires available to producers that break the 3500 LPI barrier. New mid-round release Genomax

sire, Claynook C-SUITE (AltaSpring x Bombero), is one of them joining December's new star, SEDUCER, on that elite list. C-Suite's dam is a VG-85 point Bombero daughter who traces through Mogul, Man-O-Man and Baxter dams to Regancrest S Chassity EX-92. C-Suite is expected



to deliver exceptional Fat and Protein yields, combining for 180kg improvement, along with excellent Mammary and F&L improvement in a moderate size package that still delivers chest width. It is easy to predict that supply will be limited in the early going on C-Suite!



Already having delivered exceptional sons in Seducer, Mustang and Avatar, there are several more sons of Woodcrest Def Manhattan that producers are eager to see released, including Cranberry, Midnight Modulo and Dockside – all young bulls who along with their brother Seducer are

rated over 3500 LPI. Meanwhile **Progenesis PALACE** (Penmanship x Defender) and **Progenesis WIZARD** (Hotshot x Defender) are her latest sons to join the marketing fold. Palace is readily available while Wizard we can obtain small quantities for now.

Defender Manhattan is a phenom in the world of genetics and is set to make a huge impact on the breed with already more than 10 sons slated for release and all with LPI scores above 3400. Eight of them are also rated at over 2800 for Pro\$ with six exceeding the 2900 mark! There are also 8 different sires represented so clearly it is a scenario of a female consistently transmitting her superior genetics.

An interesting point to the maternal line that gives rise to Palace and his brothers is that Defender Manhattan traces to Roylane

Shot Mindy. Two Bookem daughters create separate pathways to greatness – one in LPI terms and one in TPI terms. While Jedi, Flagship and Jett for Select all have exceedingly high TPI values, it is the other Bookem daughter by way of Defender Manhattan that delivers the LPI stars. Use Palace, Seducer, Mustang and their other brothers as they are released over the remainder of 2017 to



Woodcrest Def Manhattan
Progenesis LP, ON

get started early on Canada's new superstar transmitting family.



Sons at Se	mex	LPI	PRO\$
Seducer	(Supershot)	3506	2933
Avatar	(Spring)	3470	2833
Mustang	(Supershot)	3448	2907
Cranberry	(Commander)	3573	2955
Wizard	(Hotshot)	3478	2967
Palace	(Penmanship)	3403	2669
Midnight	(Duke)	3599	2976
Modulo	(Duke)	3541	2994
Dockside	(Doorsopen)	3507	2817
Montfort	(Hotrod)	3412	2758

	LPI	PRO\$
(Montross)	3414	2758
(1stClass)	3402	2825
(Montross)	3400	2872
	(1stClass)	(Montross) 3414 (1stClass) 3402





Valerie Holbech, Joins the WestGen Team

In an effort to better support the needs of the large and growing herds in Western Canada, WestGen is pleased to announce the appointment of Valerie Holbech to the newly created role of Strategic Account Manager. Valerie grew up in Winnipeg, Manitoba where she also received her Bachelors of Agriculture Degree with a Major in Animal Science from the University of Manitoba.

In 2001 Valerie relocated to Chilliwack, BC taking a role in the feed industry focusing on dairy feed sales and field nutrition before joining CanWest DHI as the District Manager of British Columbia, a role she has held since 2008. During her tenure at DHI, Valerie was responsible for managing field staff; DHI public relations; and Dairy Comp 305 herd management software sales and support. She has been a vital contributor to setting up protocols, decision-making and trouble-shooting on many of the most progressive dairies in BC.

In addition, Val also served as the manager of the Mainland Milk Producers Association for a number of years, was instrumental in helping to develop the Mainland Young Milk Producers Association, is a committee member of the BC Dairy Association's research committee, DIREC; and is a certified Canadian Sales Professional of CPSA.

WestGen is pleased to offer Val's broad range of skills to the genetic planning and reproductive solutions offered by the WestGen's field staff in an effort to create more value. Now producers across all four of the western provinces will benefit from her immense abilities. Val resides with her husband Bryce, and their two sons in Chilliwack, BC.

