

Rosedale: the place where cows can be cows



Nicky Reape and Mark Rueth both have a lot of experience as clippers. They “met” each other in Texas and since 2001 are managing Rosedale together.

“Redrose does it again!” Rosedale’s website is immediately up to date; the beautiful red Holstein from the herd of Nicky Reape and Mark Rueth, just as in 2005, became the Grand Champion at the International Red & White Show in Madison. It’s the umpteenth highlight for the Rubens daughter, who at home in Oxford is surrounded by a growing family circle and other various beautiful conformation toppers. Rosedale: a Valhalla for top cows.

“Rosedale, Mark & Nicky”. The farm sign says a lot, in more than one way. The owners are very approachable (they purposefully use their first names). And: the operation is managed by a twosome: Mark Rueth and Nicky Reape: Two passionate cattle people with years of experience as clippers.

The beautiful property – established in 2001 – is nicely situated on County Road G, just outside of the town of Oxford, an hour north of Madison, Wisconsin. In the area surrounded by hills, the first trees are already adorned in beautiful fall colours, the dry cows bask in the comfortable autumn sun. For the current show stars on the

Champions of Rosedale	
Westlyn Tom Dee Grand Champion @ WDE 1993-'94-'95-'96 Reserve Supreme Champion WDE 1995	Stookey EP Blackrose All-American Jr. 2 1990 All-American Jr. 3 1991 Grand Champion Royal Winter Fair 1995 All-Time All-American Jr. 2 & Jr. 3 2004
Vandyk-K Integrity Paradise Reserve Intermediate Champion WDE 1999 Supreme Champion WDE 2000 Supreme Champion WDE 2002 All-World Champion 2002	Hollywell Gibson Sandy All-American Fall Yrig 2002 Intermediate Champion Mid-West Spring Show 2003 WI State Show Grand Champion 2004
Lavender Ruby Redrose Reserve Senior Champion WDE 2004 Supreme Champion WDE 2005 All-World R&W Champion 2006 Global Cow of the Year Finalist 2006	VanDyk-K Integ Paradise 2-ETN Intermediate Champion Mid-West Fall Show 2005 Intermediate Champion WDE 2005 All-American Sr. 2 2005
Northrose Mario Reba Grand Champion Mid-West Spring Show 2006 HHM All-American 5 Yr. Old 2006 Nominated All-American Jr. 2 2003	Kinyon Linjet Ideal All-Wisconsin Jr. 3 2002 Reserve Grand Champion Mid-West Spring Show 2005 Grand Champion WDE 2006 All-World Champion 2006

The impressive honour list with Champions from Rosedale is clearly on display at the front of the office...



...An indication of what visitors can expect inside; shining trophies and beautiful photo collages of special moments in the show ring.

ROSEDALE IN THE US

Located in Oxford, an hour north of Madison, Wisconsin.

Owned by Mark Rueth & Nicky Reape.

65 milking Holsteins, 20 Jerseys and 100 head of young stock.

25 acres (10 ha) pasture owned and 120 acres (50 ha) alfalfa rented.

Free choice hay and baylage supplemented with 20 pounds (9 kg) corn silage and grain mix with cotton seed.

Current sires: Advent, Redliner, Talent, Aspen, Goldwyn, Durham, Preakness and the Rosedale bulls Rampage, Tribute and Touchdown.



Rosedale is situated in a beautiful location close to Oxford in Wisconsin and provides housing for a number of outstanding show cows, such as Carrousel Talnt Rily-Red VG-89. The Talent daughter out of Stelbro Renita Ranger is jointly owned with Starmark and won her class at Madison 2007.

bidder at the time would never have been able to provide as good a home as she had now. And that the history of Blackrose would have probably turned out quite differently...'

