

O Man sons face a growing challenge in the top 20

Move over, O Man

There's plenty of choice in the top 10 of the latest bull proof ranking, according to Dorset-based producer and breeder Willy Ley. He says that this is great news for producers because it means that they can spread the risk when selecting sires – they're not limited to O Man bloodlines.

text **Rachael Porter**

O Man bloodlines have dominated the Profitable Lifetime Index (PLI) ranking for as long as many Holstein breeders can remember, but that's all set to change.

There are at least half a dozen serious challengers in the top 20 offering alternative bloodlines. And among the best of the non-O Man sons are some exceptional British contenders, which feature high on the list of all UK and international sires.

For now, the reigning number-one sire is Lynbrook Jancen. He retains his leading position this month, with a PLI of £251 – a reflection of his daughters' plentiful production of outstanding quality milk and their good fitness traits, particularly lifespan.

New bulls, which have entered the ranking since the previous proof run in April, are led by the outstanding production bull, ALH Dakota. He ranks in second position with a PLI of £248. The combination of 1,058kg milk, 33.6kg fat and 34kg protein PTAs (Predicted Transmitting Ability) together with good daughter cell counts are this O Man son's major attractions, while daughter fertility improves to see him rise up the rankings. "I've not come across him



Willy Ley

before – I've not really taken too much notice. But I'm watching him now," says Willy.

He also has a close eye on the next new entrant to the top 10 – Pirolo Goldwyn Wyman, one of five sons of Goldwyn to feature in the top 20. Out of a Jocko Besne dam, Wyman's key attractions are his daughters' low cell counts (at -27, he's the lowest in the top 10), good fertility and high type (Type Merit 2.1). He jumps 34 PLI points with this proof run to reach £241, level pegging with Crockett-Acres Eight.

"I'm interested in Wyman – I've used about 30 straws and I have some pregnancies. So it's nice to see him in joint third. I know someone who saw

some of his daughters, and he's usually pretty spot on when it comes to selecting good cattle. So I used some semen and it looks as if my gamble paid off."

Both McCormick (PLI £222) and Garner (PLI £221) enter the top 10 for the first time having previously been ranked at 13th and 15th place. They now become the number-one and two daughter Fertility Index bulls out of the group at +7.4 and +5.4 respectively. "I rate McCormick – I've used quite a few straws. He's a 'complete' kind of bull."

Willy is also impressed by the performance of UK-tested Ballycairn Tiergan. He is impressive by any standards but particularly when you consider that he's the third highest non-O Man bloodline among all UK and international bulls. Jumping 29 PLI points since the April proof run, this Goldwyn son now ranks 12th, offering high fat, good fitness traits and solid type.

Willy is also pleased with the way that UK bulls have held their ground this time around and he's particularly interested in the performance of Cogent Twist and Galastar Bluesky. He's used both on his herd.

Cogent Twist is the highest Shottle son available. With a PLI of £191 and a proof now based on 79 UK daughters in 46 herds, high fat production looks increasingly impressive and is complemented by low cell counts, solid type and positive daughter lifespans.

Also UK-tested is another of the world's best Shottle sons – Galastar Bluesky. With a PLI of £159, he now has 129 UK daughters in 76 herds which exhibit low cell counts, long lifespans and very good type.

