



# The largest milk production plant in Spain and one of the largest in Europe

Cruañes Oliver J.

in

Tisserand J.-L. (ed.).

Le lait dans la région méditerranéenne

Paris: CIHEAM

Options Méditerranéennes : Série A. Séminaires Méditerranéens; n. 6

1929

pages 91-96

Article available on line / Article disponible en ligne à l'adresse :

http://om.ciheam.org/article.php?IDPDF=CI000369

To cite this article / Pour citer cet article

Cruañes Oliver J. The largest milk production plant in Spain and one of the largest in Europe. In: Tisserand J.-L. (ed.). *Le lait dans la région méditerranéenne*. Paris: CIHEAM, 1989. p. 91-96 (Options Méditerranéennes: Série A. Séminaires Méditerranéens; n. 6)



http://www.ciheam.org/ http://om.ciheam.org/



# The largest milk production plant in Spain and one of the largest in Europe

J. CRUAÑES OLIVER TAUSTE GANADERA, TAUSTE (ZARAGOZA), ESPAGNE

ABSTRACT - Tauste Ganadera is the largest milk production farm in Spain and one of the largest in Europe with 2,405 heads, of which 1,180 adult cows. Milk production is between 27,000 and 28,000 kg. per day. Cows give 8,026 kg. of milk in 305 days, being milked 3 times a day. Food is distributed as a complete ration composed of ensiled corn forage, alfalfa hay, wheat straw, pressed sugar beet pulp, brewer's draff, cotton seed, and soya and sunflower cake. The herd is Holstein breed imported from Canada. Reproduction is assured by semen imported from Canada and USA and by that of the bulls at the farm. Cows are divided into 3 groups of 360 animals, in turn divided into 6 lots of 60 cows, according to their physiological state and their milk production level. The milk is sold as high quality fresh milk in the city of Zaragoza.

Key words: Intensive production system, complete ration, reproduction, Holstein, cattle.

RESUME - Tauste Ganadera est la plus importante unité de production laitière en Espagne et une des plus grandes d'Europe avec 1180 vaches adultes et 2405 têtes de bétail. La prodution laitière est comprise entre 27000 et 28000 kg de lait par jour. Les vaches produisent 8026 kg. de lait en 305 jours avec 3 traites par jour. L'alimentation est distribuée sous forme de ration complète à base de mais, fourrage ensilé, additionné de foin de luzerne, de pailles de blé, de pulpes de betterave surpressées, de drêches de brasserie, de graines de coton et de tourteau de soja et de tournesol. Le cheptel est de race holstein importé du Canada. La reproduction est assurée par de la semence importée du Canada et des Etats-Unis et par la semence des taureaux produits dans l'unité. Les vaches sont réparties en 3 groupes de 360 animaux, eux mêmes divisés en 6 lots de 40 vaches en fonction de leur stade physiologique et du niveau de leur production laitière. Le lait est écoulé sous forme de lait frais de qualité dans la ville de Saragosse.

Mots-clés: système intensif de production, ration complète, reproduction, Holstein, bovins.

# Introduction

Tauste Ganadera, S. A., selects and produces milk cattle.

The company was founded in 1973 and first brought into operation on 9 April 1974, with the first group of 326 Holstein cows and heifers arriving from Canada. Subsequently, between 1976 and 1978, 400 heifers were imported from Canada and the United States and more recently, in 1984 and 1985, 150 heifers of the US Holstein breed were imported from Italy.

In 1987 a group of 50 heifers were imported from Canada, born from high genetic embryos in Canada and the United States, as we explain below.

The company currently has 1,180 adult cows, with a total of 2,045 heads of cattle, that is, cows, heifers and calves.

Tauste Ganadera, S. A., (hereinafter TG) is situated in the region of Aragón, 50 km. to the north of the city of Zaragoza, in the River Ebro valley in an irrigated area of 6,000 Ha. It is located in the village of Tauste, which has a population of 7,500.

### Feeding system

Save for during the first six months, the heifers are fed by means of a mincing-mixing-distributing conveyor for each passage of two units, housing groups of 120 cows and 100 heifers, twice a day.