Maximize Your Genetic Investment!

Did you know that 60 oocytes are able to be pooled into one maturation tube?

Pooling donors during the IVF cycle helps:

- Cut costs
- Increases chances of a successful IVF cycle
- Increase the potential for high quality embryos
- Maximize your genetic investment

Pooling is a great tool for all producers to have in their genetic plan!

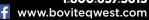
"The ability to pool 60 oocytes from 3 different donors allows the commercial producer to economically utilize IVF in order to advance their genetic plan. The breeder is able to create embryos from several of their highest genomic heifers with one IVF cycle thus reducing costs with one processing fee."

> Lisa McCrea-Hemphill DVM Agwest Veterinary Group Ltd.



Call Boviteg West today to find your Reproductive Solution!

1.800.657.5613



Which Selection Index is right for your herd?

TPI, LPI, PRO\$, Net Merit and many more... With so many selection indexes available, how can you decide which is the best option for your herd? To maximize genetic progress on your farm should you be using only the very top bulls from one of these indexes? Should you reference multiple indexes at once? The truth is, your breeding goals likely do not 100% fit in line with any national selection index option.

We have all had the experience of seeing a new number one bull for LPI, TPI or any other index and saying "This bull just doesn't fit my herd's needs, how did he get to number 1?" This can be frustrating and confusing; it can make you question the value of a national selection index entirely. The reason this happens is that national indexes are based on national averages, and a set formula on which traits the national dairy herd should be focused on improving. In reality, each of our herds is far from average! A bull that works well in your neighbor's barn may not be a good option for your herd. Every herd has different strengths, weaknesses and goals. You may want to focus on improving different traits from what LPI or TPI are formulated to improve.

Your herd is unique. Your herd has its own strengths and weaknesses, and you have your own vision for where you would like to see improvement in your cows. A customized selection index based on your own herd and your own goals is the logical step to select a group of bulls that will put you on track to faster genetic gains in the areas you want to improve! Working with your Westgen Rep to formulate a custom farm index is quick and painless. SemexWorks offers an incredibly valuable tool to create your own index and rank bulls according to your own specific herd needs. Custom genetic progress in areas that matter to you! **Drive your own genetic progress with SemexWorks!**

It's EASY. It's RIGHT for you. It's FLEXIBLE.



Unlike traditional genetic evaluation tools and indexes, SemexWorks has been designed to take a different approach to sire selection by allowing you to create a personalized selection formula that fits your unique needs and economics on the dairy, calculating pay back on the genetics.

This simplifies your buying decision process, and gives you confidence in the genetics, helping you achieve your specific goals.

Contact your WestGen Genetic Advisor to complete your SemexWorks!



A Step Ahead

1.800.563.5603 | www.westgen.com





Two Former Genomax stars graduate!

It was in our August 2013 proof sheet that **Airintake** and **Album** were listed one after the other in the Genomax list . These two bulls, with identical sire stacks, and similarly predicted production and type scores have graduated to the proven side of our sheet. The pair of Epic sons are cousins to each other, and are out of full sisters from the Atlee family. They offer something for every breeder.

Strong Production (+1856kgs Airintake/+1476kgs Album) from solid type (+14/+10) along with great health traits (109HL/110HL) offer the definition of balanced breeding. These widely appealing bulls promise to improve rump structure in their offspring. Proven calving ability scores (107/111) allow you to use these two bulls in the heifer pens with confidence. For our breeders who are invested in robotics or those planning for automation in the future, Airintake and Album are both branded RobotReady so their daughters will fit nicely into whatever milking system you may have.

