

Hawaii Family

A family full of “outstanding functionality, eye catching, easy to manage, everyday cows” is the feedback received loud & clear when one speaks to anyone that has had the pleasure of working with the “Hawaii” – they just get on with it, with the bonus of being able to produce a star!

The history of the family is firmly set with in the beautiful countryside of South Devon, namely with M/s Marnum, at Warmhill Farm, near Newton Abbott. Following the purchase of a whole herd of Ayrshire’s from Salisbury in the early 1970’s, registering the non-registered animals and re-introducing them into the herd book. A resulting daughter from these new cows was “Warmhill Diana”, a 1975 born female that went on to deliver three pedigree heifers; one of these born in 1982 called “Denedola” sired by Eyton College Boy, son of Pant Knighthood, who in turn was sired by the Ayrshire sire of his day, Pant Dictator - a massively influential bull overall, though on investigation especially with in this pedigree! Just 4 years later in 1986 a single female from Denedola, sired by Calderglenn Samson (Simon x Knighthood x Dictator) was namely, Warmhill Hapshepsut aka “Happy”, who turned out to be a real beauty, attaining VG classification, plus winning the coveted Devon County Show Championship when in her prime & when the competition was fierce!

This VG “Happy” cow went on to produce over 60 tonne lifetime in her 10 lactations, peaked at 9476kgs as a 9 year old, she had 6 heifer calves from 4 calving’s, including the delivery of two sets of heifer twins. The 1994 bull calf Warmhill Henry V11, sired by Changue Headmaster, a Pant Domino son. When you look at the figures of “Head Master” even now considering a bull born in 1982, there are a lot of “likeable” traits for today’s herd owners; still being £Pli+£202, + fat & pro %, great SCC -14, outstanding fertility +12.7, lifespan +0.5 & still plus 0.3 type merit with the over 500 daughters; incredible figures some 35 years later! Some focus here as subsequently the situation was not so “happy” with Warmhill Hapshepsut VG milking too well in ’96 necessitated Mother Nature’s helping hand - a natural service! The mating to her son was the option, thus Warmhill Henry V11 played his part – a mating that successfully produced the added bonus of twin heifers in summer 97. One of the heifers, named “Warmhill Miss Hawaii” had 4 calvings - including a mixed set of twins sired by McCornick Nelson , “Ann” and “Bob” – named as after The Marnum’s friend visiting at the time. Warmhill Ann was registered in the hope she might breed, luckily she did!

Devon County 2004 proved a return to glittering success previously experienced by the Dam, this Nelson daughter, not typical by all accounts, reigned as Champion Ayrshire barely a month calved – it was her strength, openness & depth with a beautifully square udder with fantastic attachments that I recall help seal the Judge’s decision that day. In the next few days, something extraordinary happened... an unexpected phone call from Libby Marnum, resulted with her offering her super line bred milking heifer joining Pam Ayrs, because she wanted a showing home - Mum jumped at the chance, delighted to choose us from the surely numerous admirers.

Warmhill Ann truly was a terrific, no nonsense cow; 1st in the parlour, healthy udder, fast milk out, great temperament but certainly was not a push over in the herd – we all loved her! This cow made us many friends in the breed and won many prizes along her path. Her 3rd calving; naturally mated to our young “Trevaskis Dreamcatcher” – he was sired by Stamford 1st Prize, a handsome chap being the result of the short term “Dream Team” partnership with lifelong friend, Sue Hearn. Dreamcatcher’s dam was Trevaskis Blue Moon EX92 – a Meikle Laught Triple Crown daughter that possessed style in spades, so sleek & mobile; she later bred the AI proven Matchmaker bull by Nelson. Blue Moon’s dam, Trevaskis Melody Albertine EX91-3E LP60 had the most open, powerful, deep, walk up hill frame I had ever seen on an Ayrshire, with her dam Drinton Melody 52 having all the credentials in the world. We reared the Blue Moon bull calf & what a good job we did as Ann dictated the use of a natural mating & Dream Catcher was about to come of age, trying him out before we sold him on as a breeding bull. A heifer calf resulted And another one, twin heifers resulted, the only females we ever had from Warmhill Ann.

