

## **Cogent Sexed Semen – a globally proven product**

In June 2000, **Cogent Breeding** released the first commercially available Sexed Semen to the UK marketplace. Since that time every major breeding company around the world has investigated Sexed Semen technologies, and in recent months there are renewed promises of sexed semen from at least 2 of the largest AI companies in the USA.

Cogent Sexed Semen remains the only product readily available in the UK, and the same is true in many other countries around the world. Since its launch 5½ years ago the Cogent product has been refined, through such things as improved sorting procedures, the implementation of the kindest freezing process in the world, "Harmony Freeze", and the most comprehensive post sort semen testing protocols.

Sexed Semen is still the most exciting development in the cattle breeding industry since semen was first frozen 50 years ago. It is not only the means to fulfil the dream of every dairy farmer by breeding heifer rather than bull calves, but also a significant means of improving profitability on a commercial level.

As other processes of semen sexing once again enter the field trial process, Cogent Sexed Semen consistently provides the results required in a commercial environment. The following data shows the conception rates and proportion of heifer calves born as a result of using Sexed Semen at Top Farms, a large dairy unit in Poland over the last 18 months.

Table 1 shows the conception rates achieved with both conventional and sexed semen in the period January 2004 to April 2005, and shows, over a spread of different bulls a comparable level of fertility. For a lot of this period Sexed Semen and conventional semen were used alternatively on heifers as a means to prove to themselves that Sexed Semen works, now the heifers are exclusively served with Sexed Semen.

Table 1: Conception results from Poland

Bull's name	No. of heifers					
	Conventional semen			Sexed semen		
	served	pregnant	%	served	pregnant	%
Patriot	116	82	70.7	168	108	64.3
Principal	25	17	68.0	228	147	64.5
K'gale	40	26	65.0	7	3	42.8
Lucky	156	110	70.5	-	-	-
Dalton	-	-	-	49	32	65.3
Figaro	84	47	56	-	-	-
Shaker	44	28	64	190	124	65.3
Lucente	-	-	-	113	73	64.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>465</b>	<b>310</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>755</b>	<b>487</b>	<b>64,5</b>

Table 2 shows the sex of calves born in the period January to November 2005. This shows an incredible 93.4% heifer calves born from Sexed Semen pregnancies.

Table 2: Calf sexes from Sexed v. conventional semen (Polish trial)

Bull's name	Birth result							
	Conventional Semen				Sexed Semen			
	Number of calves	Bulls ♂	Heifers ♀	Heifers ♀ %	Number of calves	Bulls ♂	Heifers ♀	Heifers ♀ %
Patriot	221	103	118	53	41	2	39	95
Principal	35	17	18	51	146	13	133	91
K'gale	106	57	49	46	5	-	5	100
Lucky	206	85	121	59	-	-	-	-
Figaro	30	19	11	37	-	-	-	-
Shaker	37	18	19	51	101	5	96	95
Lucente	16	10	6	38	55	3	52	95
Farrier	33	22	11	33	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>684</b>	<b>331</b>	<b>353</b>	<b>51.6</b>	<b>348</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>325</b>	<b>93.4</b>

Sexed Semen is no longer a dream, it is well and truly a commercial reality. This has been further proven by Dansire in Denmark sending two of their very best Jersey bulls for collection at Cogent, and in late 2005 two Brown Swiss bulls arrived at the Cogent stud in England from a stud in northern Italy.



Eve Vin Rombo  
Top Brown Swiss sire from  
Superbrown in Italy, currently  
collecting Sexed Semen at Cogent

Over 30 countries worldwide have now taken advantage of Cogent Sexed Semen, and with others likely to follow in 2006.



Sexed Semen heifers in a Winter Wonderland; these heifers were born in 2005 in Norway, one of the more recent countries to be attracted by Sexed Semen.



James Mann & Gary Spain, in Western Australia, backed by a group of heifers all due to be bred to Sexed Semen, James and Gary have used Sexed Semen now for 3 years. The last 92 straws of Sexed Semen resulted in 49 live heifer calves.

Cogent now offers Sexed Semen from a wide variety of bulls, including some of the most popular bulls in the UK: Aquila Patron Lucente, Picston Shaker and Crichel Principal, bulls now being joined by the likes of new all-rounder Galaxy Speed and top PLI sire Watergate Delegate.

Cogent Sexed Semen is a management tool that can increase profitability on virtually every dairy farm in the UK. With tightening margins, now is the time for everyone to be taking a close look at how Sexed Semen can work for them. For more info please see [www.cogentuk.com](http://www.cogentuk.com) (or via the Members list on the BLG website) [21 Feb 06]