MD-DELIGHT DURHAM ATLEE

ALLYNDALE-I GOLDWYN ALBANY

VELTHUIS SG MOM ALICIA

VELTHUIS SG MOM ALESIA

SILVERRIDGE ALBUM

BOLDI VSG AIR INTAKE



Velthuis SG MOM Alicia VG-85-2YR-CAN Silverridge Farms Ltd., ON Trustmore Farms Inc., ON



Velthuis SG MOM Alesia VG-87-2YR-CAN Boldi Inc., ON



Using SexedULTRA™*





Sexxed[™] semen conception rates expected to be closer to conventional (formerly 78%)



If top third bred to sexed semen **\$32** extra value per heifer

Fetrow et al. 2007



More Heifers = More Milk
If 1st two calves are female,
cows produce more milk

445 kgs over 2 lactations Hinde, K et al, 2014 76 kgs over 2 lactations CDN, March 2014



Virgin High Fertility Heifers Cows

Best Practices
use on virgin heifers
use on high fertility cows
1st & 2nd services



Delaying breeding by **4-8** hours improves rates



Easier calvings

4% fewer difficult calvings than

conventional semen

Winner's Circle

VERY GOOD FIRST LACTATION

CHRIS-ADIE WINDBROOK ELLIE VG-87 CHRIS-ADIE HOLSTEINS LTD., SK

GLENRIDGE DOORMAN RIVER VG-87 *BENBIE HOLSTEINS LTD., SK*

BALGONIE DUDE AWESOME VG-86 *BALGONIE HOLSTEINS LTD., SK*

BLOSSOMDAIRY DOORMAN REPLAY VG-86 BLOSSOMDAIRY DOORMAN SUGAR VG-86 BLOSSOMDAIRY MCDOUGAL RILEE VG-86 BLOSSOMDAIRY DOORMAN ROSELLA VG-85 BLOSSOMDAIRY PLANNER BLIZZARD VG-85 WEDGWOOD C G DELLIA VG-85 BLOSSOM DAIRY LTD.. BC

ELMBRIDGE DOORMAN ASPIRE VG-86 ELMBRIDGE SID DORIANA VG-85 ELMBRIDGE SID GINGERSNAP VG-85 NICREST SIGNAL NUTELLA VG-85 NICOLE PARKINSON, BC

HYLJON ELOQUENT QUE VG-86 JOHN HYLKEMA, SK

PETER TUYTEL, JR. BC

KINGSWAY GOLDWYN ANACONDA VG-86 KENBERT ACRES, SK

QUILL LAKE FEVER FLAME VG-86 *QUILL LAKE FARMING CO. LTD., SK*

ROBELLA SOMA SNOWWHITE VG-86 ROBELLA WINDBROOK LEGEND VG-85 ROTALY REGINALD ARIANA VG-85 ROBELLA HOLSTEINS, SK

ROEMERS WINDBROOK RUMMY VG-86 ROEMERS FEVER GRACE VG-85 ROEMER FARMS LTD., BC

ALLEY WINDBROOK NAKITA VG-85 *ALLEY HOLSTEINS, SK*

ARTOMDA DARYL 567 VG-85 ARTOMDA FEVER 588 VG-85 ARTOMDA FARMS LTD., SK **BENBIE LRR OLYMPIAN BRENNA VG-85**

BENBIE HOLSTEINS LTD., SK ROBELLA HOLSTEINS, SK LIGHTNING RIDGE HOLSTEINS, IL

BRINKSTAR ANECDOTE LILIAN VG-85 BRINKSTAR CAMPUS SUE ELLEN VG-85 BRINKSTAR STANLEYCUP TESSA VG-85 BRINKSTAR TOSTO RACHEL VG-85 VAN DEN BRINK DAIRY. SK

