



## THE LEGACY OF A BROOD COW QUEEN

**T**he definition of the word Jinx is ‘something that causes bad luck.’ Idyl Wild Improver Jinx was anything but bad luck to her various owners over the years. This 3E90, four-time Grand Champion award winner and three-time All-American cow was selected the “Cow of the 80’s” in the 1990 ‘110th Anniversary Issue’ of the *Brown Swiss Bulletin*. Jinx shined in the production department as well as the tanbark trail. She completed four records over 20,000 milk and 1,000 butterfat. Her last record at 7/10 in 365 days was 29,840 milk, 1,284 fat and 1,060 protein. Her lifetime totals are over 140,000M and 6,100F. Her accolades don’t end there. Her story contains various owners, the notoriety of holding the highest-selling Brown Swiss at public auction for 20 years, and producing offspring that established her reign as a Brood Cow Queen.

Her story begins on the West Coast. Jinx was bred by the Weber family of Idyl Wild Farm, originally located in Oregon. She was born in October of 1978 and was chosen out of a group of heifers by the Massingill family for an FFA project.

“We had a 300-head Holstein dairy, and I wanted something different to show,” Doug Massingill said. “Dad bought her as a calf from Idyl Wild Farms and gave her to me as a 16th-birthday present. She was one of only two Swiss we owned, and we never imagined the future she had in store. I treated her more like a pet than livestock!” Massingill stated.

Jinx was sired by West Lawn Stretch Improver. He was a Welcome In Stretch son of West Lawn Gladys, 3E90 with five records over 22,000M. Jinx dam was Idyl Wild Des Bobo Jojo, a VG88 Rancho Rustic My Design (EX90) daughter from the 90-point Arbor Rose Jesta Bobo. Bobo was bred by Arbor Rose Farms, also of Oregon. Bobo’s dam was a 2E90 Welcome In Chatham daughter with almost 140,000M lifetime.

Massingill showed Jinx as an FFA project at several junior shows. Her first open show was at the Oregon State Fair. She won her class and was named Reserve Grand Champion to her dam, Idyl Wild Des Bobo Jojo who took Grand Champion honors at that show. Massingill then took her to the Western National Show in Fresno, California, as a two-year-old where she won Grand Champion. She was the talk of the barn. Both Bill and Pete Vanderham of Bridge View Farms, California, talked about how silky-hided she was. Bill said, “Jinx was a tall, framy, angular cow, extremely different kind of Swiss than had been around, and a good udder.”

“She was named Champion by an Ohio judge, young John McKittrick,” said Pete Vanderham. “After the show, he kept marveling about her and I figured she’d wind up in Ohio, so I asked the young Massingill what he wanted for her. He didn’t really want to milk cows, but wanted another project so we struck a deal with him getting her calf, so she came to our string. McKittrick and Darrel Pidgeon came back later that evening to look at the cow and when she wasn’t there, they asked Bill Notter, who was tied across the aisle from the young man, where she went. He told them she was in our string, and they just left the barn,” Pete chuckled.

Pete’s son Bill remarked on a Facebook post by Lendgairry Swiss & Holsteins highlighting Jinx, “When my dad purchased [Jinx] she was pregnant to EE Beautician King with a bull calf that went back to the FFA kid (Massingill). I believe Doug Maddox was trying to buy her also then. The next year, of course, she was Champion at Harrisburg and Madison then Res. Grand at Fresno to Bridge View Modern Jewel, the dam of Jade.

Peter Coyne also weighed in on that Facebook thread, “Yes, Doug (Maddox) was trying to buy her. I was working for him that year with a string assembled from New York and California. We went in from Riverdale to bed and I went over to wash up after bedding and walked by this kid in a fold-up lawn chair asleep, a couple bales of hay, a little show box, and a cow that stopped me in my tracks. After waking the kid up to ask about her, I called Lewis Porter and told him I just saw one of the finest, if not the finest, Brown Swiss cow ever. A couple days later she was in your (Vanderham) string. A side note is that 35 or so years later, I’m in Ohio helping one of our nutritionists and doing a farm visit, and we pull into Idyl Wild Farm- [Paul Weber], great guy {who} had moved out east, really good cow man and he loved the story.”

