

Sandy-Valley Plane Sapphire

→ Today's genomic giants from a time-tested bloodline

We know them and love them; we read about them in every Holstein magazine – the 'one name' cow families that have impacted the breed over the past decades: Roxy, Adeen, Splendor, Altitude, Raven, Missy, Minnow, Cosmopolitan, etc. They are prolific genetic transmitters. Though systems change and preferences vary over the years, their descendants always seem to find their way to the top of the index and type lists. It's been no different in the genomic era.

The Beginning

The Snow-N Denises Dellia family has been respected and sought after worldwide for over 20 years. Always a force on the type side of the breed, the family has now, through a couple of different branches, stormed its way to the top of the GTPI charts. One of those branches took root in Scandinavia, Wisconsin at Sandy-Valley Farms and blossomed with a cow named Sandy-Valley Plane Sapphire, a Planet daughter scored VG-87 at two years who quickly achieved Gold Medal Dam status with 11 Very Good daughters to date.

Behind the well-known and well-respected breeding operation at Sandy-Valley Farms is the Bauer family. They had observed the Dellias with great interest over the years.

Greg Bauer, Sandy Valley

"We always admired the Dellia family and in 2002, we purchased Regancrest-JB Tatum-ET, a VG-87 Rudolph daughter of the Tesk Della cow (a daughter of Dellia). We liked her so well that we purchased her yearling heifer by Bellwood Marshall, Orthoapple Marshall Alia-ET."

She was a silky, long-necked, stylish heifer that became our first VG-89 two-year-old," comments Greg Bauer. Alia was a natural choice to mate to their homebred bull just released at Select Sires, Sandy-Valley Forbidden, and this mating produced Sandy-Valley Forbid Sully. Though not as tall as her dam, she was wider throughout and scored VG-87 as a two-year-old. An open-ribbed dairy cow with great udder



Sandy-Valley Mogul Amber
Granddaughter of Sandy-Valley Plane Sapphire
photo © Farmgirl Photography



Sandy-Valley Robust Ruby VG-87 | GTPI+2505
 Dam of EDG RUBICON | GTPI+2651
 One of the highest young bulls with semen available



Sandy-Valley Io Amethyst VG-87
 Daughters by Mogul, Numero Uno and Mscalsee and
 high-testing granddaughters and grandsons over +2600G



Sandy-Valley Plane Sapphire VG-87 GMD
 The matriarch behind the huge genomic producing line
 of Snow-N Denises Dellias

texture, Sully, in turn, was flushed to another homebred bull, Sandy-Valley Bolton. Bauer explains, “The Bolton flush was made because we thought a high production bull like Bolton would complement the great type of the Dellias. We were fortunate to get one heifer, Sandy-Valley Bolt Sheila-ET, the dam of Sapphire.”

Sheila became an all-time favorite at Sandy-Valley due to her trouble-free nature and her great will to milk (her first lactation milk record of 44,790 milk is still the herd’s highest for a two-year-old). Eventually scoring EX-92 EX-MS in her third lactation, Sheila was known for her dairy strength and width coupled with superb feet and legs. “As a yearling, she had a smoother look to her and given her outstanding foot & leg structure, we thought Planet would be a nice mating. This produced the Sapphire cow. Sapphire was a nice blend of these two sires in that she had a better foot than most Planets and a little more width through the rear end than most Boltons. It was also a strength to strength mating in that we doubled up high milk production from functional udders,” noted Bauer.

Marketing and Matings

Born in May of 2009, Sapphire was tapped early on to enter the flush program at Sandy Valley. The earliest matings to Robust, Iota, Mogul and Uno were deemed highly successful when those offspring hit the ground in 2011 and 2012. The Robust mating produced bulls that headed straight to AI: Sterling and Sutton at Select Sires. As for the females, the Bauers are milking three Very Good Robust daughters that are now fresh with their second calves after making impressive 1st lactation records. These three cows are all starting their own branches of the family with many offspring over +2500 GTPI throughout the group.

