



A view from Joergen 's Barn of his Montbeliarde heifers.

“Breeding is a passion for me, a creative process” says Joergen Havelund of Rudme Denmark.

Joergen Havelund



From Denmark – Joergen Havelund of Havelund Farm

We should all approach our life believing in what we are doing and believing in the direction we are taking.

Joergen says this with great conviction, as he is going against the flow in Denmark by breeding a pure bred herd of Montbeliarde dairy cattle.

It was while I was wandering through the exhibitors shed at the Herring show in Denmark that I met Joergen. Amongst the various breeds of cattle on show, his two exhibits stood out with their pure white faces, the hallmark of the Montbeliarde breed. On show was a MicMac and Joblandin daughter, Micmac is known as the type leader of the breed and this daughter was no exception. Joergen and I chatted for the next half hour, here is his story.



A Bois Le Vin Daughter with her newborn Joblandin calf.

Joergen has always been a keen enthusiast when it comes to breeding and admits that he originally started out with a herd of Red Danish cows and then tried Brown Swiss. He found that the Brown Swiss was not high enough in production and went on to try Red Holstein. Again Joergen says that he was not satisfied finding the Holstein very dairy but lacking in strength. He likes cows with strength and that can really use the fodder that they eat. It was about seven years ago that Joergen tried the Montbeliarde breed and he was hooked.

HAVELUND FARM

Havelund Farm has been in the Havelund family for ten generations and is located on the Island of Fyn in Denmark. Joergen, his partner Maria Fisher and two children, run 90 head of cows on 90 hectares. Their herd consists of 80% Montbeliarde and 20% Red Danish with a smattering of Normande cows as well. Joergen employs two other labor units to help run his farm. Farm management requires that his cows are grazed outside on pasture for 150 days of the year. This is done from May to October. The herd is fed on maize silage and 30% grass silage with the herd average being 9,600Kg milk, 4.2% Fat and 3.6% Protein.

“I love their great capacity and ability and will to forage. They also have tremendous legs and feet which means less problems for us in the barn housing situation. When I started out trying other breeds I was thinking of having a crossbred herd but now with the Montbeliardes, I am so impressed with the breed, that I will eventually have the whole herd as pure Montbeliarde” says Joergen. I have also realised over the years that by heart I am a pure breeder and not a crossbreeder. Right now Joergen is milking daughters by the bulls; Bois Le Vin, Guardian, Joblandin, Induvi, Mont July, Lautechaux, Micmac, Nikos and Masolino. It is very simple for me says Joergen with an engaging and infectious smile, “I like to wake up in the morning and look upon something nice, my Montbeliardes are indeed a pleasure to work with and be around on a daily basis”.♦