

King of the rankings continues to dominate sire list

Now we have O Man sons and grandsons

Devon-based dairy producer, renowned cattle breeder and three-times NMR/RABDF Gold Cup finalist, Willy Ley, shares his first impressions of the movers and shakers in the April proof run.

text **Ann Hardy**

You can't ignore a bull with a proof like Lynbrook Jancen's," says William Ley, commenting on the new number one sire on the DairyCo Profitable Lifetime Index rankings. "People have been asking for shorter, less extreme Holstein cows, and now they have got one. And this one has a terrific production proof into the bargain, with over 400kg milk, 53kg fat plus protein and positive percentages for both."

In fact, the PLI of Jancen (O Man x Manat) at £241 is the first to come anywhere near his sire's, and his Lifespan Index is marginally better.

But with a stature score of -1.06 (O Man, in comparison was +0.6), he will more naturally appeal to farmers on an extensive, grazing system, or - with his good fitness traits - could persuade many who have experimented with cross-breeding to come back to the Holstein fold.

Unusual credentials

But in a traditional herd like William's, would he have a place? "We shall certainly look at him," he says. "You wouldn't use him across your whole herd, but there will be one or two cows - probably those that are too tall and



Willy Ley

lanky - on which he could be ideal and you could finish up with a nice balanced cow with good fat and protein.

"But you have to bear in mind that there will be more reliability in his proof to come."

Jancen's other unusual credentials include his own cosmopolitan background, having been bred by John Cunnane in the Irish Republic, progeny tested in Germany and descending from the popular Danish branch of a US cow family through Tirsvad Luke Classic.

Brand new in second position comes ALH Dakota, who becomes the highest production bull on the list, with 1,010kg milk and over 64kg fat plus protein and a PLI of £234. Although a familiar O Man-Durham cross, his exceptional production

Shorthorn hat-trick

Drisgol Watzon has topped the Dairy Shorthorn PLI rankings for the third consecutive proof run and also moved into top slot on type.

Bred by Seimon Thomas from Pembrokeshire, he is sired by the red-and-white Holstein, Horizon Ranger Red (Jubilant x Chief Mark) who has been widely used in the Dairy Shorthorn blending programme. His PLI on the Shorthorn base (not comparable with other breeds) is £172, PIN is £32 and Type Merit is 2.4.

demands attention and his generally good fitness traits will offset a Fertility Index which is slightly below par.

Below the top two bulls, there is little change in the remainder of the top 10, with every bull, once again, sired by O Man.

But the newcomer in 12th position - in the shape of Morningview Levi - represents a whole new generation. Although he is the first non-O Man son on the list, he is one of his earliest grandsons, his mother being an O Man daughter. She is also full sister to the high ranking Morningview Legend.

"It's inevitable that the O Man grandsons will be on the next wave," says William. "But this bull also represents a concentration of Bellwood bloodlines (Levi's sire is the Bellwood grandson,

name	sire	mat. grandsire	supplier	£PLI	rel.	milk	fat kg	prot. kg	fat %	prot %	SCC	life-span	fertility ind.	dCE	type merit	
Lynbrook Jancen	O Man	Manat	Bullsemen.com	241	74	+407	+30.3	+23.3	+0.17	+0.12	53	-12	0.5	0.9	—	0.01
ALH Dakota	O Man	Durham	Dairy Daughters	234	78	+1010	+32.2	+32.3	-0.09	-0.01	54	-11	0.4	-1.4	2.2	0.68
Co-Op Oman Logan	O Man	BW Marshall	Bullsemen.com	224	72	+898	+34.0	+28.0	-0.02	-0.01	51	-22	0.3	-0.6	1.8	0.66
Crockett-Acres Eight	O Man	Mtoto	Semex	222	74	+531	+23.0	+23.1	+0.03	+0.07	44	-22	0.4	4.6	2.2	0.39
Long-Langs Oman Oman	O Man	Aaron	WWS UK	221	73	+663	+28.5	+28.9	+0.03	+0.09	54	-3	0.2	-0.6	2.2	1.59
Ufm-Dubs Alta Esquire	O Man	Mark Sam	Alta	221	73	+522	+35.7	+22.8	+0.18	+0.07	53	-9	0.2	1.3	2.4	0.56
Timmer Tyson	O Man	Novalis	Avoncroft	219	78	+99	+31.0	+16.4	+0.34	+0.17	50	-17	0.3	2.2	3.6	-0.45
Mainstream Manifold	O Man	BW Marshall	Semex	217	74	+816	+32.5	+25.2	+0.00	-0.02	47	-6	0.3	4.2	3.5	0.86
Woudhoeve 1042 Impuls	O Man	Jesther	Avoncroft	214	78	+598	+28.2	+25.9	+0.06	+0.08	51	-12	0.3	-0.2	0.4	0.35
Morningview Legend	O Man	Durham	Genus	214	74	+492	+24.4	+23.7	+0.06	+0.09	47	-11	0.3	3.5	1.2	0.47
End-Road O-Man Bronco	O Man	BW Marshall	Dairy Daughters	212	71	+808	+24.6	+25.5	-0.08	-0.01	41	-1	0.4	5.7	2.2	1.29
Morningview Levi	Buckeye	O Man	Genus	209	72	+709	+29.0	+26.4	+0.01	+0.04	49	-17	0.1	2.9	1.7	0.74
Ralma Gold Crown	Goldwyn	O Man	Dairy Daughters	208	74	+520	+23.4	+21.4	+0.03	+0.05	41	-17	0.3	3.3	1.6	1.64
Gran-J Oman McCormick	O Man	Durham	Genus	204	74	+245	+26.4	+13.4	+0.21	+0.07	37	-21	0.3	5.9	1.9	1.36
O-Man End-Story	O Man	Jocko	WWS UK	203	69	+601	+27.2	+22.1	+0.04	+0.03	43	1	0.3	—	3.6	2.16
Co-Op Oman Loydie	O Man	BW Marshall	Bullsemen.com	201	72	+401	+24.9	+21.6	+0.11	+0.10	46	-15	0.2	1.2	2.6	0.85
Coldsprings Garner	O Man	Patron	Bullsemen.com	201	74	+478	+26.5	+17.6	+0.09	+0.02	38	-21	0.3	5.0	1.5	0.96
Regancrest Alta Iota	O Man	Ito	Alta	197	73	+544	+28.5	+20.7	+0.08	+0.04	44	-11	0.2	1.6	2.5	1.65
Guarini	Goldwyn	O Man	Bullsemen.com	196	71	+328	+19.2	+18.2	+0.08	+0.09	38	-24	0.2	3.2	—	2.25
Cogent Twist	Shottle	Major	Cogent	195	91	+557	+34.9	+22.1	+0.15	+0.05	51	-11	0.1	-3.0	-1.8	1.38
Ufm-Dubs Ellrod	O Man	Lynch	Genus	195	73	+318	+28.3	+17.7	+0.19	+0.09	44	-6	0.3	1.0	1.5	0.56

