

# DG Charley Received Many Opportunities as a Sire of Sons and Used Them Optimally

One of the most notable transmitters from the beginning of the DNA revolution was undoubtedly Cogent Supershot.

He made global news with his sky high TPI index and his high semen price. In the meantime, Supershot – a son of millionaire Supersire – has widely proven his value with sons like Superhero, Adorable, Salvatore, AltaTopshot, Mocca, Eugenio, Euclid and... DG Charley. The latter received the tremendous support of an elite cow family from Minnesota: the C line owned by the Larson family. In this story, read about how Charley was created and why his influence will remain in the breed for generations. A true globetrotter with more than 9000 daughters around the world already.

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Charley is doing very well in his home barn in the British Ruthin and the Supershot son is still very popular.

The creation of DG Charley is certainly a special story. It had a lot to do with a drastic change in direction made by breeder Diamond Genetics (DG) in the Netherlands. Jan de Vries from DG explains: 'In 2010, we travelled to the US, shortly after the launch of genomics. We decided with our purchases to still primar-

ily focus on progeny proven sires. We knew that DNA sires could perform well, but no one knew which ones would be the highest. And later, it turned out: during that trip we had purchased a significant number of embryos, but nothing notable resulted. When we went again a year later, we changed our strategy and decided to

focus expressly on genomics. We had missed De-Su Observer in his first year, and now his first daughters were available and so we were looking for the highest Observers. That is how we found Larcrest Cale, the Observer daughter of Crimson. We combined her with Mogul and from this, four to five calves were born. One of

Nearly unimaginable in the DNA era, but indeed: even though this Genosource Captain is already more than three years old, he is still nr.3 on the top gTPI list, surrounded by numerous sons. Via Charl, Captain is the grandson of Charley.



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them was the bull Condor, who did quite well. AI Total was still quite small at the time, and could not market as much semen as Condor likely deserved. A full sister of Condor was Candide. She had decent conformation but was a bit short on production. As such, she was a perfect match for Cogent Supershot, who had just become available as a brand new sire of sons. After all: Supershot had lots of production and could use support for conformation. This combination worked out beautifully, so that with Charley the genes lined up splendidly: production and DPR from the paternal side, conformation from the maternal side. So, call it luck or call it numbers, Charley had the balance. While something was always missing with most of his full sisters and brothers. By the way, one line did go further: out of it, came Charl son DG Paul, who himself is very popular and descends from a granddaughter of Candide.'

### EASILY

This is how Charley was created: a Supershot son out of DG Candide VG-85. Complete with a very high gTPI index. A special moment for breeder Diamond Genetics. De Vries, also co-owner of the then still young AI Total, says: 'For Total, Charley – in whom there was a lot of interest – came a bit early. For that reason we decided to make him exclusively available for a year in order to create sons and later to sell him. Since Charley was high for gTPI, gPLI (UK) and gPFT (Italy), ABS Global/Genus was very interested and we came to an agreement with them. That is how Charley went to Genus in Great Britain.'

There, in the Genus barn in Ruthin (Wales), Charley enjoys good health. 'Charley is doing well and continues to be popular,' tells Hendrik Albada from Genus. 'Especially with our distributors in Italy, Europe and Russia, he is very popular. In terms of doses, he is still among the top-10 bestselling sires from our barn in the United Kingdom. With the combination of production with good fertility and solid conformation (not high, but correct allround) he remains popular with dairy farmers. In addition, he transmits nice somatic cell, so in many respects he is an easy bull to use. Farmers that milk Charleys continue to use him,' tells Albada, who next mentions an essential point: 'Through his sons and grandsons, Charley will have an enduring impact on the breed. Charley himself tested high in various countries and many of his sons are doing very well in that respect.'

### IMPACT

That point also draws the great appreciation of sire analyst Ryan Starkenburg from ABS. 'Sires can be influential in different ways: high semen sales, sires of sons, outstanding daughters, bulls that provide both sons and grandsons... and Charley checks off all of those boxes! He does it all, and will thus have an enduring influence on the breed.'

Duly noted. For a year already, Charley son Hurtgenlea Richard Charl (2907 TPI) has maintained his position in America's progeny proven top, while his son Genosource Captain (3081 gTPI) is nr.3 on the DNA top list and one of the world's most intensively used sires of sons. For that reason, America's DNA top list buzzes with many Captain sons. Also in Europe, the Charley sons are performing splendidly. In Germany, Casino is the progeny proven nr.1, with half-brother Summerlake being nr.5 on the ranking. In Italy, we find DG Nebula as a progeny proven transmitter, but likely more influential will be the younger Danish Charley son Hedegaard Crown. He is doing especially well as a sire of sons in Germany; in the top-10 we find the very popular Crown sons Camus and Carengo, while besides him, we find another four Crown sons in the German DNA top-30.

Of course, in the US, Charl is the figurehead of the Charley sons, with Denovo

♀ Larcrest Crimson EX-94 (Ramos)

♀ Larcrest Cale VG-89 (De-Su Observer <Planet)

♀ DG Candide VG-85 (Mountfield SSI DCY Mogul)

♂ DG Charley (Cogent Supershot)

Crosby also deserving of mention. Albada reports: 'Crosby also displays very good indexes in England (876 gPLI) and the first reports about his fresh daughters are very promising.' Besides Crosby, Pine-Tree Durable and Howler are other much used Charley sons at ABS.

Note here Starkenburg's emphatic conclusion: 'Charley has done outstanding work for us. Throughout his entire career, his sale figures have remained very stable, to this day, and of course, you only see that with a limited number of sires. In addition, he has provided sons that offer diversity. Yes, Charley is a good bull in every way.'

### 'UNIQUE'

This April, Charley will turn seven years old, and thanks to sons like Charl and Casino, and grandsons like Captain, Camus and Carengo, it is clear that we will be hearing from this Supershot son for a long time yet. Yes, Charley knows how to stick around, just like his dam and full sister. Because in the Meppelink herd in the Netherlands, his almost 9-year-old dam DG Candide and sister Caylee are still present. They are remarkable Dutch descendants of the American Observer daughter Larcrest Cale, who De Vries came across in 2011 as a heifer, eventually scoring VG-89 and becoming a "Dam of Merit" for owner Larson in Minnesota. And thus became an influential daughter of dam Larcrest Crimson. De Vries concludes: 'Yes, that Crimson is truly an exceptional cow. She is able to provide high NetMerits, TPIs and top PTATs! And that all out of one Ramos – truly unique.' ●



CHRISTINE MASSSELLER

Milk, components, fitness – Charley son Casino at VOST is the strong progeny proven nr.1 of Germany.