

Hurtgenlea Dante Marissa

Story behind the No. 1 Net Merit bull

Every chart-topping male or female is backed by a story, a breeder and a series of precise matings. Hurtgenlea Richard Charl rose to fame in March 2017 as an early DG Charley son and the highest indexing - scoring an impressive +2944 GTPI, +1099 net merit, +2235 lbs of milk and +70 lbs of protein. Richard Charl backed by a recently fresh Yoder daughter put the Hurgenlea Dante Marissa family back in the spotlight and created quite a bit of excitement for the Hurtgen family of Elkhorn, Wis.

The development of the Charley son

This cow family came to bloom early on and was prolific in being able to pass on high production, tremendous health traits and quality udders. In the beginning, it wasn't their goal to make high sons but when they had the opportunity to try they succeeded.

But before we get into more details about Richard Charl, let's take it back to where it all began. In 1984, Leo and Karen Hurtgen gave each of their children a calf for their very first 4-H project. JDF-WI Very Mary a heifer they had purchased as a baby calf for \$625 was given to their daughter. The Hurtgens could never have imagined that this baby calf would blossom into an incredible transmitting maternal line with significant breed impact. Mary herself was a success from the start, rising to the top of her classes in the show ring as a heifer and then developing into an Excellent-91 GMD DOM cow with a lifetime production of 259,850 lbs of milk. She also produced impressive offspring, one being her second daughter sired by Lutz-Meadow E Mandel. Hurtgenlea Mandel Mara went Excellent as a three-year-old and

quickly became a herd favorite for the Hurtgen family.

At the time, Leo's son, Adam Hurtgen, had seen several beautiful Durham daughters and after some discussion they decided to flush Mara to Durham's full brother, Regancrest Elton Dante. Three females resulted from the flush but Hurtgenlea Dante Marissa scored Excellent-93 GMD DOM stood out from the very beginning. After starting a more consistent flush program, the Hurtgen family found out quickly how prolific the Marissa cow family really was.

It wasn't until the Oman mating on Dante Marissa that they started to see interest from A.I. studs. Hurtgenlea O Meara received the most early A.I. interest, testing negative for CV and the fourth dam behind popular mating sire, S-S-I PartYROCK Profit.

Meara's full sister, Hurtgenlea O Malley, tested CV positive leading to the decision to use Brigeen Russell as a mating sire. Russell was a higher type bull at the time and a little different mating sire. From the Russell came Hurtgenlea Supersire Malibu VG-85. Adam picks up the story, "It seemed like common sense to then mate her [Malibu] to Woodcrest Mogul Yoder. We saw extraordinary potential and Yoder became an intriguing sire with Mogul in the pedigree, in a general understanding that Mogul and Supersire would mate well together."

Hurtgenlea Yoder Modesto is recently fresh and working hard with a beautiful udder. At +2740 GTPI, Modesto is one of the highest indexing Yoder daughters and who the Hurtgens are currently putting a lot of their time and money into. Leo shares, "If Modesto has a collection under double-digits, it was a bad day."



Hurtgenlea Yoder Modesto
dam of Richard Charl
photo ©Farmgirl Photography

She's been flushed to Hy-Jo-De Troy Glaus, Endco Superhero, Jal-taoak, DG Charley and more. Modesto has a Glaus son scoring +2739 GTPI and headed to Accelerated Genetics and an Altaflywheel son going to Genex that scores +2704 GTPI.

But it was the mating to DG Charley that hit the homerun. Charley was used in the early stages of the pre-release period and the first flush resulted in just one male. But sometimes it only takes one, Hurtgenlea Richard Charl came back at a chart-topping +2960 GTPI and +1113 Net Merit in March 2017. Following the April run, Richard Charl is still No. 1 Net Merit bull in the breed and the No. 4 GTPI.

Adam Hurtgen, Hurtgenlea
 “We now know what Modesto is capable of after the high DG Charley son and the unknown potential for the future gets us really excited.”

They're currently waiting on genomic results from several matings including seven more pregnancies from Charley coming this July.



Karen, Adam and Leo Hurtgen with Hurtgenlea Yoder Modesto
 photo ©Farmgirl Photography

“This cow family has given us the chance to do something more creative on the genetics side and we hope to improve each generation.”

With approximately sixty percent of the herd consisting of animals backed by Hurtgenlea Dante Marissa, it's evident the impact this family has had for the Hurtgen family.

The Hurtgens are extremely excited for the future of Richard Charl and the opportunity and recognition this bull has brought to their farm and family. “Breeding a bull like Richard Charl has been a dream coming true,” shares Adam Hurtgen.