The same food is given to the cows throughout the year, with variation only in the quantity. The food consists of alfalfa hay, corn silage, brewer's draff, cotton seeds, pressed sugar beet pulp and a mixture of cereal grain, together with the mineral-vitamin corrector.

The heifers are also given oats-vetch hay, oats-vetch silage and barley straw.

All the fodder products consumed in Tauste Ganadera are produced by approximately 550 farmers who are shareholders of the company. These farmers have annual contracts and undertake to meet the current requirements of TG.

The principal product cultivated is CORN FOR SILAGE, 9,000 m. of which has been contracted for this

year. Contracts are made with the farmers for the amount of land to be cultivated and TG carries out the sowing on a staggered basis so that harvesting using TG's self-propelled harvesting machines, may also be staggered. Prices are agreed with the farmers' representatives of the Board of Directors before sowing and are paid for green products on TG's scales, with the cost of harvesting and transport being borne by TG.

Second harvest crops, such as oats-vetch, are also sown according to the year and requirements.

ALFALFA HAY is purchased from the farmers cut by cut, with the prices being set according to market levels and qualities 4,000 t. of this product are consumed.

CEREAL STRAW is obtained from the farmers at harvest time (from June 20th to August 15th). For each kg. of straw they deliver to us we return to them 10 kg. of manure, matured and loaded on their vehicles. This exchange is highly beneficial to the farmers and means that with the 25,000 t. of manure that we produce every year, the structure and production rate of the farmers, lands have increased, especially in respect of corn production. Straw consumption, including both beds and meals, amounts to 3,300 t.

These contractual relations with the farmer/shareholders are playing an important economic role in the Aragonese community and in the village of Tauste in particular, since they imply turnover in purchases, in fodder products and cereals alone, of more than 250 million pesetas, to which must be added the 60 jobs that they provide, with a great number of advantages in respect of work hours, holidays, specialization courses, etc., plus the amount corresponding to services, shops, workshops, restaurants, etc. which a company of this nature automatically produces.

In addition, there are the semi-industrial products which we consume in considerable quantities, that is, BREWER'S DRAFF (6,200 m.), PRESSED SUGAR BEET PULP in pellets (870 m.), COTTON SEED (632 m.), and also the CONCENTRATES, by which we mean cereal mixtures and protein products (soya, sunflower) and correctors (1,800 m.).

The consumption of concentrates in our plant does not correspond exactly to that included in the TG Report, to the intensive bovine systems group, on the basis of concentrated foods, as mean consumption per cow per annum amounts to 1,273 kg., and per litre produced to 196 gr. These figures are much lower than the norm in other systems applied in areas which are much greener.

Feeding by the «UNIFEED» system is carried out, as we pointed out earlier, by means of a special trailer and calculation of the rations is performed according to the American system, in E.N.L., PB and F.A.D. (Fibre acid detergent).

I will now give you a few examples for cows in-milk, of 15 and 36 litres, for dry cows about to give birth and for rearing of heifers of 12 to 18 months. This is the document we use for calculation in PCs, by means of our own

computer program, and which serves as a basis for the practical distribution of rations to each group of 60 to 120 cows, with mean production. Every 15 days, following an individual milk check, any changes that may be necessary are made in order to ensure that each group of 60 cows has mean production with a difference of  $\pm$  3 litres.

Thanks to the handling of the feed, with the greatest possible care, we are able to obtain excellent reproduction results, as we will now see.

# Reproduction

Since the establishment of the company all reproduction has been performed by A.I., using both Canadian and American semen. We have two inseminator specialists who devote their work to reproduction process and to the entire gynaecological field, and further five inseminators for night surveillance, were substitutions, vacations, etc. In all cases insemination is performed 14 hours after the rutting period.

