



REDROSE, GRAZING FOREVER GREEN PASTURES

By Macy Sarbacher

“As a bitter cold winter that never seemed to leave is finally gone, the cow I hoped would never leave [us] is now gone too. She is now grazing forever green pastures with her past family members,” said Mark Rueth, of Rosedale Genetics Ltd.

This cow that Mark speaks of is Lavender Ruby Redrose (4E-96). To this day, Redrose is the only Red & White Holstein that has ever had the honor of being named Supreme Champion at the World Dairy Expo.

Mark and Nicky Rueth are two of the most passionate dairy breeders in the world today. Because of their passion and breeding philosophy, Rosedale has seen large amounts of success in the show ring since their establishment in late 2001.

Mark and Nicky have received Premier Breeder and Exhibitor banners at multiple shows. Mark was awarded the Klussendorf-MacKenzie award in both 1995 and 2008. Nicky received the 2010 Klussendorf-MacKenzie award. Additionally, Rosedale won the State of WI Export Achievement Award in 2009 and numerous milk quality awards.

Prior to purchasing their current location in Oxford, WI, Mark and Nicky rented a farm outside of Madison. They currently milk 65 head in their tie-stall and raise a total of 160 head. They own 45 acres and rent an additional 100 acres at their farm. Eighty percent of the Rosedale herd traces back to Mark’s first purchase in 1990, Stookey Elm Park Blackrose (3E-96 GMD DOM). Blackrose was named All-Time All-American Junior 2-Year-Old and Junior 3-Year-Old Cow, as well as Grand Champion at the Royal Winter Fair in 1995.

After 14 memorable years, Re-

drose was laid to rest on June 2 next to her grandmother Rosedale Lea-Ann (2E-93 GMD) and Blackrose, her great-grandmother. When reflecting on the exceptional life of Redrose, it could be said that she takes after Blackrose - who earned the title of Cow of the Year in 1996.

During her years on the show circuit, Redrose was honored with countless awards. The most notable include: Grand and Supreme Champion at World Dairy Expo 2005, All-World Red & White Holstein Cow of the Year 2006, Global Red & White Holstein Cow of the Year 2006, Grand Champion at World Dairy Expo 2007, All-World Cow of the Year 2008, Red & White Holstein Cow of the Year 2010 and Wisconsin Cow of the Year 2011.

Despite Redrose’s numerous awards over the years, she was more like a family member to Mark and Nicky. Mark and Nicky held birthday parties in her honor and followed their belief that “you’ve got to let cows be cows.”

Many dairy farmers can attest to this logic. Redrose was no different. “For a couple weeks prior [to her death], it was like she knew it was coming,” Nicky said. “[On the day of her death], the farm was just quiet. It was very weird.”

Redrose is not only one of the greatest

Red & White Holstein cows in history, but one of the best in the Holstein breed. Her lifetime production was: 245,845 lbs. milk, 4.5% 10,505 lbs. fat, 3.3%, 8,170 lbs. protein.

Just like Blackrose, Redrose is also leaving a legacy of outstanding daughters, some of which include:

Rosedale Advantage-Red (EX-92)

Advantage was named first Senior 3-year-old at the Midwest Spring Show in 2010 and is proving her transmitting ability with four milking daughters.

Rosedale Gold-Mine-ET *RC (VG-89 2Y)

Gold-Mine was named Honorable Mention All-American Junior 2-Year-Old 2011. Gold-Mine’s Windhammer daughter, born in December 2012, was named nominated All-American Winter Calf 2013.

Rosedale Eye Candy-Red (VG-87)

Owned by Jenna Langer of DeForest, WI, Eye Candy-Red is Redrose’s first milking Absolute daughter. Eye Candy has lived up to her name and was named Grand Champion of the Junior Show at the Midwest Red & White Holstein Spring Show in 2014 and first Junior 2-year-old at the Midwest Spring Show 2014.

Rosedale Tea-Rose (2E-94)

Redrose’s Redliner granddaughter, Tea-Rose was named Reserve All-American Red & White 4-Year-Old 2012 and was the Nasco Type and Production Winner 2012.

Rosedale Lucky-Rose-Red (VG-88)

Lucky-Rose is a Perseus daughter out of a VG-88 Sanchez daughter of Redrose. Lucky was unanimous All-American Summer Yearling in 2012 and Honorable-Mention All-American Junior 2-Year-Old in 2013. She was also named first Junior 3-year-old at both the Mid-East and Midwest National Spring Shows.



