



DELTA ATLANTIC  
(RAMOS X O MAN)

Production: genomic data 53% reliability  
UK base (source GES August 2010)

Kg M	% fat	% prot.	Kg fat	Kg prot.	PLI
+448	-0.08	+0.03	+11.0	+17.0	£140
Longevity: +737 days (exceptional)					
SCC: 110 (exceptional)					
Fertility: 103 (average)					
Calving ease: 108 (exceptional)					
Temperament: 105 (good)					
Milking speed: 100 (average)					

#### Conformation traits

	88	100	112
frame	104		
dairy strength	104		
udder	104		
feet and legs	104		
total score	106		
stature	106		
chest width	102		
body depth	102		
angularity	102		
condition score	102		
rump angle	97		
rump width	99		
rear legs rear view	104		
rear legs side view	98		
foot angle	99		
locomotion	105		
fore udder attachment	103		
teat placement	101		
teat length	100		
udder depth	106		
rear udder height	105		
rear teat placement	96		
central ligament	97		

#### Health specialist

The new Ramos son Delta Atlantic shows a complete breeding pattern. Atlantic does not have daughters in milk; the breeding values are based on genomic and pedigree information only.

These show he has no negative traits and he excels in health characteristics. Atlantic will fit well on daughters of Canvas and Support for example with some protection for rump angle and udder support.

Atlantic is available from Avoncroft by calling Freephone 0800 7831880.

Atlantic out of widely used French cow family and stands out among more than 10 half brothers

# Atlantic stands out from the crowd

Atlantic is out of a widely used French cow family and stands out among more than 10 half brothers out of Etazon Renate, who is now almost six years old. The O Man daughter has a total of 15 sons with a breeding value rating. Based on genomic breeding values, her Ramos son Atlantic has the best possible credentials.

text Tijmen van Zessen

As the most widely available bull, Delta Atlantic was the quickest off the mark in the first official publication of genomic indices in the Netherlands. Atlantic is a two-year-old Ramon son out of O Man daughter Etazon Renate, the top donor in the CRV Delta nucleus programme. She is given free rein as bull dam, with a total of 15 sons to her name, 10 of which have already been used for breeding.

“In the early stages of marker testing – in those days there were no more than 3,000 markers being tested – Renate had already come out on top as the best donor. As the number of markers increased in new tests, Renate was constantly pulling ahead of the other donors,” says CRV’s head of breeding technology Pieter van Goor. This explains the very strong interest in Renate.

“Of the thousands of cows we’ve had tested since for markers, she still scores the highest. For external appearance, production and health characteristics she scores way above the expected values, bringing her total NVI index score to nearly 100 points.”

#### Flushed intensively

As Renate and her sisters came into milk, Pieter’s confidence in the genomic indicators grew. “We saw, not only, the differences from the expected breeding values, but also those between the sisters themselves, reflected in her performance.”

As a heifer, Renate produced 10,752kg of milk with 4.35% of fat and 3.52% of protein in 305 days and was awarded VG 86 points for general appearance. She was put into service at the CRV donor station, where she was flushed intensively, even as a heifer. After her first lactation, Renate was again fully utilised, producing more than 300 embryos in total.

#### NRM champion

Renate’s roots can be traced to France. CRV breeding technician Eric Lievens was looking for the best Jocko daughters and found Remarlinda on the farm of the Challan-Belval brothers from Moutiers-Saint-Jean. By her second lactation, Remarlinda had already earned her ‘Excellent’ status, but Eric had his doubts in terms of her ability to achieve the high production level required on a dairy farm. “For this reason I crossed her with O Man to ensure adequate milk production.”

Behind Remarlinda are many generations of cows, including the Ben daughter Benarlinda classified EX93. This star of the ratings is related to the French breeding bulls Jaguar JPS (sire: Mountain) and Enehould (sire: Travis). But the most famous descendant of the family on Dutch soil is undoubtedly NRM champion Convincer daughter Millennium.

For Eric, the strength of the family in terms of breeding is all down to Remarlinda. “Her genetic make-up is



Jocko daughter Ramarlinda, grand dam of Atlantic



O Man daughter Etazon Renate, dam of Atlantic

superb and she also passes this on to her offspring,” says Eric. Renate has three full sisters in France, two of them on the Challan-Belval farm. Vivajustic is the dam of InSire bulls Etazon Stefano (202 NVI) and Etazon Steve (159 NVI). Although her sister Veranda produced embryos, she was less successful. The third French sister was sold at auction. Three polled Lawn Boy sons of Valériane are currently being reared at Creavia: Duparc, Decabri and Dassi.

#### Test performance

Back to the Netherlands, and back to Atlantic, the Ramos son whose high ratings are completely home-grown. With his lifespan score of +737 days, 110 for somatic cell count (-24 SCC) and 103 for fertility, his special position with regard to health characteristics is

assured, without dropping any points on the production and conformation front. According to Pieter, this earns him a top ranking, despite his as yet unproven reliability.

Although Atlantic comes from a huge cow family, Pieter recognises a typical family trait. “These are all cows with big frames that are very capable of high production.”

Pieter’s opinion is based on the results from Renate’s sisters, most importantly the full sisters Etazon Raisa, Midwolder Marjon and K&L Romina, who have achieved high production ratings. Raisa produced in her first record 9860 kg milk, 4.18 % fat and 3.35 % protein. CRV tested four sons out of Raisa.

K&L Romina is another outstanding producer. In her first lactation she produced in 305 days 11,599 kg milk

with 3.75 % fat and 3.42 % protein. A number of Romina’s bull calves are currently being reared. Bull calves out of Marjon have been tested exclusively by CRV, including those sired by Surprise, Support and Goldwyn respectively.

Renate’s daughters are also making their mark now. Buitenend Renate 3 (sire: Lucky Mike), May Yard Delta Resumé (sire: Laudan), May Yard Delta Remina (sire: Laudan), Renate 1 (sire: Shottle), Delta Tina 5 (sire: Fortune) and Buitenend Renate 4 (sire: Buckeye) have all achieved high production ratings. One of CRV’s highest-ranking Bertil sons is a descendant of Renate 3, while Renate 1, Remina and Resumé have since become donors.

#### True potential

Confidence in the breeding qualities of the family is so great that Atlantic, like his full brother Auckland and his half brothers Brilliant (sire: Goldwyn) and Arroyo RF (sire: Spencer), now has opportunities as a sire.

Is it responsible to rely so heavily on one family? “Based on her level of quality, we feel we could easily use 30 Renate sons for breeding,” says Pieter. “The best son of every breeding bull seems to have Renate as his dam.

“There is currently no sire with a breeding value that comes anywhere close to Renate. But 15 sons is really the limit.

“Now that CRV is testing fewer bulls, we won’t see this number again. We have been very conscious of the need for diversity in the gene pool among the bull dams and sires in the breeding programme. Renate has deliberately been partnered with 10 different sires.” |

