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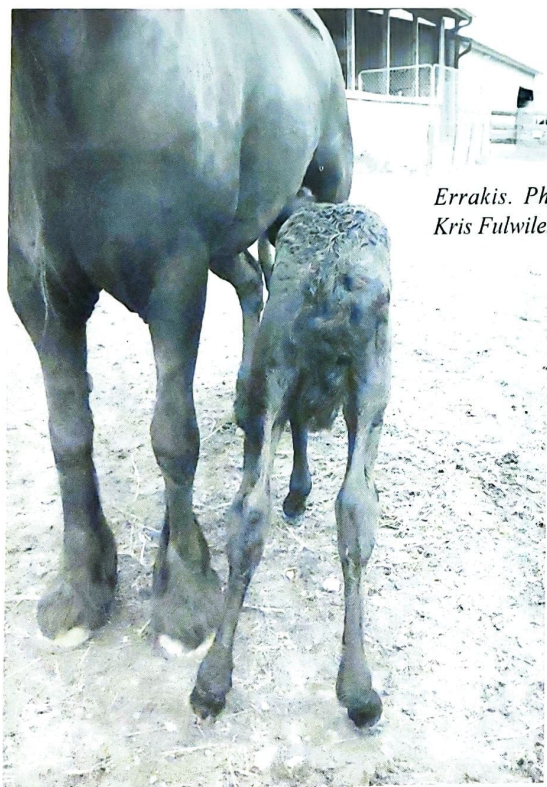


Elke and mom, Katryne, exercising. Photo by Els Anderson.

Foal Inspection Reports

A superstar at the central stallion examination is not necessarily the sire of junior superstars. We all know that the real test of a sire's quality is in the quality of his progeny.

Mare owners who are interested in breeding to the younger approved stallions will be missing some of the information that is readily available about breeding results of older stallions. To help fill this information gap, since 2000 the FPS prepares inspection reports on each stallion's first foal crop. This includes brief remarks on the stallion's foals' typical conformation, gaits and premium breakdown (number of first, second, third and no premiums). These reports are published in the *Phryso* magazine.



Errakis. Photo by Kris Fulwiler

Offspring Judging Reports

There is no Day of Reckoning more important for a stallion than his offspring evaluation. That is when he either receives FPS approval to continue breeding, or because he has not shown by his descendants that he improves the breed, his career as a sire is ended.

Under the current system a stallion's progeny are evaluated not just on conformation and movement at halter, but also on their use for riding and driving as shown by performance tests in the Netherlands. Stallions without offspring in the Netherlands are evaluated without the performance test. Offspring assessment begins when the stallion's oldest offspring are three and may continue for two or even three years, in order to evaluate a sufficient number of progeny.

The offspring evaluation report for each stallion is a comprehensive compilation of the average scores of his offspring in various elements of the performance tests, his percentage of star mares, foal inspection results, and reports on conformation, type and gaits of his descendants. Based on all of these aspects, in addition to how well the stallion fits the current breeding goals of the FPS, he is approved on offspring or withdrawn from future breeding.

The offspring judging report provides a wealth of important information to the mare owner and is published in English in *Phryso International*. It is also included, in Dutch, in the stallion book updates.

Abstammungsuntersuchung

Offspring judging

Examen héréditaire des produits

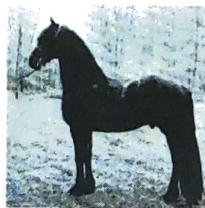
Bericht Folkert 353

Folkert 353 19902821 ist ein Zuchtprodukt von Joh. van der Linden aus Brakel. K. Smut und Familie Folmer sind derzeit Eigentümer des Hengstes. Folkert hat während der ersten zwei Jahre nach seiner Körnung auf der Hengststation der Familie Folmer gestanden. Seit 1999 ist Folkert in der Fakultät von Utrecht stationiert. Folkert kommt aus Stamm 30 und hat die Stierlinie Leentje J. 198685230 (V. Wessel 237 P) zur Mutter. Der einzige noch lebende präferierte Hengst Feitse 293 ist der Vater von Folkert. Auf der Hengstkörung hat Folkert immer gut von sich reden lassen. Im Jahr 1998 und 2001 war er Reservetoppen, in den Jahren 1999 und 2000 war Folkert der Champion der Hengstkörung.