And another one to watch, according

Gran-J Oman McCormick



Crockett-Acres Eight



Pirolo Goldwyn Wyman



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
Lynbrook Jancen	O Man	Manat	Bullsemen.com	74	+470	+32.8	+25.1	+0.17	+0.12	56	251	-13	0.5	0.3	—	-0.12	-0.06	-0.04
ALH Dakota	O Man	Durham	Dairy Daughters	78	+1058	+33.6	+34.0	-0.09	+0.00	56	248	-13	0.4	-0.1	2.1	1.54	0.04	0.56
Crockett-Acres Eight	O Man	Mtoto	Semex	74	+587	+24.9	+24.9	+0.02	+0.07	47	241	-21	0.5	4.7	1.8	0.50	0.14	0.35
Pirolo Goldwyn Wyman	Goldwyn	O Man	WWS UK	71	+326	+26.0	+19.9	+0.16	+0.11	46	241	-27	0.3	4.6	0.6	2.62	1.37	2.05
Co-Op Oman Logan	O Man	BW Marshall	Bullsemen.com	73	+963	+35.7	+30.1	-0.03	-0.01	54	236	-22	0.3	-0.1	1.4	1.01	0.27	0.59
Long-Langs Oman Oman	O Man	Aaron	WWS UK	73	+732	+30.5	+30.7	+0.02	+0.08	57	230	-1	0.2	-0.3	2.1	0.94	1.44	1.58
Morningview Levi	Buckeye	O Man	Genus	73	+694	+29.7	+26.1	+0.03	+0.04	50	230	-20	0.2	5.0	1.6	1.10	0.49	0.85
Timmer Tyson	O Man	Novalis	Avoncroft	78	+151	+32.8	+18.1	+0.34	+0.16	53	226	-16	0.3	1.7	3.2	1.06	-1.10	-0.49
Gran-J Oman McCormick	O Man	Durham	Genus	74	+313	+28.7	+15.7	+0.20	+0.07	41	222	-21	0.3	7.4	1.9	0.93	1.13	1.30
Mainstream Manifold	O Man	BW Marshall	Semex	74	+865	+33.3	+26.5	-0.01	-0.02	49	221	-7	0.3	3.8	3.2	0.07	0.99	0.80
Coldsprings Garner	O Man	Patron	Bullsemen.com	74	+543	+28.3	+19.5	+0.08	+0.02	41	221	-22	0.4	5.4	1.4	0.55	0.81	0.87
Morningview Legend	O Man	Durham	Genus	74	+561	+26.0	+25.4	+0.05	+0.09	49	220	-12	0.3	2.9	1.1	0.72	0.12	0.41
Ballycairn Tiergan	Goldwyn	Garter	Cogent	90	+388	+32.8	+18.7	+0.21	+0.07	48	220	-11	0.2	2.2	0.9	1.59	1.80	1.97
D Omar	O Man	Lukas	Viking Genetics	77	+491	+29.9	+24.0	+0.13	+0.10	52	216	-22	0.1	2.4	0.5	0.80	-0.06	0.32
Co-Op Oman Loydie	O Man	BW Marshall	Bullsemen.com	72	+456	+27.4	+23.3	+0.11	+0.10	49	215	-16	0.2	1.9	2.5	0.97	0.50	0.79
Ralma Gold Crown	Goldwyn	O Man	Dairy Daughters	75	+588	+26.9	+22.7	+0.04	+0.04	44	215	-14	0.3	2.9	1.4	1.85	0.96	1.50
Al.Par. Goldwyn Mentos	Goldwyn	Jocko	Sterling Sires	70	+404	+26.6	+18.6	+0.13	+0.07	42	213	-15	0.2	5.5	0.8	2.23	1.44	1.93
Dansire Oman Oblat	O Man	Morty	Viking Genetics	76	+792	+33.3	+26.4	+0.02	+0.01	50	210	-10	0.1	4.1	1.3	1.20	-0.13	0.55
Generations Lobo	Goldwyn	Durham	Sterling Sires	68	+439	+25.7	+19.4	+0.10	+0.06	42	210	-19	0.3	3.2	1.5	1.60	1.05	1.37
Ufm-Dubs Alta Esquire	O Man	Mark Sam	Alta	74	+526	+33.8	+22.3	+0.16	+0.06	51	207	-6	0.2	0.6	2.6	1.04	0.17	0.50

Table 1: Top 20 sires available in the UK ranked on PLI (source DairyCo breeding+ and Holstein UK)

to Willy, is Planet – in at number 28. "He's a direct descendant of Blackstar and we have his calves due to be born in the next three or four weeks. His second crop of daughters in the US look good. They're easy on the eye and offer good fertility and calving traits too. I think that he'll be the next big influential bull and we'll see his sons entering the rankings in three or four years time." I

Other breed highlights

List toppers for the other breeds rankings are:

- Drisgol Watzon leads the Shorthorn rankings
- Guernsey sire Sniders Option Aaron retains the number-one

- position on Guernsey Genetic Merit
- Odislait is number one PLI Montbeliarde
- Prossli leads for the Brown Swiss breed with a very good Lifespan Index.

Number-one Danish Jersey



© Elly Geverink

Breaking the £200 Profitable Lifetime Index (PLI) barrier and up 35 points since April, Jersey sire DJ Lix is a Q Lor son who descends from a high milk production maternal line in Denmark. Lix's proof combines solid production with strong udders and good fitness traits.

The number-one Jersey bull from Denmark also offers quality production and is ideal for producers wanting to improve components.

He transmits a massive +0.35% fat and +0.18% protein. Lix's dam is a tremendous animal averaging in four lactations, 7,230kg milk at 6.34% fat and 4.34% protein. This yield is mirrored in his grand dam who in six lactations averaged 7,103kg milk at 6.21% fat and 4.10% protein.

A DJ Lix daughter