Table 1: Top 21 sires available in the UK ranked on PLI (source DairyCo breeding+ and Holstein UK)

Buckeye) and he is essentially a production bull."

More than 700kg milk and 55kg fat plus protein, also with positive percentages, bear this out, although Levi also scores remarkably well for the fitness traits. These weigh in at +2.9 Fertility Index; -17 SCC Index; +0.1 for Lifespan Index; as well as easy calving. His PLI is £209.

Goldwyn x O Man

Next newcomer in the ranking is German-bred Guarini, who offers the coveted blend of Goldwyn x O Man, making him the second ranked O Man grandson. His PLI of £196, Type Merit of 2.25 and good fitness traits will give him wide appeal. "But one of the star turns this proof run

as far as I'm concerned is Cogent Twist," says William. "He's jumped from 38th to 20th position and now has a PLI of £195 based on 68 daughters in 40 UK herds, which is very pleasing for us as we used this bull from the outset."

A further bull he highlights as a 'pleasing riser' is Ensenada Taboo Planet. "He dropped a little after we first used him but has gradually risen ever since, and I notice his name in a lot of the high genomic proofs. "He's a Blackstar descendant and I think he looks a genuine milk bull, so I am looking forward to his daughters calving in our herd this summer."

Finally he draws attention to Shottle son, Galastar Bluesky. "He's pulled together

nically and with 121 daughters in 73 UK herds he looks stable and now has a PLI of £154 and TM of 2.34.

"He may not be up there on PLI with the O Man sons, but if you want an alternative he's worth considering.

"And like the other British bull, Twist, he has a higher reliability than the top imported sires." |

Top Holsteins for type

The highest type bull available in the UK is now Toc-Farm Goldsun, a Goldwyn son from renowned Italian show cow, Toc-Farm Allen Amyly EX95. His Type Merit is 3.8 and he breeds exceptionally tall daughters with outstanding udder traits. He also musters a respectable PLI at £117 with good daughter fertility, lifespans and cell counts although milk is not high. Behind number-two type bull, Van Gogh (now deceased and in limited supply) comes newcomer, Go-Farm Artes, also from Italy. This Goldwyn son is unusual in being in the top 25 for PLI (at £192) as well as having 3.15 points for type. Out of a BW Marshall dam, his lifespan and cell counts are good and milk is an impressive 848kg, although he currently has no Fertility Index. Top British-proven type bull is Curtismill Mr Sam (now short-named Curtis). His TM is 3.05.

Other breed highlights

Leaders for the other breed rankings are:

- Deangate Osbert followed by Deangate Tarquin for the Friesians, with Lakemead Randolph, making his debut in third;
- Fitness specialist, DJ Zuma, level pegging with Sunset Canyon Anthems Allstar, for the Jerseys;
- Prossli for the Brown Swiss breed with a very good Lifespan Index;
- Sniders Option Aaron for the Guernseys;
- Odislait for the Montbeliardes; and G Edbo in the Ayrshire ranking,

although this bull is of Swedish Red breeding.

Don't compare

DairyCo has issued its regular reminder not to compare indexes across the breeds. The figures for each breed are calculated to relate to that breed average, so it would not just be meaningless to compare figures across breeds, but could also be completely misleading. Anyone wishing to compare between breeds, can obtain a conversion formula from DairyCo.

Lynbrook Jancen



ALH Dakota



Toc-Farm Goldsun

