

More top genomic Holsteins gain daughter-proven indexes

# Genomic 'confidence' grows

Former Gold Cup finalist and Lancashire-based Holstein breeder James Tomlinson is reassured to see genomically-tested sires beginning to dominate the daughter-proven rankings.

text **Rachael Porter**

The latest daughter-proven proof run should definitely serve, once again, to strengthen confidence in genomically-tested sires. So says James Tomlinson, who runs the 260-cow Bilsrow herd, based near Preston, in partnership with his parents David and Sheila and his wife Eleanor.

"There are several bulls in the proven list's top 20 that were previously at the top of the genomic list," he says. "The new number-one sire, on the Profitable Lifetime Index ranking, is a case in point."

The bull is the Canadian, Gen-I-Beq Lavaman, who did, indeed, make his name as the number-one young sire on the UK's first ever genomic ranking published exactly three years ago by DairyCo.

## Massive PLI

Today Lavaman has many daughters milking throughout the world, including 54 in the UK. On the strength of their performance, he earns a massive PLI of £640, thanks to the transmission of plenty of high-quality milk and



James Tomlinson

outstanding daughter fertility in an all-round solid index. Lavaman is a son of Man-O-Man, a former number-one £PLI sire. And he is joined in the top 20 by numerous former top genomic sires, which are now daughter-proven leaders. "We've not used him as yet, but we're considering him – with a proof like that how can he be ignored," says James. Number two in the ranking is the former front-runner, Prehen Omen, the first of two bulls bred in the UK to feature in the top 10. Now with 90 UK milking

daughters, and featuring high-quality milk, his PLI is £607. "He's another good all-rounder, scoring well for SCC, fertility and lifespan. He's just what you'd expect from an OMan son, but we probably won't use him because we've already used a lot of direct OMan sons on our herd," explains James.

## Planet outcross

The third ranking sire is Kings-Ransom Erdman, who earns his PLI of £544 partly on the strength of his low daughter maintenance costs and their long lifespans. "Now here is an interesting Planet outcross," says James. "He's very solid right through."

Fourth placed Grafit maintains his high position (£PLI 531), with an exceptional Somatic Cell Count Index (SCC -18). He has also caught James' eye. "There's a place for him in most herds' AI flasks. He's a real dairyman's sire. And we definitely want to use him."

Moving further down the list, James also has a close eye on equal eighth ranking sire, with the highest type transmission in the top 20 bull – Ladys-Manor Grafeeti. He has a PLI of £504 and a Type Merit of 2.72. "We used him as a genomic sire, but we're not using him at the moment. On the strength of the daughters that we have on the ground we will definitely be using him again. He certainly lives up to expectations."

Looking to the genomic sire rankings, it's easy to see the Canadian domination.