The technical results obtained in this field during 1987 are as follows:

- Births: 1,248
- Live calves per 100 births: 95.51 %
- Twin births: 6.08 %
- Interval between births: 387.24 days.
- Interval between birth and 1st A.I.: 74.21 days.
- Interval between birth and fertilized I.: 106.23 days.
- Mean number of inseminations per birth: 1.68
- Fertility between 1st and 2nd A.I.: 83.02 %
- Annual replacement: 18.80 %

The following bulls are those most used at present: Bis-May Tradition Cleitus; Cal Clark Board Chairman; Exranco Triad Fisher Place Mandingo-Twin; Glenafton Enhancer; Hanover Dagger; Hanover Hill Designer; Hanover Hill Inspiration; Hanover Hill Sabastian; A. Hurtgen Vue Marathon; Iona Farm Camaro; Stead Valiant Tab; Lekker Bell Jesse-ET; Lekker Valiant Royal Thonyma Secret; and the Italian bulls HTH Gamble «MAX»; Salone Valiant Prince; Vigo Centennial Chief «CIF» and Willshom Esquire «WES».

Tauste Ganadera also uses bull semen, which it imports from the United States and Canada, and which it distributes, in its capacity as a private centre, for tests in Spain. The bulls currently on trial are: Hilltop Hanover B DALTON-ET; Long-Haven Boya PROCTOR-ET; Mr. Berkshire Valley MAGNET-ET; Long Haven SCOTTY-ET; Calbrett Tony KYLE-ET and Pearmount INDICATION-ET, whose pedigrees we include.

The bulls repeated most often in the records of cows and heifers are currently the following: Quality Ultimate; Iona Highlite; Dab Monitor Frost; Hanover Hill Starbuck; Sweet Tradition; Haven A Hilltopper Warden; Ca-Lill Standout Cavalier; Breezyview Job Royal Stewart; Roybrook Tempo; Arlinda Cinar Geran Elevation Enchanter; Cal-Clark Board Chairman, etc. All these bulls, as well as certain others which I have not named, have each sired more than 30 young cows.

As we explained at the beginning, in November a group of heifers arrived, all of high genetic quality and E.T. sired. Among these heifers we should highlight a full sister of Mawacres Warden Patricia (EX), All-Canadian-87, 3 years old; a daughter of A M-Villards Elevation Marie-ET (EX), with Melvin; a daughter of a M-Willards Elevation Mary-ET (EX), with Sidney; various daughters of A Long-Haven Monitor Tara (VG), with Marathon; daughters of A Verdath Mars Fiesta (EX), with Starbuck, Chief Mark, Valiant and Mandingo, and six daughters of A Willoworag Kate Mar Kara (EX), two with Valiant, two with Starbuck and two with Chief Mark. Many others also have famous mothers, with the best bulls of the time, such as: Arlinda Rotate, Carlin-M Ivanhoe Bell, Marsfield Elevation Tony, Whittier-Farms Ned Boy and those already mentioned.

This is undoubtedly one of the most important groups ever imported into Spain in the history of cattle-farming, since the mothers of the 50 heifers represent an average of 11,432 kg. of milk and the grandmothers an average of 10,670 kg., with the majority of the three generations classified as EX and VG, and having excellent fat and protein indexes.

We should simply add that at the National Breeding Competition held in Barcelona in November 1987, Tauste Ganadera, S.A. was awarded the following prizes:

- Best national breeder
- Best national herd
- Young cows National champion
- Cows National champion runner-up
- Heifers National champion runner-up
- Best udders
- Best descendancy of cows.

On the basis of this important genetical background we are developing the PROGET project (ET Genetic Project) in which TG is to produce and sell, from the best genetic lines in the world, high genetic level breeds, frozen semen, fresh and frozen embryos and breeding animals which are future semen donors.

# Brief summary of the installations

All the installations are in open housing

MILKING COWS. Divided into three groups of 360 animals are into six units of 60 animals, each with a feeding passage, walking area and a rest area, with permanent bedding. Every 15 days the groups are reorganized according to production, following production checks; in order to facilitate feeding by UNIFEED, with a mixture for each two groups of 60 cows.

DRY COWS. Divided into six groups of 40 cows: two groups about to give birth, with special feeding; one group for dry cows and the remaining three groups for cows between drying and up to 20 days before birth.

MATERNITY. A special unit of ,14 compartments, each with room for three cows waiting to give birth, and an area for 40 new-born animals in groups of ten, in permanent bedding, and automatic washing areas where the animals spend a few days in milking, in their own 5 x 5 compartments (Tecnozoo rooms), whilst they may suffer from mammary oedema or any other post-natal problems, before being transferred to the general milking area.