Im Untersuchungsbericht der Zentralen Untersuchung, die Folkert 1997 abgeschlossen hat, wurde der Hengst als arbeitswilliger und intelligenter Hengst beschrieben. Nach der Zentralen Untersuchung ist Folkert in den Deckdienst gegangen. Im Jahr 2001 musste Folkert seine Nachkommen zeigen und hat diese Untersuchung auch 2001 abgeschlossen. Der Befund dieser Abstammungsuntersuchung wird nachfolgend beschrieben.

a. Index:

Aus dem Index von Folkert 353 geht hervor, dass der Hengst das Äußere positiv verehrt. Der Hengst Folkert bringt Nachkommen mit Köpfen, die ausreichend ansprechend sind. Der Halsstand ist vertikal. Die Schulterlage ist schräg. Der Rücken ist etwas weich. Die Lenden sind breit. Die Kruppe ist abfallend und kurz. Die Hosenmuskellänge ist sehr gut. Die Beinqualität ist hart. Folkert verehrt in Bezug



Folkert 353. (Photo: Jacob Melissen)

Report Folkert 353

Folkert 353 19902821 is a breeding product of Joh. van der Linden of Brakel and is currently owned by K. Smut and the Folmer family. The first two years following his approval, Folkert was stationed at the stud center of the Folmer family. Since 1999, he has been at stud at the Veterinary Faculty of the University of Utrecht. Folkert comes from pedigree 30 and was bred out of the star mare Leentje J. 198685230 (S. Wessel 237 P). Folkert's sire is the only surviving preferred stallion Feitse 293. At the Stallion Inspections, Folkert always put up an excellent performance, obtaining the reserve championship title in 1998 as well as in 2001. Besides, at the 1999 and 2000 Stallion Inspections he won the championship title.

The test report of the Central Examination, which Folkert rounded off in 1997, describes him as an intelligent stallion with good willingness to work.

Rapport Folkert 353

Folkert 353 19902821 a été élevé par Joh. van der Linden de Brakel. Actuellement les propriétaires de l'étalon sont K. Smut et la famille Folmer. Après avoir été adonné Folkert a fait des services de saillie pendant deux ans dans la station d'étalons de la famille Folmer. Depuis 1999 Folkert est posté à la Faculté Vétérinaire de l'Université d'Utrecht.

Folkert descend de la lignée 30, sa mère est la sœur « stier » Leentje J. 198685230 (P. Wessel 237 P). Le seul étalon préféré qui est encore en vie, Feitse 293, est le père de Folkert. Lors des inspections des étalons il a toujours fait bonne figure. En 1998 et 2001 il a remporté le championnat de réserve. En 1999 et en 2000 il a remporté le championnat de l'inspection des étalons.

Dans le rapport de l'Examen Central qui a été achevé en 1997 il a été décrit comme intelligent et zélé.

Après l'Examen Central il a fait des services de saillie. En 2001 il a dû montrer ses produits. En 2001 il a achevé ce contrôle. Ci-dessous vous trouverez les résultats du contrôle héréditaire des produits.

a. Index:

L'index de Folkert 353 montre que son apport héréditaire à l'extérieur est positif. Il donne des produits dont les têtes sont suffisamment expressives. La position des encolures est verticale. La position des épaules est inclinée. Le dos est un peu mou, les reins sont larges. La croupe est un peu inclinée et courte. La longueur des muscles des membres postérieurs est très bonne. Les membres sont de qualité dure. Quant à la hauteur au garrot et à la croupe sa transmission héréditaire est dans la moyenne.