The Vanderhams, as Bill stated, had success in the show ring with Jinx that next year, taking home champion banners from Harrisburg and Madison. Pete said, “She calved out after we bought her and she looked even better. Loren and Ruth Guernsey from New York hauled out two really good Holstein twins to Chino and stayed at our place that night. They had an empty trailer going back so I sent Jinx out to Wayne Conard’s. The Guernseys took her to Harrisburg where she was Champion and then back to Conard’s until Madison. Then Jinx came back out west.”



*Jinx breaks the record for highest selling Brown Swiss at public auction at \$60,000 at the Springtime Show Window Sale in 1983.*

After being named All-American, Jinx was consigned by Pete to the 36th Springtime Show Window Sale in Elkhorn, Wisconsin, in 1983. "Norm Magnussen and I talked quite often on the phone, and he asked about consigning her to his sale," Pete said. "I had seen both her full sister and her dam at Idyl Wild and wasn't sure how she'd fair as an older cow, so I agreed, after telling Norm she needed to break the breed record!" he laughed. Bred to Bridge View Jesta Jubilant, Pete and Norm reached an agreement, and she was sale bound. Norm remembers from sale day, "I was manager of that sale and when Jinx was in the ring, David Brown was on the halter of her and as he led her around the ring, we could hear the floorboards creak because she was so heavy and such a big cow."

Bidding was brisk with several bidders, he said, including J. Philip Gerbode of Borderline Farms, Vermont, an heir of the Dole pineapple family, who dropped out when the price went above \$45,000. Tom Pearson, the seller of the million-dollar Allyndale Glamorous Ivy, was the final contending bidder. Magnussen said, "As bidding was going on, Tom Pearson was behind the box, one of the ringmen had his bid, I was looking around when Darrell Worden, who was crying the sale, slid me a note to watch his wife. And she started bidding!" When the gavel fell, the Worden family had purchased Jinx for \$60,000, the new record set for a Brown Swiss female sold at public auction. (A record that stood for 20 years.) Two years later, in 1985, Jinx was again named Grand Champion of the World Dairy Expo. Together, Jinx and the Wordens went on to further cement her legacy as a brood cow extraordinaire.

Jinx went back to California after she was calved out to be flushed at Vanderham and partners Tri-Embryos. She was flushed to Bridge View Distinction and Norvic Telstar. "The Distinction calves were born there on the California Dairy," Bill said. "There were three bull calves that were flown to Minnesota via the LAX airport. I remember because they were still on milk! The three heifers were later trucked out to Forest Lawn."

Jinx was then sent to Forest Lawn where she went on to, as Darrell Worden said, "put us on the map. She created interest in Forest Lawn genetics and definitely helped stimulate activity for us." Worden went on, "I have bought many cows through the years, but she was most definitely the cheapest because her return on investment far exceeded the price we paid. At the time, if it hadn't been for the help of my parents to fund the \$60,000 price tag, I just hoped we could get it back!" But get it back they did. "We sold her



*Jinx was named Grand Champion at the World Dairy Expo in 1985 for the third time!*

son Jinxson ET in the National Sale for \$38,000. Then we sold half interest to Noba on Jetway plus royalties, and, of course, her daughters and granddaughters that we marketed."

The Worden family showed Jinx multiple times and at many different shows. "We went to a lot of shows with her," said Darrell, "some cows you gotta get their attention to look their best. One thing that fascinated me more about her {Jinx} than any other cow I ever led; she was a show cow! She'd walk to the ring normal, with head about even with you, but once you entered that arena, her head popped up, ears came forward and she showed me – I didn't show her!"

"The other thing was," he said, "the family was not only a merchandising family, but the entire family milked!"

Through the use of embryo transfer, Jinx had 23 offspring. For a while, she was housed at Select Embryos in Ohio. "The year she was Total Performance Cow at Madison, Wayne Sliker went over and got her and brought her up to Madison for the show," said Worden.

"After Madison, I brought Jinx back to Ohio and that Monday took her over to Select," stated Sliker. "We had Top Acres Elegant Simon housed at Select. That was the flush that created Jetway, Jupiter, and a total of eight outstanding Simon offspring."