REDROSE

We know how glamorous the history of Blackrose was (HI 03/2006). Rueth became owner of the beautiful and strong transmitting Blackstar, together with Bob Schauf from Indianhead and Mark van Mersbergen from Markwell. The partners shared the offspring and Rueth's portion was registered with the prefix Rosedale, or Northrose (for the Canadian animals). A very well-known representative of the family is of course Lavender Ruby Redrose EX-95 (Rubens x Rudolph x Leader x Blackrose), from whom in the meantime there are now EX daughters by Tribute RC, Shoremar BKB Allegro (Leduc x Alicia) and Lee in Oxford. The last one, Miss Ruby Lee Tuesday has produced a VG-88 Advent daughter. The Tribute daughter, Rosedale-L Trudy-Red, provided promising daughters by Talent and Advent, while her son Rosedale Touchdown-Red (by Advent) is part of the Showcase Selections at Select Sires. The same is true of a full brother of Trudy, Mr Rosedale-L Tribute RC. The combination of September x Redrose resulted in two much sought after descendants; Rosedale-L Rampage-Red, the

young sire who in the barns at ABS can barely keep up with global demand (see textbox), and Rosedale-L SS Rose VG-87, who during the World Classic Sale 2004 was purchased by Star-mark Farm for the top price of 50,000 dollars. Two years later, the highest price at the World Classic Sale went to the same family. This time no less than 135,000 dollars was offered for an Advent daughter of Redrose. Very recently an Advent bull out of Redrose left for the barns of Select Sires. An extensive cow portrait can be read in HI 11/2006.

ROUTINE

'In my eyes, Redrose is a more dairy version of Blackrose,' states Mark. 'And I expect that her transmitting power is even stronger; the best is still to come. I also think that she herself is getting better all the time.' Mark's expectations are underscored by Nicky. 'Redrose has been here since the beginning of Rosedale in 2001. She was a yearling then, a beautiful heifer that clearly needed to develop more yet. Actually, she's still working on that now. She is getting better and better. With that she is simply a very healthy and strong dairy cow, never sick. And she loves the show ring. Nicky and Mark know like no one else how to prepare cows for the show arena. As clippers, they have a wealth of experience. 'But,' says Nicky, 'now with our own cows we can be

even more precise in our work. We know the behaviour of the cows inside out. In this way we can let them be themselves in preparation for the show.' This "personal" approach is part of the secret behind the numerous show successes. Mark: 'In order to be able to win you need to have good cows with exceptional udders. All show winners have outstanding udders – when the show is over, you take 100 lb. (45 kg) out of the udder and the udder quality is still perfect. But in addition to that, we especially let our cows be cows first of all; they are allowed to graze and receive lots of hay. Above all, cows need to be healthy, happy and satisfied. In addition, they like routine. For that reason we are constantly busy with them.'

MODEST

All of the efforts at Rosedale have led to lots of splendid victories. So many, that Mark has difficulty recalling just one highlight in particular. 'In 2000 Paradise won as a 4-year-old. That was a tremendous moment that we really celebrated.



Nicky – a passionate cow enthusiast just like partner Mark – with Hollywell Gibson Sandy.

But every championship is special. When Paradise won again in 2002, it was really special again. That was the first championship originating from our farm. The victory of Redrose in 2005 could be easily seen as the ultimate highlight; the first Red Holstein to become Supreme Champion in Madison.' Of course, Mark and Nicky are proud of their results. However, there is no evidence of complacency. Mark likes to stay modest. He never goes with really high expectations to a show. If you assume that your cow will beat all of the other cows, then she will be beaten often. That's why I always try to make the best choices for the cow, not for my ego. If I think that it's better not to show the cow for a year, in order to let her keep growing, then I do that. And when we win, then I'm especially happy for the cow, I am only the one who shows her. I am also happy for our partners. When Ideal won in 2006, I was happy for the cow and the breeder. It is everyone's dream to breed a Madison champion. It was splendid for the Kinyons to experience that.' With mention of the name Paradise we automatically come to the next chapter, because Rosedale is not only Blackrose and Redrose. The show star Vandyk-K Integrity Paradise also had her home in Oxford. And she left breeding tracks. Thus we find the clones Vandyk-K Integ Paradise 2 (Intermediate Champion Madison 2005) and Paradise 4, together with their daughters by September and Dundee, as well as beautiful Gibson and Linjet daughters out of the original Paradise. Another queen from Rosedale that ascended the throne in Madison, is the just mentioned Kinyon Linjet Ideal EX-96, the Holstein Grand Champion of 2006. Mark Rueth appears to be a master in discovering talent for the show ring. His secret? 'I need to especially see future in a cow or calf. A good pedigree is indispensable with that. I like to see the dam and the grand-dam. If they have a lot of frame and style, and the calf shows the same, only then do I get excited.'