Though the Bauers have preferred to keep most of the Sapphire offspring on farm, they did merchandise one Robust daughter. The Elite Dairy Genomics group of Illinois purchased Sandy-Valley Robust Ruby (VG-86) as a yearling and immediately set to flushing her. Her first flush to Mogul yielded her first home run as EDG Rubicon clocked in at +2526 GTPI and advanced through succeeding proofs to as high as +2718 GTPI before settling in at +2651 GTPI on the April 2015 run. Owned by Sexing Technologies, Rubicon has been on mating lists around the world for his high production yields (+1431M +100F +52P) combined with his good type number of +2.17T. His full brothers, Ruger (+2594 GTPI) and Rowdy (+2580 GTPI), are also owned by Sexing Technologies. Rubicon wasn’t Ruby’s only success story. Her Numero Uno daughters, Rachel (+2600 GTPI), Riza (+2525

GTPI), Rae (+2498 GTPI) and Randi (+2492 GTPI) have all produced offspring over +2500 GTPI and higher. OCD Delta Rae 4528, a Mr Mogul Delta daughter out of Uno Rae bred and owned by Oakfield Corners Dairy in New York rings the bell at +2664 GTPI and the big news in May was a new high GTPI female in the family as the results for Westcoast Supershot Riza 2951 came in at +2765 GTPI. She is a Supershot daughter of Uno Riza at Westcoast Holsteins of British Columbia.

But the Ruby daughter that is opening eyes around the world has to be EDG Ruby Mogul Rose. Purchased as a three-month-old calf on the 2013 Parade of Perfection Sale by Greg Andersen of Seagull Bay Holsteins in Idaho, Mogul Rose has proven that her \$27,000 purchase price was a bargain. Her two sons by Stantons Catalyst rank among the highest in world for GTPI and NM\$ - Seagull-Bay Charismatic (+2744 GTPI +951NM\$ owned by TAG) and Seagull-Bay Comanche (+2614 GTPI +875NM\$ owned by Seagull-Bay). Greg Andersen feels they will both be global impact sires due to their excellent genomic numbers in combined fat and protein, productive life along with moderate stature numbers.

Greg Andersen, Seagull Bay

“The Planet Sapphire family was certainly on my radar as she had made some really nice young sons and daughters with great genomic predictions. As an individual, she was also very impressive with 40,000 milk and a strong transmitter of protein.”

“The Robust mating on Planet has made a lot of great males and females in the breed and Sandy-Valley Robust Ruby could worthily stand with OCD Robust Delicious and Seagull-Bay Miss America on the podium of top Robust daughters. Of course, when I bought Rose, neither Robust nor Mogul had a daughter proof yet but now, two years later, the sire stack of Mogul x Robust x Planet is a rock solid cross,” expounds Andersen.

The Moguls directly from Sapphire herself also developed nicely and the two full sisters in the Sandy Valley herd are now scored VG-88 and VG-87. Their full brother at Select Sires, Sandy-Valley Slate, is +2410 GTPI and should have a daughter proof early in 2016. Mogul Summer (VG-87 +2317 GTPI) has a Flame daughter, Sandy-Valley Summer-night at +2576 GTPI.



Hermann Niermann of World Wide Sires, Germany owns a Cashcoin daughter of Mogul Summer that is housed at Sunshine Genetics in Wisconsin and is g RZG +150.

Hermann Niermann, WWS

“Season shows a nearly perfect German genomic profile without any weak traits. Sapphire, her granddam, has turned out to be one of the most influential members of the Dellia dynasty in the genomic era and Summer is the best milking Mogul daughter I have seen so far.”

Success from the Iotas

Sapphire also has two Iota daughters that both scored VG as two-year-olds. Interestingly, though not among her high-ranking daughters in respect to GTPI, several of the very high GTPI descendants of Sapphire come through the two Iota cows, Topaz and Amethyst. Amethyst (VG-87) has daughters by Mogul, Numero Uno, Mascalese and Layne – all of whom have offspring over +2500 GTPI and a number over +2600, including Afterburner, a Flame son at Semex at +2656 GTPI. Topaz (VG-86) has daughters by Krunch and McCutchen with the same success rate with their offspring.

In fact, Greg Bauer highlighted a couple of members from these Iota branches when asked about exciting animals that looked to contribute to their breeding program in the future: “Two individuals come to mind. Aqua, a +2648 GTPI Pure x Uno x Iota Amethyst just entering our IVF program; and Treasure, a +2642 GTPI Silver x McCutchen x Iota Topaz that is special in terms of blending conformation with production numbers. The McCutchen dam is now springing and may prove to be the best typed animal in the family.” A full brother to Amethyst and Topaz, Sandy-Valley Saloon +2307 GTPI, is at Semex. He

now has daughters calving and should receive his official proof in December. “He’s been popular throughout his young sire career. He has a very impressive genomic profile, and as most would expect, he has an ability to transmit breed-leading production levels while sacrificing very little on overall type,” notes Brian Carscadden, a sire analyst at Semex who has worked closely with the Sapphire family over the years.