Just under a dozen of Jinx's daughters were scored in the U.S., with seven scored EX90 and the rest 85 points or better. One of her daughters, Forest Lawn Simon Jem, was sold to South America where she went on to win several banners for her new owners including Grand at the Brazil National.

Forest Lawn Distinct Joyous ET was one of those heifer calves born in California and later purchased by the Vanderhams. She, in turn, produced eight daughters, four of which scored Excellent, including Bridge View Jades Josay ET EX92, and two Very Good at 88 points. One of those 3E90 daughters, Bridge View Magic Joisee ET, was a Protein Plus cow with records to 33,220M. She was also a member of the 2000 Honorable Mention All-American Produce of Dam. Her Pete Rose daughter, Brierwood PR Jacee 3E93 was a multiple All-American nominee, also with records to 33,400M 1189F 1131P.

Another daughter by Distinction, Forest Lawn Distinct Joy ET 2E90 was developed by Forest Lawn Farms and had two Excellent and four Very Good daughters. Joy's best record was at 6/04 365d 24,610 4.3 1054 3.5 871. Her VG-85 Rolling View Conductor

daughter had over 26,700M and 1,000f and was purchased by Sunshine Genetics. The next generation, Sun-Made Earnest Jullip ET scored V89/90MS at 3/01 and made over 20,500M as a two-year-old. Another Joy daughter by Tuolumne Patrick, was VG86 with 23,140M 1,110F 863P and purchased by Idyl Wild Farms.

Yet another Joy daughter developed by Forest Lawn, Forest Lawn Mat Joyable ET was 2E90 with records to 23,610M 1.5054F 864P. Her Excellent Ensign daughter had records to 30,000M and 1381F and over 165,400M lifetime.

Forest Lawn Simon Jinx Joy ET 2E90, one of the Simon daughters, was purchased as a pick of calves by Ken Manion and Wayne Sliker. She went on to produce records to 25,700M 1,059F 925P. Her highest scored daughter was Manions Dotson Jinx Jo at EX93, and an All-American Nominee. Jinx Jo was also the Res. Grand Champion of the Southeast National in 1997. A Jade daughter scored 5E90 and was a member of the All-American nominated Sr. Best 3 Females in 1996 and Produce of Dam member in 1997.

A flush of Jinx Jojo resulted in several additional Excellent and Very Good daughters. A 3E91 daughter was Top Acres M Ensign Joann ET. She was purchased by the Reguscis and Busy Bee Syndicate in California. She was the Reserve Grand Champion of the Western National in 2004 and 1st Aged Cow in 2006. She had lifetime credits to 124,570M 4,408F 3,888P. Her highest scoring daughter at 94-points was Busy Bee Syndicate Jasper.

Jinx also had a multitude of influential sons. Eight of her sons were distributed internationally with over 50,800 daughters reported world-wide. Jinx King, the first bull calf by E E Beautician King, returned to Massingill, resulted in 1688 daughters in the US and another 272 internationally. He was collected and distributed through Tri-State Breeders of Wisconsin. Of those daughters, almost 60 daughters were scored Excellent with the two highest at 92 points.

Forest Lawn Tradition ET (D), Jinx's Norvic Telstar son, had over 1740 daughters in the United States and 3288 internationally. Over 40 of those in the US are Excellent with the highest scored 93-points. Tradition was owned by Landmark Genetics.

Forest Lawn Jinxson ET, one of the Distinction sons mentioned earlier by Worden, was sold through the South Dakota National Sale and purchased by the Jinxson Dozen and had over 1400 daughters of which there were a multitude of Very Good and Excellent daughters, including five 91-point Excellents. Internationally, there were another 1400 daughters for over 2800 total daughters on the Interbull proofs.

Jinxson's full brother, Forest Lawn Jason ET (M), owned by St. Jacobs ABC, Rowntree Farms, sired the 94-point GS FLJ Tippy ET owned by the Savage Family of Maryland. Another Distinction

son, Forest Lawn Jargon ET (M) had almost 3450 daughters throughout the US, Mexico, South America, and world-wide. He was owned by Trans-World Genetics (now ST Genetics).