ROSEDALE TEA-ROSE-RED (EX-94 2E)

Rosedale Game Face *RC (EX-93)

Another Sanchez daughter of Redrose is making some beautiful daughters. Her first milking daughter is scored VG-87 in her first lactation and has both red and white and black and white Action daughters.

In addition, there are four more Redrose daughters sired by Acme, Redliner, Destry and Action in Rosedale's current show string. They have already garnered first place Junior Best Three at two different shows.

Shottle has been regarded as a strong mating on Redrose. Two daughters at Rosedale include Rosedale Winning Colors *RC (EX-92) and Rosedale With Distinction *RC (EX-91). Both daughters are proving to be great transmitters.

In addition to her impressive lineup of daughters, Redrose also has several sons and grandsons in A.I., including Rosedale Accolade-Red, Rosedale Advantage-Red and Rosedale Touchdown-Red.

The outstanding daughters and sons of Redrose provide the dairy industry and Mark and Nicky with a little comfort that her legacy will live on. Though Redrose will not be seen wandering the pastures at Rosedale and in the alley next to Rosedale Lexington (EX-95), she will be remembered for years to come.

Mark and Nicky shared the story of Redrose's passing with their friends on social media. Through responses on Facebook, it was clear how strong of an impression that Redrose made on her many fans around the world.

In reflection, Mark said, "On May 8, our good friend told us Redrose had tumors and we knew the end was near. At first we were a little scared. For every bad day she had, she would have five to six good days. During the day time, we would let her roam the farm. She loved grazing with Lexington and she had a number of days with her. She was caught in the feed room a number of times stealing goodies and one day we found her in her old boxstall in the milking barn where she was on parade for her birthday party a few months ago. On Saturday, we found her laying in the alley way right next to Lexington's boxstall. The last three weeks have been special as were the past 14 years. Like I said, she would have a bad day, but the next morning she was waiting to be set free to roam the farm. But Monday morning, she did not look as good as when I let her out, a



Lavender Ruby Redrose (4E-96) stands with owners Mark and Nicky Rueth at Rosedale Genetics Ltd.

REDROSE'S FANS ON



"She was a great ambassador for your farm and your breeding program. She lived as complete of a life as any cow could ever hope to live! A breeder's dream come true!"

- Mark Ulness

"Fantastic cow and the best red and white cow there ever was! She was truly an amazing cow. I don't know if there will be a red cow to breed, show and produce the pounds of milk she did. Truly amazing."

- Nate Oleniacz

"Sad news! Beautiful words! A very special individual who was so blessed to have these very special owners and care takers. Mark and Nicky: it's sad she isn't with you anymore but is has been great she was yours!"

- Harry Schuiling

"She was an incredible, memorable cow, left her mark worldwide and will be remembered through her offspring and your celebration of her and the success she bred."

- Liz Henry

"We all know that she was the best red cow ever!!! R.I.P. Redrose."

- Yohei Yamada

"She was an amazing cow. We were honored to have known her and the legacy she leaves is like no other. Rest in peace gentle giant. All cows go to heaven. She'll be waiting..."

- Sondra Brancel

blast of rain turned her path and she went and laid down on the show pack where the end would come."

"After I consoled her last few breaths, I began preparing her spot as I did for Lea-Ann and Paradise. I had to smile because I thought it was funny, I looked around and said the farm never looked better. You see, I always mow the lawn on Friday so it looks nice for the weekend. For some reason I could not get my mower started. I tried and I tried, but no luck. I finally got the mower started Sunday, but rain was starting to fall. I know many people don't need more rain, but we can always use some here and there and were getting very stressed from lack of rain. Monday morning it poured for awhile, but in the afternoon the winds picked up and I went out and mowed the lawn and got done just before milking. Nicky commented that the flowers had more bloom and color since the rain. [Redrose] passed away at 7:00 p.m. As I looked out it was amazing. The skies that were cloudy were now clear skies and the sun was starting to set. I said to myself, this was the most beautiful sunset of the year. It was as if God opened up heaven to take [Redrose] up."

Redrose will be remembered as the beautiful-uddered, crowd favorite, showy-type cow who set the standard for the Red & White Holstein breed. Mark puts it best saying, "She left this world as gracefully as she did parading the [colored] shavings in 2005." □