A nod to the Grand Dam, I reverted the name to “Pam Ayrs Dream Hawaii” and “Hawaiian Dream” as base names for the two 100% Ayrshire branches; less is known about the latter sister but she was a great sort being VG2yr old & has left her legacy through the EX Burdette son before an on farm mishap took her early – interestingly Howard & Linda Batty did place this wide, solid tank of a cow in front of her now greatly admired twin sister. The son, Pam Ayrs Hot Chocolate EX was sold as a breeding bull to the “Coombe” prefix, on a limited proof in 4 herds with 22 registered 18 classified 10 EX, VG & 8 GP. Type +2.4, +Pli £367, Milk +534, 40kg F&P. Delivering what we have seen earlier in the pedigrees history – the right sort but showing that the family can work well with Burdette bloodlines.

Obviously & fortunately we still had a sister, the very promising Pam Ayrs Dream Hawaii aka “Brown Girl”. She personified everything anyone could want in any cow, she had no special treatment, she lived with her herd mates 24/7, was easy to work with but hard-core when required. The show record spoke volumes of the stamp of cow but moreover, her simplicity as never needed anything other than milking out at the correct time for shows & she would do the rest – so genuine! Testament to her fertility, breeding regularly enabled us to achieve 4 years back to back success at Royal Cornwall at County level before leaving us in 2013 to join pastures new as part of the herd sale but 50% share retained jointly with Willhome Ayrshires – where she still resides. Livestock show at NEC saw her win in a massive class but equally as important, getting recognition for the 100% Ayrshire once more. The Royal Welsh Championship was a fitting climax on the biggest stage. Brown Girl is EX96-4E, 2 Star Brood, LP60 from 8 lactations she probably is the cow of a lifetime, certainly from a homebred perspective, but her legacy may well be in her off spring?! Two EX daughters stem from this cow, a 50/50 EX92-2E by Poos Stadel Classic in addition to my beloved “Five-O”, the only pure milking daughter from the Queen of our herd; simply due to being allowed to keep two animals back from the herd sale, I chose her! This daughter by Family-Af-Ayr Poker Duncan VG was a result of specifically wanting to get some Woodland View Pardner EX96 into the pedigree, as we believe, the cow family is everything; this was an exciting combo & modernised the pedigree with a younger sire. I certainly think we achieved our goal overall with Pam Ayrs Hawaii Five-O is EX93-2E, an ultra-milky, clean boned, silky textured, all seasons cow – incredibly produced 40 tonne in 4 lactations, averaging just over 5% Fat, 3.60% Protein, SCC 40 added to the fact that in that time she had 6 calves from 4 births and when flushed produced tremendously well. I recall the Ristourn twins being so fabulous for hardness of top, legs, feet & rib structure that we repeated the cross, only to produce a bull calf in 2018 that Cattle Services purchased.

Here at the farm we realised we that it was time to let the females of the family go further afield to be developed by the people that are to keep the Ayrshire breed alive. Our first offering at the South West Ayrshire sales allowed The Tomlinson Family the addition via Pam Ayrs HI-5 Hawaii, a October 17 heifer, sired by No.1 udder bull De La Plaine Vicking – a winning female in the Cornwall Herd competition being judged top heifer – any age as a yearling! The twin sister, a superb, all red female, Pam Ayrs Foxy Hawaii, that won Champion as a calf, also Served heifer at Cornwall has joined the Lilylane herd of the Les Bennett & Family at Wincanton - with the proviso they looked after Five-O; glad to report that indeed they are as she has calved again in mid-September – a super calf by Brieryside Magic, targeting the fabulous Magenta cow family! This EX Duncan flushed exceptionally well to Guimond Yankee, son of Kamouraska Rockstar – just love the strength this sire is breeding and Yankee fitted the bill with such decent health traits. The result is three ET sons & 2 ET heifers; Pam Ayrs 05 Hawaii is now owned by The Davis Family, recently triumphing with her in the ring. Finally the January 19 born ET, Pam Ayrs 808 Hawaii, also stabled with her mate - A calf I seemed to have developed a soft spot for or a gut feeling about – can but hope!

Whatever your thoughts on “line” or “in” breeding, a pedigree can be full of it! I conclude that for me, I think the proof is in the pudding - if the duplication of the “right traits” are personified then it really can create the best of the best, or in this case, something that you really want to work with.

Victor Hugo once said “There is nothing like a dream to create a future!” – he was so right!