Another Jinx son, owned by Trans-World that had an impact was a Top Acres Balison Tempo son, Forest Lawn T J Rhythm (D) (M). With over 1275 daughters world-wide, several show up regularly in pedigrees including Terra Rose Rhythm Sadie EX94; Heiz Acres Rhythm Marlo EX94; Mort Rhythm Darcy EX94; La Rainbow Butterfly ET EX93, and a brood cow in her own right, Hawthorne Rhythmic Riki \*TW EX94.

Most notable of all her sons, though, is Forest Lawn Simon Jetway ET (M) who had 26,794 daughters throughout the world. Over 7300 daughters in the US include household names such as Toni, Sasha, Prize, Nora, Shatzi, and Snowplow. Each of these, along with many others, have sons and daughters that are making history of their own.

Jetway also transmitted to his sons who have carried the success of Jinx through the lines such as Top Acres Jet Pilot at ABS, Bridge View Primetime at Trans-World, Lost Elm Portfolio at Semex, and Lost Elm Prelude Pilot at Select Sires. Several other sons have been marketed abroad in Switzerland, Mexico, and South America.

Brian Garrison, made the selection of Jetway for Noba, Inc. "I always liked Jinx a lot and at that time, this mating wasn't the 'index' thing to do, but I thought, even though it was late in the game, Simon was the best mating. When I went out to look at the bulls, it was lights-out no question on Jetway. He was a show bull incredible - he was an ultra-quality, clean-cut, dairy animal. He was so uniquely ahead of his time with dairy and style and strength." The deal was made over breakfast that day.

Jetway carried the Premier Sire reign at World Dairy Expo for almost a decade; his son, Top Acres Jet Pilot, was named Premier Sire three times between 2007 and 2011.

On the daughter side, one of Jetway's most prolific daughters is Timberline Jetway Toni (M). This four-time All-American is 3E94 with records to 29,15M6 5.3% 1,552F 3.5% 1,008P. She appears in multiple pedigrees of today's leading ladies. With 40 offspring, she had 10 Excellent daughters including Milk & Honey Tonis Tessa EX92, Milk & Honey Pre Time ET EX93, and Milk & Honey Prem Tifany ET \*TM EX93.

Another household name sired by Jetway is Valligrove Jetway Nora ET 2E93, a multiple All-American and Grand Champion at World Dairy Expo. With 52 offspring, she has 18 Excellent daughters and sons in A.I. The highest-scored daughter is by Prelude, Jo-Dee Prelude Nancy ET EX94. Another daughter, Jo-Dee Wonderment Nuclear ET is 2E92 with several All-American nominations, high-scoring daughters and granddaughters.



Nor Bella Jetway River ET EX94



Timberline Jetway Toni 3E94



Valligrove Jetway Nora 2E93

Across the US, Jetway daughters like Nor Bella Jetway River ET, Blue Heaven Snoball Twin ET, Blue Heaven JW Snowplow ET, Kruses Jetway Fashion, and Ken IR Jetway Adrea, all of which are scored 94 points, along with Dublin-Hills Sasha and Top Acres Jetway Prize ET, both 93-points, are reaching brood cow status themselves. And there are more that time and space don't allow us to mention; but suffice it to say, Jetway crossed well on almost all pedigrees with outstanding results.

One more Jinx son, Jetway's full brother, Forest Lawn Simn Jupiter ET \*TM was distributed by Trans-World Genetics throughout Europe. Magnussen stated, "Jupiter was liked in Europe because he sired nice square udders, which they liked in comparison to the big open ribbed cows that Jetway sired." He had over 7320 daughters world-wide.

"Jinx was never treated any different than the other cows," said Worden fondly, "but if she was out with the cows in the pasture and saw you, she'd come up to get her head scratched." Jinx passed away at the age of 12 from pneumonia complications, something she battled with off and on over her life according to her various owners. The Worden's buried Jinx in their backyard and her grave is marked with a headstone representative of the Brood Cow Queen she was.



An outstanding cow in her own right, with a story that crisscrosses the nation, Jinx, her daughters, and just as important, her sons, have left their mark on the Brown Swiss breed throughout the globe.

*Editor's note: Thanks to Legendairy Holsteins & Swiss for their initial post on Facebook about Jinx that provided the beginnings of this article, and to Norm Magnussen for his help with research as well as to all those who contributed to this story of an exceptional cow.*