

# Annual report from the Dutch Hereford Association.

*By Henk Kuipers, chairman.*

The Dutch Hereford Association has had a good year. After two years with a slight decline in the number of members, 2017 has been better. The year started with uncertainty due to the government's phosphor reduction plan. Seen from both dairy and beef producers angle as a difficult task.

The EU realised that the increase in phosphor was not actually due to beef cattle numbers and that beef cattle numbers had not increased, this after close examination of cattle stud books. The cattle that had increased in numbers were the dairy cattle and phosphor is mainly used on dairy farms.

Earlier the Netherlands had been given exemption which allowed our farmers to use a little more phosphor than most other EU countries. Due to the abolishment of milk quotas however, milk production had increased so much, and the phosphor leakage with it the EU demanded the Netherlands to reduce dairy cattle numbers back to the amount each farmer had in 2015. This meant slaughtering 160.000 cattle which was done by the deadline 2017. If the Netherlands had not met this demand they would fine them and would probably demand a reduction of 400.000 - 500.000 cattle instead.

It was a relief for the beef cattle industry in the Netherlands that the plan did not affect beef cattle. It would have meant that farmers who increased the size of their herds would be given sky high fines and the hobby farmers would see their dreams go up in smoke.

However, this plan for the regulation of Phosphor has in fact been put into action January 1<sup>st</sup> this year and farmers can buy and sell quotas for phosphor. The beef industry would not be affected, other than due to the fact that the government can't see in the records which animals up to 2 years of age are beef and which are dairy because categories in which they are divided are not specified in beef and dairy heifers. All heifers up 1 year have code 101 and all heifers up to 2 years 102 (all breeds) Only when they have calved can the government see the difference as follows; Dairy cattle that have calved; 103 and beef cattle that have calved; 105. The Beef Association is working with the government to solve this problem.

## Our Hereford year

The Dutch association has arranged several activities throughout the year, all of which have been well visited. In the spring we held a course in linear scoring, led by our studbook inspector, Adri VanGent. There were 20 participants which meant the course was fully booked. Everyone went away with a good understanding of linear scoring. Hopefully the same course will be arranged in 2018.

Family Kreun arranged a day full of activities with lots of Herefords to be seen and 50 members took part. The day ended with a delicious barbeque with Hereford beef butchered on farm by Wouter Kreun.

As this is being written there is one last activity left for this year. A course in Low Stress Stockmanship Europe.

## The National Show

The greatest highlight of 2017 was no doubt the National Show in Dalfts. Never before have so many Herefords been shown, 75 in total. It wasn't an easy task for judge Robin Irvine to pick out a winner. The weather gods were not on our side but despite the weather, both exhibitors and spectators were pleased with the day and the lovely cattle on display.

Results:

Male Champion; Moeskaer Rico (by Harvie Dan Ricochet 167U P x E MC Aberdeen Lani U820) exhibited by Be Warmelts from Amen.

Female Champion; Horstinge Jindera (CCR 59G Stamina ET 199S x Horstinge Hester exhibited by Henk Kuipers and Sonja Oost from Achterste Erm.



*Moeskaer Rico*



*Horstinge Jindera*

#### Import of semen

The Dutch breeders association, CRV has decided to import more semen. After a recommendation by DHS 100 straws of Nordbaek Kenan and 150 straws of Bakkely Kristian have been purchased from Denmark. We hope these bulls can have a positive effect on Dutch Herefords.