CORDINE SINEW P ADALIA VG-85 *CORNELIS HERTGERS, BC*

CRAILA OBSERVANT MARIA VG-85 *CRAILA DAIRY LTD., SK*

ELKREST DOORMAN 3744 VG-85 ELKREST DOORMAN 3781 VG-85 ELKREST EASTON 3762 VG-85 ELKREST FARMS LTD., SK

EMANS CHIC JOY 612 VG-85 ROBERT EMANS, BC

FORTUNA MENTOR 369 VG-85 FORTUNA FARMS LTD., BC

HIDDENLUCK MANIFOLD JOJO VG-85
VANJAARSVELD HOLDINGS LTD.. BC

LINDRIAN LEZZA SINEW P VG-85 JOHN TAMIS. BC

LYBA FIX LILAC VG-85 SHADOW RIDGE DAIRY, BC

MALAWYK ROWDY 267 VG-85 W. & N. VANDER WYK BROS., BC

MATVALE FEVER 2634 VG-85
MATVALE LAUBET WONDER VG-85
ARTHUR PRUIM, SK

MIL-EN-ROY NUMERO UNO BELLE VG-85 *MIL-EN-ROY FARMS (1981) LTD., SK*

NORTH BANK DOORMAN MISTY VG-85 NORTH BANK DAIRY FARMS LTD., BC SUNNYHOME LIS MARYJANE VG-85
TAPPENVALE FARM LTD.. BC

TUYTEL GOLDWYN SK LILY VG-85 KENBERT ACRES, SK NIENHUIS CONTRACTING LTD., SK

VINORIDGE FEVER BREANNA VG-85 VINORIDGE FARM LTD., SK

WEDGWOOD DOORMAN LIBERTY VG-85 *BALGONIE HOLSTEINS LTD., SK*

BALGONIE HOLSTEINS LTD., SK MIL-EN-ROY FARMS (1981) LTD., SK PRAIRIE DIAMOND FARM, SK

FIRST TIME EXCELLENT

ROBELLA REG MADISON EX-94 ROBELLA REG BREEZE EX-90 ROBELLA HOLSTEINS, SK

KENBERT FEVER ROSE EX-93 KENBERT WINDBROOK BAILEY EX-90

KENBERT ACRES, SK

MILMORE WINDY KELLY EX-92 KEES MEULEMAN, SK

BLOSSOMDAIRY WINNERS GLORIA EX-91 BLOSSOM DAIRY LTD., BC

FRUEH LINJET MARLEY EX-91
FRUEH FARMS LTD., BC
KEVIN FRUEH. BC

ALLEY FEVER JODI EX-90 *ALLEY HOLSTEINS, SK*

BALGONIE GOLDWYN PALA EX-90
BALGONIE HOLSTEINS LTD., SK

CARONCREST ASHLAR 1091 EX-90
CARONCREST FARMS LTD., SK

HIDDENLUCK TALENT SILK EX-90 VANJAARSVELD HOLDINGS LTD., BC

JAYTONA STEADY CHRISSY EX-90 *WAYLEEN FARMS, BC*

A sincere congratulations to all breeders and owners

MIL-EN-ROY WINDBROOK BACCARAT EX-90 BONIVISTA OUTSIDE JAPAN

MIL-EN-ROY FARMS (1981) LTD., SK

NEUDAY STANLEY C GINA EX-90

CHRIS-ADIE HOLSTEINS LTD., SK

SUPER 3 AWARDS

APPEL KATY

BCA's: 308 344 306 APPEL DAIRIES LTD., AB

ELKREST FEVER 2873 BCA's: 328 314 321

ELKREST FARMS LTD., SK

GRUTTO 931 DARE 2359 BCA's 349 336 329

GRUTTO 2127 MANIFOLD 2408

BCA's: 294 356 321 PHILIPSEN FARM LTD., AB

LUCKY FEVER READY BCA's: 304 364 330

LUCKY HILL DAIRY LTD., AB

MARSFIELD FEVER TESSA BCA's: 387 368 345

GERT & SONJA SCHRYVER, AB

NIFERA STEADY SATURDAY BCA's: 305 335 302

NIFERA HOLSTEINS, AB

SPRINGBUTTE MANIFOLD ROXY

BCA's: 309 328 309 HENRY SLOMP, AB

TONESA PAULETTE SEPTEMBER 903

BCA's: 331 373 305 TONESA HOLSTEINS LTD., BC

LONGTIME PRODUCTION AWARDS

WEDGWOOD OUTSIDE REVA 116,665kgs 3.5%F 3.0%P

WEDGWOOD HOLSTEINS, BC

