BREEDS OF DAIRY CATTLE

Holstein
Origin: The Netherlands
Appearance: Black and white, occasionally red and white.
Traits: Superior milk production, producing on average 8,500 litres per cow per year; milk components are 3.7 per cent butterfat and 3.2 per cent protein; makes up 93 per cent of the provincial herd.

Guernsey
Origin: Isle of Guernsey, English Channel
Appearance: Orange-red colour, often with white legs and white areas on the body.
Traits: Noted for their rich golden coloured milk, due to Carotene and Vitamin A in their diets; produce on average 6,400 litres per cow per year; second highest milk components (4.3 per cent butterfat and 3.5 per cent protein); represents less than one per cent of the provincial herd.

Ayrshire
Origin: Scotland
Appearance: Rusty-red and white.
Traits: Known as the “aristocrat of dairy breeds” due to their size; produce on average 6,600 litres of milk per cow per year; milk components are 3.9 per cent butterfat and 3.3 per cent protein; makes up less than two per cent of the provincial herd.

Milking Shorthorn
Origin: England
Appearance: White and roan.
Traits: Considered a dual purpose breed (can be used for milk production and beef); produce on average 6,100 litres per cow per year; milk components are 3.8 per cent butterfat and 3.4 per cent protein; represents less than one per cent of the provincial herd.

Brown Swiss
Origin: Alps of Switzerland
Appearance: Vary in colour from silver to dark brown.
Traits: Known for their strength and ruggedness, producing on average 7,000 litres per cow per year; milk components are 3.9 per cent butterfat and 3.5 per cent protein; represents less than one per cent of the provincial herd.

Jersey
Origin: Isle of Jersey, English Channel
Appearance: Ranging from light to dark brown, occasionally with some white spots.
Traits: Earliest maturing dairy breed, producing on average 6,000 litres per cow per year; highest milk components (4.8 per cent butterfat and 3.8 per cent protein); makes up four per cent of the provincial herd.