

ISRAEL JOURNAL OF
VETERINARY MEDICINE
 FORMERLY: REFUAH VETERINARITH

Published Quarterly:
VOLUME 67 • No. 3 • SEPTEMBER 2012

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Front Cover: JERSEY HOLSTEIN CROSSBREED

Crossbreeding allows for the potential to improve herd fertility and health through heterosis or hybrid vigor effects. The Holstein cow is a high milk volume producer and the Jersey cow has a tendency to produce milk with a high solid content. Both these breeds have been established as the predominant breeds in the United States. Calving ease and a relatively lower rate of dystocia especially during first calving, makes the Jersey breed popular for crossbreeding with other dairy and beef breeds. In Israel several herds have been inseminated with Jersey bulls. Compared to the Holstein breed the crossbred cows produced 9% less milk and higher components of 0.4 and 0.1 units for fat and protein percentage, respectively. Direct effect of Jersey bulls for calving difficulty and dystocia were lower compared to Holstein bulls. Conception rate of crossbred cows was mildly higher than Holstein cows.