Even less heralded Sapphire family members have shown the ability to hit the big genomic home run. Kevin Jorgensen of Wisconsin is sire analyst for Select Sires and also owns several head of cattle privately with Mystic-Valley Dairy. They purchased Sapphire’s November 2012 McCutchen daughter, Sandy-Valley McC Secret, in the 2013 Wisconsin Showcase Sale even though she carried only a mid-range GTPI of +2270 at the time. We bought her because Sapphire was one of Planet’s best daughters and one of the best cows at Sandy Valley. Secret was a wonderful calf, though not show-age and not super high for GTPI,” notes Jorgensen. The partners decided to forego flushing her and bred her to Yoder. That resulting natural calf born last October, Jenny-Lou-KJ Yoder Stevie, came through with an eye-opening +2552 GTPI and is now owned the ART group of Select Sires. Jorgensen still greatly admires the family and mentions that Sandy-Valley Sterling 7HO11585, a Robust son of Sapphire and thus a full brother to Robust Ruby, looks very, very good and will likely be an August graduate for the A.I. company.

While of course delighted with the genomic headlines generated by the Sapphires, the Bauers also consider the family extra special because Sapphire’s dam, Bolt Sheila, combined Sandy-Valley breeding on both the top and bottom of her pedigree. It’s been their most extreme production family – noted for consistent producers that are great freestall cattle, tough yet docile, that excel in commercial settings. And, sadly, while Sapphire was lost a week after her second calving, her influence in the Sandy Valley herd and worldwide will continue for decades to come.



Sandy-Valley Uno Addison
Granddaughter of Sandy-Valley Plane Sapphire
photo © Farmgirl Photography

THE SAPPHIRES

♀ Snow-N Dorys Denise EX-90 2E GMD DOM
(s. Carlin-M Ivanhoe Bell)

♀ Snow-N Denises Dellia EX-95 2E GMD DOM
(s. Walkway Chief Meark)



♀ Regancrest Tesk Della EX-90 GMD DOM
(s. Tesk-Holm Valiant Rockle)

♀ Regancrest-JB Tatum VG-87 DOM
(s. Startmore Rudolph)

♀ Orthoapple Marshall Alia VG-89 GMD DOM
(s. Mara-Thon BW Marshall)

♀ Sandy-Valley Forbid Sully VG-87 GMD
(s. Sandy-Valley Forbidden)

♀ Sandy-Valley Bolt Sheila EX-92 2E
(s. Sandy-Valley Bolton)

♀ Sandy-Valley Plane Sapphire VG-87 GMD
(s. Ensenada Taboo Planet)

♂ Sandy-Valley Sterling GTP1+2428
(s. Roylane Socra Robust)

♂ Sandy-Valley Mogul Slate GTP1+2410
(s. Mountfield SSI Dcy Mogul)

♂ Sandy-Valley Suttoon GTP1+2328
(s. Roylane Socra Robust)

♂ Sandy-Valley Saloon GTP1+2307
(s. Regancrest Altalota)



♀ Sandy-Valley Robust Ruby VG-87 GTP1+2505
(s. Roylane Socra Robust)

♂ EDG Rubicon GTP1+2651
(s. Mountfield SSI Dcy Mogul)

♂ EDG Mogul Ruger 8071 GTP1+2594
(s. Mountfield SSI Dcy Mogul)

♂ EDG Rowdy 8065 GTP1+2580
(s. Mountfield SSI Dcy Mogul)

♀ Sandy-Valley Mogl Sunset VG-88
(s. Mountfield SSI Dcy Mogul)

♀ Sandy-Valley Uno Shadow VG-86
(s. Amighetti Numero Uno)

♀ Sandy-Valley Robust Jade VG-85 GTP1+2361
(s. Roylane Socra Robust)

♀ Sandy-Valley Rbs Emerald VG-86 GTP1+2353
(s. Roylane Socra Robust)

♀ Sandy-Valley Mogl Summer VG-87 GTP1+2317
(s. Mountfield SSI Dcy Mogul)

♀ Sandy-Valley Uno Sage VG-85 GTP1+2350
(s. Amighetti Numero Uno)

♀ Sandy-Valley Uno Scarlet VG-85 GTP1+2354
(s. Amighetti Numero Uno)

♀ Sandy-Valley Iota Topaz VG-86
(s. Regancrest Altalota)