SPECIAL COWS. (High production and genetic levels). An area with four groups of 14 cows, with permanent bedding and automatic washing, completed with an area of seven compartments for individual cows and a special milking area for them with room for five animals (Tecnozoo).

MILKING ROOM. We have a milking room of 20 x 20, with rapid exit, run-off and automatic release (Tecnozoo) and showers for groups of 60 cows. Three milkings of the 1,000 cows are performed approximately, every day. For this reason we have three milking rooms, each with a specific task: the general milking room of 20 x 20, for all cows following 20 days after giving birth; a small 5 x 5 room for cows recently given birth, and the 5-in line room for the best producing cows. It is a great satisfaction for us to have three milking rooms of the top quality Italian trademark «Tecnozoo».

NURSERY. (Artificial milk-feeding). During the first month artificial feeding is performed in individual compartments of reinforced thermostable plastic. From the second month the young animals are fed in groups of 10/15, on the basis of artificial milk, fodder and straw. During the last month feeding is in groups of 10/15 animals, in feeding machines, in order to progressively accustom the animals to artificial feeding. the powder concentration of the milk is gradually reduced, so that the calves slowly eat more straw, in concentrated form, and hay alfalfa, up to three months. Only the females are kept; the males are sold within the first week for fattening in other establishments.

BREEDING. We have 16 units where the heifers are housed together with the dry cows, from 3 months old up to 2 months before giving birth. There are eight units each housing 60 animals, where the heifers remain until they reach 14 months. The remaining eight units each house 50 heifers, from 15 months (the first A.I. is made in these units at 17 months), up to 24/26 months.

MILK MARKETING. All the milk produced is cooled after milking and is passed in a closed circuit to the packing plant. TG sells registered milk, in Tetra-Rex containers, distributed to 660 sales points in the city of Zaragoza. The milk is sold under the trade name «ALBA Registered Milk».

CONCLUSION. By reason of all the above, it may be said that at the present moment, by virtue of its size and its technical results and high production and selection technology. TG is within the world elite of companies dedicated to the selection of «Holstein» milk cattle.

TAUSTE GANADERA S/A GRANJA DIPLOMADA CARMETERA GALLUR SANGUESA, KP 10 TAUSTE 00000 1/87

HEG. NO.

8/23/84 OWNED BY

HILLTOP-HANOVER-B DALFON-ET

NAME

	TIDY BURKE ELEVATION  1271810  PD -320M -20F 99% REP 2314 ADUS AVG 14995M 3.50% 525F POT +1.66 £.10 98R 1129 DAU 2ND GET/SIRE 574978 94-12794-10793-97 COW INDEX -61M +15F 47% REP COW INDEX -61M +15F 47% REP DHR 4-03 2X 345D 24440M 4.2%1024F DHR 7-08 2X 351 25870 3.9 1013 DHR 7-08 2X 351 25870 3.9 1013 DHR 7-08 2X 351 25870 4.0 960 CA ROMANDALE SHALIMAR MAGNET*RC 1560362 90-37 TP 196030 4.1 9670 CA ROMANDALE SHALIMAR MAGNET*RC 1560362 90-37 TP 196030 4.1 9670 CA ROMANDALE SHALIMAR MAGNET*RC 1560362 90-37 TP 196030 4.1 96070 CA ROMANDALE SHALIMAR MAGNET*RC TSCOOL 1785 99-1013 PD +467M -12F 99% REP PDT +4611 ±07 1785 99-1013 PDT +4611 ±07 1785 99-1013 PDT +467D BULL E NAT SHOW 1968 TTTZ145 90-77 90-57 99-87 98-4 RD MC DEV +4256 4.135 77 REC DHR 3-05 2X 351 30650 3.6 1103 CIFETIME 3112 210500 3.7 7758	OSBORNDALE IVANHOE
NO. 1967045 STE GANADERA S/A GRANJA DIPLOMADA RETERA GALLUR GUESA, KM 10 TAUSTE 00000	ROUND DAK RAG APPLE ELEVATION	PROVIN MTN IVANHOE JEWEL  1393997 92-97 F5F -175 -263M PD\$ -1 -6 -1 5 -263M PD\$ -1 -6 -1 5 -263M PD\$ +0.3 +0.8 +0.4 99R 1/83 PCT +1.48 ±0.7 7/87 934 HRD 99R 2292 DAU ALL DAU AVE AASC 81.2  EFT DAU AVE AASC 81.2  61.2  61.2  61.2  61.2  61.2  61.2  61.2  61.2  61.3  62.3  63.3
ME LUNG-HAVEN BUVA PKUCIGR-ET REG.N X MALE BORN 9/02/84 OWNED BY TAUS SANG SANG PTPI +544 P8 1/87	ROCKALLI SON OF BOVA  1665634 88-67	CI +19F +424 +1.35T  CI +13F  CI +118F  CI +18F

