GenoSource, LLC is a 2,800 cows dairy located in Blairstown, IA owned by a group of dairymen whose main focus is genetics and to create a more sustainable and profitable cow. GenoSource is a partner herd of STgenetics, their focus on their cow families, sire stacks and ability to multiply their genetics creates a unique opportunity for both of us to bring their genetics into our lineup and create a demand in the global marketplace.

Haven been created in 2014, GenoSource has a short history similar to STgenetics, but despite this, their accomplishments have been able to reach amazing heights. One of these includes breeding GenoSource CAPTAIN, one of the highest genetic bulls for his age. He’s a Charol son from a Sabre which makes him very unique as Sabre is a bull GenoSource and Farnear Holsteins solely used themselves that has proven to produce great daughters. Captain is one of the newest sires to enter out group of dairymen whose main focus is genetics and to create a more sustainable and profitable cow. GenoSource is a partner herd of STgenetics, their focus on genetics and to create a more sustainable and profitable cow. GenoSource is a partner herd of STgenetics, their focus on their cow families, sire stacks and ability to multiply their genetics creates a unique opportunity for both of us to bring their genetics into our lineup and create a demand in the global marketplace.

When it comes to the day to day management of the farm, their herd is milked 3x/day on a 60 cow rotary parlor. Along with the 2,800 cows, they also have 5,000 heifers, most of which are raised at their southern location in Freemont, IA. All heifers are calved in at the Blairstown location and then enter the milking herd. Every barn is bedded with sand, they do reclaim about 70-75% of their sand today. Every month, they have 200 heifer calves born, over half of these are embryo transfer calves, the rest is from sexed semen, all of their heifer calves are genomic tested.

While at GenoSource, our STgenetics team was able to get some insight into their protocols, cow families, thoughts on sires and more. We were able to talk with Mark Butz, General Manager, Tim Rauen, Genetics Manager, and Kyle Demmer, Genetic Herd Manager. Before we could dive into their practices and selection protocols they told us about some of their more successful cow families. “Three of the most influential cows we have seen in our herd is Sandy Valley Robust Ruby, OCD Robst Delicious, and Peak Minna Ahead, these three cows have created some of our most successful sires as well as donors. We’re taking 1, 4, 5 generations later and their progeny are still incredible transmitters,” said Rauen. Butz added, “It’s especially hard not to touch on Delicious, she has been a generational kind of a cow that comes along once in a lifetime.

We also discussed a few sires that have impacted and developed from their herd. Rauen says, “Many of the bulls we are especially proud of haven’t been bred by GenoSource but rather by partners within our operation. Some of the bulls are of course Delta, Rubicon, as well as Dante, Dynasty, Dynamo, honestly, like Mark said, the Delicous line has been a great progrety line for all of us.”

As we entered their freestall operation Demmer explains that they are a Net Merit and cow family-focused herd.

“We are more NM$ driven than most herds, most of the bulls we select are +1000 NM$. We dive into their sire stack and really try for some outcross breeding, from there we look at their production, CFP, focusing on breeding a medium size cow and we always pay attention to the calving ease when making mating decisions.”

The census we got was that they are always working towards making a healthy cow, that is going to live as long as possible and produce well while creating profitability for their dairy. When talking about bulls that they believe in today’s industry will create these kinds of cows, some that were mentioned were Dynasty, Dynamo, Nightcap, and Noble.

When talking about their young cows you could tell the passion they have for their genetics and being able to develop these young daughters into milking form. Demmer mentioned, “One young cow we are working with today that really excites me is a Nightcap daughter out of a Josuper out of an Uno, she’s just over +2800 GTPI and about three weeks fresh and looks incredible. We really like that cow family and like what Nightcap brings to the table crossing with Josuper.”

Rauen then added, “We have a very intensive embryo transfer program, we IVF and implant fresh embryos every week, we use our best cows and offspring from them and develop the families we believe in.”

In an average year, GenoSource will send 50-60 bulls to ST from their genetic program. This partnership has been proven to be beneficial for both parties and continues to grow and develop. “We create a great partnership, we have a lot of vision together, we are a great multiplier herd, we see a vision in cow families and traits that are needed around the world, not every cow is made to milk in the US, you need certain traits in certain countries and we try to breed a cow for multiple parties so they are satisfied when they buy the ST product,” Stated Rauen. While Demmer added, “Being able to take cow families we love to work with, make offspring from them, then having a high bull to send to ST and letting our breeding program be available to producers around the globe is an awesome opportunity.”

“Together we can bring these genetics to our customers faster and with specific breeding goals in mind.”

For more information on STgenetics sires, contact your STgenetics representative.

In the U.S. you can reach out to the Dairy Call Center at 844 828-7849 or Dairy@STgen.com

stgen.com