♀ Sandy-Valley Io Amethyst VG-87
(s. Regancrest Altalota)

♀ EDG Ruby Mg 31001 GTP1+2606
(s. Mr Moviestar Maardi Gras)

♀ EDG CC Karat GTP1+2601
(s. Farnear-TBR-BH Cashcoini)

♀ EDG Ruby Uno Rachel GP-83 GTP1+2600
(s. Amighetti Numero Uno)

♀ EDG Ruby Uno Riza GTP1+2525
(s. Amighetti Numero Uno)

♀ EDG Ruby Mcc Rustle 2042 GTP1+2517
(s. De-Su)

♀ EDG Ruby Uno Rae 2054 GTP1+2498
(s. Amighetti Numero Uno)

♀ EDG Ruby Mogul Rose GTP1+2479
(s. Mountfield SSI Dcy Mogul)

♀ Sandy-Valley Yoder Jody GTP1+2597
(s. Woodcrest Mogul Yoder)

♀ Sandy-Valley Yoder Joly GTP1+2586
(s. Woodcrest Mogul Yoder)

♀ Sandy-Valley Puls Jaelis GTP1+2542
(s. Stanton's Pulsar)

♀ Sandy-Valley Morgan Era GTP1+2521
(s. S-S-I Bookem Morgan)

♀ Sandy-Valley Summernight GTP1+2576
(s. Vieuxsaule Flame)

♀ Sandy-Valley Kb Skylight GTP1+2624
(s. Morningview Mcc Kingboy)

♀ Sandy-Valley Turquoise GTP1+2366
(s. De-Su Bkm McCutchen 1174)

♀ Sandy-Valley Kmc Topeka GTP1+2283
(s. Hammer-Creek Fred Krunch)

♀ Sandy-Valley Mogul Amber GTP1+2402
(s. Mountfield SSI Dcy Mogul)

♀ Sandy-Valley Uno Addison GTP1+2360
(s. Amighetti Numero Uno)

♀ Sandy-Valley Mg Amaretto VG-87
(s. Mountfield SSI Dcy Mogul)

♀ Sandy-Valley Msc Amazon GTP1+2288
(s. Zani Bolton Mascalse)

♀ Sandy-Valley Mogul Amery GTP1+2383
(s. Mountfield SSI Dcy Mogul)

♀ Triplecrown-MH Jacey 881 GTP1+2595
(s. Coyne-Farms Jacey)

♀ Triplecrown-MH Jacey 887 GTP1+2502
(s. Coyne-Farms Jacey)

♀ OCD Delta Rae 4528 GTP1+2648
(s. Mr Mogul Delta 1427)

♀ OCD Kingboy 3172 GTP1+2547
(s. Morningview Mcc Kingboy)

♂ Seagull-Bay Charismatic GTP1+2744
(s. Stanton's Catalyst)

♂ Seagull-Bay Comache GTP1+2614
(s. Stanton's Catalyst)

♀ Seagull-Bay SST Raven GTP1+2571
(s. Cogent Supershot)

♀ Sandy-Valley Pure Ego GTP1+2592
(s. Ste Odile Pure)

♀ Sandy-Valley Yoder Evy GTP1+2553
(s. Woodcrest Mogul Yoder)

♀ Sandy-Valley Yoder Enya GTP1+2545
(s. Woodcrest Mogul Yoder)

♀ Sandy-Valley Pure Envy GTP1+2544
(s. Ste Odile Pure)

♀ Sandy-Valley Monterey Shy GTP1+2616
(s. View-Home Monterey)

♀ Sandy-Valley Scarygood GTP1+2576
(s. View-Home Monterey)

♀ Sandy-Valley Jbr Sombrea GTP1+2529
(s. Coyne-Farms Jabir)

♀ Sandy-Valley Yoder Topaz GTP1+2583
(s. Woodcrest Mogul Yoder)

♀ Sandy-Valley Mty Tryndal GTP1+2502
(s. View-Home Monterey)

♀ Sandy-Valley Bimbr Auburn GTP1+2561
(s. Richmond El-Bomboro)

♀ Sandy-Valley Pure Aqua GTP1+2648
(s. Ste Odile Pure)

♀ Sandy-Valley Shock N Awe GTP1+2543
(s. Cogent Supershot)

♀ Sandy-Valley My Alacazam GTP1+2561
(s. View-Home Monterey)

♂ Sandy-Valley Afterburner GTP1+2656
(s. Richmond-FD El Bomboro)

