

DAIRY CATTLE BREEDS

Ayrshire



The red and white Ayrshire breed is known for its milk production, adaptability and longevity. Mature Ayrshire bulls weigh from 636 to 909 kilograms (1400 to 2000 pounds) and cows weigh from 545 to 682 kilograms (1200 to 1500 pounds). A mature Ayrshire cow will produce an average of 5,455 kilograms (12,000 pounds) of milk with a 4% butterfat content.

Holstein



Holsteins were first imported into Canada from Holland in 1881. Since then, the Canadian Holstein has been bred to develop characteristics which are unique to the Canadian breed; a firmly attached udder that will last the lifetimes of the cow, docility, and volume milk production. There are nearly 300,000 milking Holsteins in Canada. Average milk yield is 7,717 kilograms (17,000 pounds) per year with 3.5% average butterfat content.

Jersey



Jersey cattle are renowned for high percentage of butterfat and solids in their milk, making them particularly desirable for cheese production. Other pronounced characteristics of this breed include economy of production, longevity and climatic adaptability. A mature Jersey cow weighs from 364 to 455 kilograms (800 to 1000 pounds), and mature bulls from 455 to 636 kilograms (1000 to 1400 pounds). Average milk yield is 4,827 kilograms (10,688 pounds) per year, with an average butterfat content of 5%.