REARING

Mark makes a similar thorough investigation in his sire selection. We only use high type bulls that consist of the right paternal lines and originate from sound cow families. I don't care for high type bulls from dams who barely score VG,' explains the tall breeder, who also places a lot of value on the conformation of the bull itself. 'I am convinced that the best type is transmitted by exceptional looking bulls out of strong cow families. The best sons of Blackrose were also the best looking bulls. Other full brothers that were proven never produced show winners. Besides genetic potential, the conformation of cows is measured in large part by environmental circumstances. At Rosedale they do all they can to make these circumstances as favourable as possible. It starts with rearing. Entirely Nicky's department. 'Nicky has an enormous passion for calves. I can count on the fingers of one hand the number of days in a year that she is not busy with it,' Mark says appreciatively. The youngest calves are housed in igloos that are located in an open and very clean area. For the older calves, there is a barn with lots of space and plenty of ventilation. It has very good air quality. Mark: 'We feed the calves according to an accelerated rearing program. They receive lots of water and we always keep them dry and clean. We try to get as much growth as possible from the youngest calves, and to develop depth of rib when they are somewhat older in the group pens. Then we especially feed them a lot of hay. In addition, the animals get plenty of space for exercise. This enables the young stock to grow so well that we let them calve out between 1.10 and 2.02 years of age.'

NEXT YEAR

As mentioned earlier, they work regularly with the show animals year round. Two months before Madison – the event of the year for Nicky and Mark – the ration of the participants is modified. Shortly beforehand, Mark takes care of the hooves and their cow fitter friend Paul Pettrifer

RAMPAGE: 130,000 DOSES WITHOUT AN INDEX

He still doesn't have an official index and yet the counter has already reached more than 130,000 doses of semen sold! It is clear, Rosedale-L Rampage-Red is not just any young sire. The September son of Lavender Ruby Redrose is housed in the barns of ABS Global in DeForest, Wisconsin, an hour south of Rosedale and originates from the program at St. Jacobs ABC. 'Perhaps in January 2008 Rampage will receive his first index with low reliability, but we may possibly have to wait until April. His first daughters are calving right now and indications are positive. Rampage daughters have performed well at various shows this past season,' explains Scott Bentley from ABS Global, who shares that Rampage is in high demand in almost every market. 'The demand remains high, especially because of the outstanding fertility of the bull and the quality of his daughters. Rampage is the most popular young sire ever at ABS.'



Rosedale-L Rampage-Red (September x Redrose), due to all the busyness, finally in front of the camera again.

does the preliminary grooming. 'The fine work happens in Madison, where other than that, the cows only have to rest and eat,' explains Mark. In the meantime, we know how the stars from Rosedale shone at Madison 2007. Carrousel Talnt Rily-Red won her class and Redrose repeated her triumph from two years ago. She won the production class and with ease and claimed the Grand Championship for the Red Holsteins. Additions can be made to the honour list again. And once more, Mark Rueth is enjoying the success. But he also stands with two feet firmly on the ground, busy planning for the future. 'I would never have dared to dream that we would have four champions in the last five years. But in the meantime we are already thinking about next year...'



Lavender Ruby Redrose EX-95 is one of the absolute stars at Rosedale. For the second time, the great-granddaughter of Blackrose won the championship at the Grand International Red & White Show. She is also productive; 5.04 365 42,880 lb. (19,450 kg) 4.2% 3.3%.