Selecting a Stallion for Your Mare

continued

Annual Breeding Results

If you are fortunate enough to attend the annual *Hengstenkeuring* (stallion inspection, commonly referred to as the stallion show) you will find an interesting chart in the show catalog. It is usually published again in the spring *Phryso* magazines, as well as in *The Friesian*. This chart shows the number of breedings and foals by stallion for the prior year as well as the number and percentage of foals with white markings. These statistics are useful for a couple of important reasons:

First, the percentage of breedings that resulted in births is useful to mare owners concerned about settling their mares. (All mare owners!) If, for example, a stallion bred 80 mares in 2000 but only 30 foals were born in 2001, a mare owner might want to discuss this with the stallion owner before booking to the particular stallion. FHANA members must remember that North American stallions who breed primarily with transported semen will naturally settle a lower percentage of mares. This is due to poor timings of inseminations and other problems out of the stallion owner's control.

The second essential piece of information from this chart concerns white markings. This is especially crucial if your mare was born with any white hairs or has had previous foals with white. Some stallions - including some of the most popular stallion lines - have a greater tendency to throw white markings. These stallions may not be good mates for your mare with a white star.

The Friesian

Spring 2002

BREEDING RESULTS FRIESIAN STUDBOOK STALLIONS 2001

Registration Number	Stallion	No. of Breedings 2001	No. of Second Breedings 2001	No. of Breedings 2000	Reg. Foals 2001	Foals Born 2001	% of Births 2001	% of white Markings 2001	No. of Horses w/white Marks
198503001	Ida	129		158	98	103	65.2%	0.7%	10/1
198503011	Jilke	41		53	36	38	71.7%	2.6%	1/0
198503021	Jakob	88	2	141	90	96	68.1%	6.3%	6/0
198503031	Jurjen	2		55	41	43	76.2%	4.7%	2/0
198603041	Lute	45		46	27	32	69.6%	0.0%	0
198603051	Ludse #	26		29	13	25	66.2%	20.0%	5/2
198603061	Leffert	182		210	147	161	76.70%	1.9%	3/3

Table of (Female) offspring of Stallions

Here is another interesting table published periodically by the FPS in the *Phryso* magazines and then reprinted in *The Friesian* (this issue). It shows the number of registered studbook, star, model, preferent mares and approved stallions, by stallion. For older stallions with a large number of adult daughters, these statistics are very significant. Perhaps the most relevant statistic for most mare owners is the percentage of star mares sired by each stallion. But like all tools in the stallion selection toolkit, these statistics can't be taken in isolation. For example, one stallion with more than 150 adult daughters, a star percentage of 47%, two model daughters and two approved stallion sons, lost his breeding approval due to the inconsistent quality of his offspring. This was Nammen 308.

Three sporthorse judges and the veterinarian advisor (with hat). Photo by Hermen Wierdsma.



Linear Scores of the Mare

You may be saying, "Wait a minute! I thought this article was about stallions." That's only partially true, because stallions are only part of the breeding equation. The most important factor in selecting a stallion for your mare is the mare herself! The more you know about your mare and her strengths and weaknesses, the better you can utilize the tools in your stallion selection toolkit. The more foals you've seen from your mare, especially by different stallions, the more you know about the characteristics she tends to pass on to her sons and daughters.

But if you don't know much about your mare's produce, and perhaps feel unqualified to critically evaluate the mare herself, the very best objective evaluation is her linear score sheet. Since 1993 all horses presented for studbook entry are scored and the score sheets are passed along to the horse owner with the adult registration certificate.

The linear score sheet evaluates various points of the horse's conformation and movement against the average for all Friesian horses. A mid-range score denotes the breed average, not the breed ideal, and on each separate point the horse may be average or deviate from average in one direction or the other. For example, at one extreme the trot may be 'weak' or at the other extreme, 'powerful' or the croup may be 'short' or 'long.'