NAME LUNG-HAVEN BUVA PRUCIDR-ET SEX MALE BORN 9/02/84 OWNED BY

TIDY BURKE ELEVATION	PAWNEE FARM ARLINDA CHIEF  1427381 94-137 PD 14529 GH 1/85  PD 4392M 440F 99% REP 1/85  18189 DAUS AVG 1/628M 3-76% 662F  BOT 11.50 ±-07 1/628 4DAU  ZND GET/SIRE EASTERN ST 1982  IST GET/\$IRE EASTERN ST 1982  COW INDEX -213M -18F 45% REP  MC DEV 44698 +75 1 REC  DHI 2-04 ZX 195D 11370H 3-2% 359F  ROUND DAK RAG APPLE ELEVATION  1491007 9498 175 1 REC  DHI 2-04 ZX 195D 11370H 3-2% 359F  ROUND DAK RAG APPLE ELEVATION  1491007 9498 1 REC  DHI 2-04 ZX 195D 11370H 3-2% 359F  ALL-AMERICAN GET/SIRE 1978  S5961 DAUS AVG 18441H 3-65% 674F  FORWING AVIEW PROMIS ANNETTE  7825838 37-4 CTP1 +120  OAKVIEW PROMIS ANNETTE  7825838 37-4 CTP1 +12  78279 4557  DHI 5-04 ZX 305 21200 3-8 4550  LIFETIME 1830 115920 3-8 4450
RDUND OAK RAC APPLE ELEVATION  1491007 96-107  7/65  ALL-AMERICAN GET/SIRE  1978  ALL-AMERICAN GET/SIRE  1978  H.M-ALL-AMERICAN GET/SIRE  PD 2 -02 +04 +05 +3434  PD 3 +45 +45 +45 +448  PD 4 -02 +04 +05 99R 748  PD 4 -02 +04 +05 98R 748  ALL DAU AVE ACT SC  EFT DAU/MRD  ALL DAU AVE ACT SC  EFT DAU AVE ASC  BJ 4600	CLENDELL ARLINDA CHIEF
RDCKALLI SON OF BOVA 1665634 88-67 TPI +690 GH 1/87 PDS +103 +167 +1245 +126 PDS +103 +167 +1275 +126 PDS +103 +167 +1275 +126 PDS -18 +03 +167 +1275 +126 PDS -18 +03 +167 +1275 +126 PDS +103 +167 +1275 +126 PDS +103 +107 +1275 +126 PDS +103 +107 +127 PDS +103 +12	CI +10P +40F +563H +2.03T  9383-04-92-97 CTP1 +609  CI +10P +40F +563H +2.03T  CI +10P +40F +563H +2.03T  CI +10P +40F +563H +2.03T  DEV +107 +263 14.054 +06.6  CIS +87 +97 53XEEP 7/187  DHI 3-00 2X 305 18710 4.2 785  DHI 5-04 2X 305 21410 4.2 785  DHI 5-09 2X 305 21410 4.2 875  DHI 6-09 2X 305 21410 4.2 875  DHI 6-09 2X 305 21410 4.2 875  DHI 6-09 2X 305 21840 4.0 882  DHI 6-09 2X 305 21840 4.2 875  CIFETIME 1830 137280 4.2 5752  HOISTEIN ASSOCIATION MARROL M

0/25/84 OWNED BY TAUSTE CANADERA S/A GHANJA DIPLUMADA CARRETERA GALLUR SANGUESA, KM 10 TAUSTE 00000

SEX MALE BORN 10/25/84 OWNED BY