

International Dairy Week 2024

National Red & White Holstein Show Judge Appointment

Mr. Nico Bons, Otfoland, Netherlands

Our 2024 National Red & White Holstein Show judge, Mr. Nico Bons, began his career at 18 years old and has now judged more than 170 shows in his home country and internationally.

Nico, alongside his wife Leanne and three children, is the owner and operator of Bons Holsteins in the Netherlands. There he milks 65 cows and has 80 head of youngstock. His breeding goal on the farm is to aim for breeding, owning and exhibiting the Grand Champion at the open European Holstein Show.

The Bons herd is 100 percent home-bred since 1945. The herd average on 305 days with 65 cows is 11.400kg milk, 4.5% butterfat and 3.6% protein. The herd consists of 38 EX cows and 27 VG cows with an average score (including 2 year olds), of VG-89.6.

Nico has personally bred four cows with the maximum score in the Netherlands EX-94. These animals include: Bons-Holsteins Koba 191 (Jasper), Bons-Holsteins Ella 158 (Mailing), Bons-Holsteins Koba 219 (Lauthority), and Bons-Holsteins Koba 245 (Doorman).

His judging appointments span many countries including Argentina, Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Ireland, Japan, Russia, Spain, Sweden and the U.K.

Since he began showing at his first national show in 2003 – Nico has come home with at least 1 Championship title every year. 2022 was a very successful year for Bons-Holsteins as they were awarded Reserve Champion Mature, Intermediate Champion, Breeders Herd, Premier Breeder and Exhibitor, and Reserve Grand Champion of the European show in Cremona Italy.

Please welcome Mr. Nico Bons as the 2024 Red & White Holstein Judge for International Dairy Week!