As breeders, our task is to select stallions who will complement our mares and improve their weaknesses. Ideally the foals will be better than their dams. If my mare is especially weak in a specific area, I may decide that one of my primary criteria in selecting a stallion is to improve that area in the prospective foal. In order to improve upon the mare I have to first recognize what should be improved. The linear score sheet is a great tool for that.

(Note: Many sellers do not automatically pass along the linear score sheet when they sell an adult horse. Knowledgeable buyers should request it but must realize that the seller is not obligated to provide it. The FPS considers the linear score sheet the property of the owner who presented the horse for studbook entry and does not issue duplicates to subsequent owners.)



Photo by Kris Fuhwiler



Katryne & Elke. Photo by Els Anderson

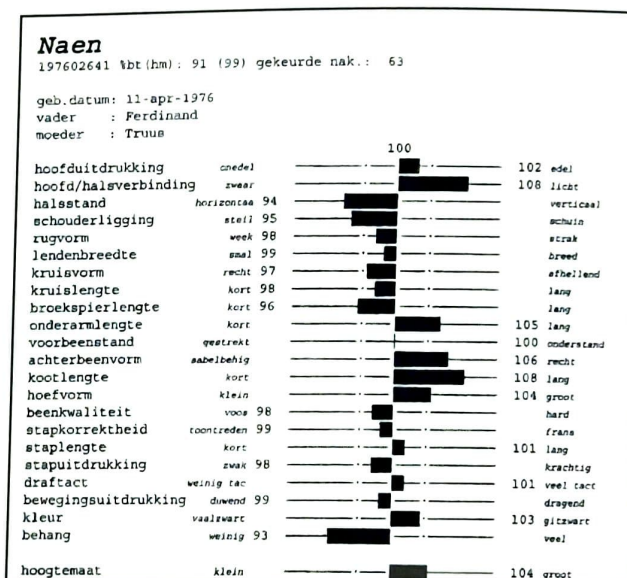
Conformation Index

There is no perfect sire and we can clearly see this from the Conformation Index for each approved stallion. The index is published annually in the spring and is distributed to subscribers on *Phryso*. It is a cumulative compilation of the linear scores of the adult offspring of each approved stallion. Thus it can only be prepared for stallions with adult progeny who have entered the studbooks.

The Conformation Index shows the extent to which the stallion's descendants vary from average on each of the linear score points. An important thing to consider when reviewing a stallion's index is the reliability of the index. Reliability

increases as number of descendants increases. Many of the North American stallions have a relatively small number of studbook offspring, making it harder to fully rely on their Conformation Index.

Another point to consider is that while 100 represents the average for the breed, within the group of horses representing the average for the breed there is variation (known as standard deviation) and the index points ranging from 97 to 103 are still considered within the average range. Thus if you want to have a significant chance of lengthening the croup of your prospective foal, for example, you should select a stallion with an index for croup length EXCEEDING 103. If you select a stallion with a large number of adult descendants and the croup length index of 108, you've selected a stallion who strongly transmits longer croups to his descendants.



Conclusion

The amount of information available to us about the FPS approved stallions and their descendants is terrific, but it can also give us a terrific headache if we let the statistics overwhelm our common sense. Sometimes we have to select a stallion with the cooled semen that survives for 72 hours, because we live in the middle of nowhere. Or we have to select a stallion at a farm that will breed our mare natural cover because she refuses to get pregnant any other way. Or we have to rule out stallions who carry the red factor gene because our mare has the red factor. Or we don't want to take a chance on getting a goal with excessive energy from an otherwise excellent stallion known for "hot" sons and daughters. None of these important factors appear in the FPS statistics but they all figure into our decision making.

No single, or combined, statistic or chart from the FPS will tell us what stallion to breed our mare to. But each is an additional tool in the large toolkit the FPS provides us, in an effort to constantly improve the breed.