No-Fla Alta Everglade



Seagull Bay Supersire



name	sire	mat. grandsire	supplier	production								functional traits					conformation		
				rel.	milk	fat kg	prot. kg	fat%	protein%	EPIN	EPLI	SCC	lifespan	fertility ind.	dCE	F&L	udder	TM	
<b>proven sires</b>																			
Gen-I-Beq Lavaman	Man-O-Man	Goldwyn	Semex	93	+443	+21.1	+26.3	+0.04	+0.14	640	-2	-7	0.2	10.2	2.1	1.96	1.13	1.46	
Prehen Omen	O Man	Goldwyn	Bullsemen.com/AIS	94	+342	+22.3	+23.5	+0.11	+0.15	607	7	-13	0.5	7.2	1.7	1.00	0.76	0.88	
Kings-Ransom Erdman	Planet	Ramos	Bullsemen.com	85	+461	+22.1	+14.2	+0.05	-0.01	544	-19	-15	0.6	9.8	1.4	0.84	0.29	0.50	
VH Tirsvad Goldwyn Grafit	Goldwyn	O Man	Mastergen/ABA Viking	83	+560	+29.8	+22.9	+0.09	+0.06	531	12	-18	0.2	7.3	1.0	1.64	0.43	1.03	
Mainstream Manifold	O Man	BW Marshall	Semex	99	+754	+31.3	+25.1	+0.02	+0.01	519	14	-7	0.2	12.8	1.9	-0.89	0.98	0.35	
Gran-J Oman McCormick	O Man	Durham	Genus	99	+64	+18.2	+5.4	+0.27	+0.10	508	-2	-13	0.2	18.2	0.8	1.28	0.57	1.01	
Laurelhill Classic	O Man	Laudan	Genus	95	+320	+11.2	+16.1	-0.02	+0.07	508	10	-15	0.5	15.2	1.7	-0.38	0.56	0.37	
ABS Simon	O Man	Laudan	Genus	95	+480	+20.7	+19.7	+0.02	+0.05	504	-21	-8	0.3	9.6	2.1	-0.04	-0.75	-0.60	
Ladys-Manor Rd Grafeeti	Freddie	Goldwyn	Cogent	83	+216	+25.1	+10.8	+0.21	+0.05	504	-2	-15	0.4	5.5	0.7	1.94	2.44	2.72	
No-Fla Alta Everglade	Massey	O Man	Alta	78	+276	+23.8	+16.9	+0.16	+0.10	504	16	-11	0.3	10.3	2.1	1.37	0.27	0.65	
Seagull-Bay Supersire	Robust	Planet	Cogent	81	+968	+35.4	+28.8	-0.03	-0.03	501	11	-4	0.4	1.4	1.3	1.27	1.44	1.51	
De-Su Alta Melhor	Shot Al	O Man	Alta	83	+248	+22.9	+14.2	+0.16	+0.08	497	29	-22	0.5	5.4	1.2	2.32	1.94	2.52	
De-Su Freddie Denim	Freddie	Wizard	Bullsemen.com	85	+273	+19.9	+13.1	+0.11	+0.05	497	19	-22	0.6	11.9	0.9	0.21	0.30	0.52	
Amighetti Numero Uno	Man-O-Man	Shottle	Semex	85	+76	+21.9	+6.4	+0.24	+0.05	495	15	-24	0.5	10.4	0.1	1.27	2.30	2.36	
Generations Lexor	Man-O-Man	Goldwyn	Sterling	83	+491	+25.7	+22.1	+0.08	+0.07	495	13	-8	0.2	4.3	2.1	2.55	0.99	1.51	
<b>genomic sires</b>																			
Sandy-Valley-I Penmanship	Enforcer	Numero Uno	Semex	67	+614	+29.7	+26.7	+0.07	+0.08	724	17	-19	0.7	10.4	1.2	1.94	1.40	1.81	
Pes009 Boardshop	Enforcer	Bookem	Semex	67	+592	+25.3	+23.5	+0.02	+0.05	657	18	-20	0.6	11.1	1.5	1.82	1.65	1.95	
De-Su Firewall	Jackman	Shamrock	Semex	67	+290	+25.2	+14.3	+0.17	+0.06	648	-6	-25	0.6	10.3	1.6	1.15	2.04	2.12	
De-Su Acrobate	Jetset	Bookem	Semex	67	+495	+26.5	+19.3	+0.08	+0.04	639	24	-29	0.6	10.7	1.1	2.19	1.80	2.18	
De-Su 11756 Octavian	Numero Uno	Bookem	Genus	68	+648	+32.0	+23.9	+0.08	+0.03	633	13	-31	0.5	6.5	0.0	1.30	1.68	1.86	

Table 1: Top 15 daughter-proven and top five genomic sires available in the UK ranked on PLI (source: DairyCo breeding+ and Holstein UK)

The top two young sires, ranked on genomic EPLI remain unchanged in the new DairyCo list, with the two Canadian Enforcer sons, Penmanship and Boardshop, retaining the number one and two positions. Penmanship's PLI of £724, his outstanding lifespan transmission (LS Index +0.7), good production (Predicted Transmitting Ability for milk 614kg) and high daughter Fertility Index (FI +10.4), keep him firmly in the lead. Penmanship's paternal half-brother,

Boardshop, shows a similar transmitting pattern and has a PLI of £657. But James isn't keen. "If you look back through their pedigrees they carry a lot of Shottle blood on both sides. They're from very good cow families, but I wouldn't pick them for our herd." He's also wary of third placed Firewall (AltaJackman x Shamrock), who edges up from fifth position and, like the two bulls above him, is a son of a genomic young sire. Milk quality and low maintenance costs are features of

his index, including fat transmission of +0.17%. His PLI is £648. But James says that his dam was only classified G76 and, as a cow-family enthusiast, this maybe isn't quite up his street. Far more attractive to James is fifth-place sire De-Su Octavian. He is the highest Numero Uno son in the rankings, with a PLI of £633. And, with an SCC Index of -31, he is the best cell count improver in the top 10. "He's from a very good cow family and also has an impressive sire stack.

### Growing confidence

"I'm also putting a strong emphasis on milk at the moment – at least +400kg – because in the recent past we've focused heavily on other traits. Octavian offers +648kg, so he's definitely milky." Overall, he's really pleased to see so many genomic bulls making the leap to the top of the daughter-proven rankings. "It's really reassuring and our confidence in genomic testing has certainly grown during the past year or so. We've always dabbled, but now 50% of the sires used on our herd are genomically tested, rather than daughter proven. "We started cautiously and we've gained confidence from the daughters we have on the ground and milking in our herd. But bull proof runs like this give us added proof that the technology can be trusted." |

Mainstream Manifold