ROCKYMOUNTAIN REG CINDERELLA 111,853kgs 4.4%F 3.4%P

SYLVANSIDE DAIRY LTD., AB

109.607kas 3.8%F 3.0%P BONIVISTA FARMS, BC

ENNLEA INSTINCT FAYE

109,232kgs 4.4%F 3.2%P VANDENDOOL FARMS, AB

SUNFLO F B I LAVA

105,515kgs 3.3%F 2.9%P **SUNFLO F B I CRIMSON**

102,102kas 3.4%F 2.8%P

MORLEY & KATHLEEN SUNDELL, MB

DONFIELD ROSIE GOLDWYN

102,988kgs 3.6%F 3.0%P DONFIELD FARMS LTD., MB

BENTHEMMER LHEROS VERONA

102,548kgs 4.0%F 3.3%P

BENTHEM DAIRY LTD., AB

MEI046 116

100,946kas 4.0%F 3.2%P U & D MEIER DAIRY #1 LTD., BC

STAR BROOD COWS

FASTSIDE I EWISDAI E GOLD MISSY 23*

MORSAN FARMS LTD., AB

GEN-I-BEO MORTY BARBIE 23*

BENNER HOLSTEINS LTD., MB

WILLSWIKK CHARLES DREAM 16*

J. WILLIAM WIKKERINK FARMS LTD., BC

DETIMDALE BROKER DARBIE 12*

TIM HOFSTRA, AB

ELMBRIDGE GOLDWYN DARLING 11*

HAMMING LUCKY CLARA 10*

HAMMING HOLSTEINS LTD., BC

CALBRETT GOLDWYN LIZA 10* CEDARWAL ICECAPADE ALLEN 9*

CEDARWAL FARMS LTD., BC

ELLICE FORT OUT JULIE 9* VELVETVUE STORM SHOWER 6*

ARTHUR PRUIM, SK

STANHOPE HARA GIBSON 8*

STANHOPE - WEDGWOOD, BC

LAVENDER GOLDWYN ROSEPETAL 7*

LAVENDER FARMS LTD., BC

NEUDAY LHEROS EMILY 6*

ARTOMDA FARMS LTD., SK

NORDIA OUTSIDE DIANA 6*

KENBERT ACRES. SK

POELMAN GIBSON BAILEY 6*

SUNNY VALE FARM LTD., BC

AUTUMN LANE HOLSTEINS, BC

WEDGWOOD CARLTON REGINA 6*

WEDGWOOD HOLSTEINS, BC

FURT ALLEN BARLEY 5*

FRUEH FARMS LTD., BC KEVIN FRUEH, BC

PENNVIEW GOLDWYN INSULIN 5*

PLEMARK HOLSTEINS, MB

SPRINGBEND GIBSON DIAMOND 5*

SPRINGBEND FARMS, BC

LOVHILL JULIANNA LINDY 4*

LOVHOLM HOLSTEINS, SK

VALLEYVILLE DOLMAN MISSY 4*

WESTCOAST HOLSTEINS, BC

HAVE AN IDEA TO IMPROVE WESTERN CANADA'S CATTLE INDUSTRY?

APPLY FOR THE WESTGEN ENDOWMENT FUND BY MARCH 31!

The mission of the Endowment Fund Committee is to support valuable extension efforts, targeted research and development, and other special projects that will help secure a strong future for the Western Canadian cattle industry.

Learn more and download an application form at: www.westgen.com/community/endowmentfund

APPLY FOR THE WESTGEN ENDOWMENT FUND BY MARCH 31!



The WestGen Bullseye

1625 Angus Campbell Rd, Abbotsford V3G 2G4 tel 604.426.1944 | toll free 1.800.563.5603 fax 604.425.1876 | www.westgen.com

CONGRATULATIONS

Our lucky jacket winners are: Coanwood Farms, British Columbia Schermers Dairy, Alberta

WANT TO WIN A JACKET?

All dairy producers who purchase semen are entered into a bi-monthly draw to be eligible to win.

UPCOMING CLASSIFICATION

MARCH: Manitoba - MR

Have a classifier request a **♂**G-Mate for your herd from WestGen for FREE!!

