

More leading genomic Holstein sires gain daughter-proven indexes

Stability in the top spots

Lancashire-based Holstein breeder James Tomlinson is pleased to see some bulls with 'different' sire stacks doing well in the rankings, following the August bull proof run.

text **Rachael Porter**

Lancashire-based producer James Tomlinson enjoys pouring over the latest bull proof run figures. "There are just so many good sires now – and they're all 'up there'. There's little to split the genomic sires on PLI, for example, and they're all very similar. So it's a case of looking closely at the other traits and digging down into the detail," he says.

There's also a degree of stability this time around, particularly in the proven-sire list, which serves to boost the industry's confidence in both rankings. "The majority of the sires in the daughter-proven rankings have performed well in the genomic list. Their names are familiar and it's reassuring to see them up there and doing so well."

Outstanding bull

Gen-I-Beq Lavaman is one such sire and he holds on to his number-one position in the daughter-proven rankings published for Holstein bulls in August – the first under the new AHDB Dairy banner. With a PLI of £615, he transmits a correct balance of production that raises milk solids, together with good daughter fitness.

"He's interesting because he's a sire who



James Tomlinson: "Supersire is extremely difficult to overlook"

is popular for use in spring-calving herds, yet here he is at the top of the list with a PLI that you'd assume was more suited to high input systems. I think he's an outstanding bull," says James, who runs the 260-cow Bilsrow herd, based near Preston, in partnership with his parents David and Sheila and his wife Eleanor.

A new entry in second place, De-Su Ransom, whose early daughter information from the US contributes to his PLI of £595, also caught James' eye. He combines high lifespan (+0.7) and daughter Fertility Index (+10.3) with solid production. "And he's a Robust son from

a Ramos, which makes his sire stack looks interesting – he's a bit different. So I'll take a closer look at him and we may add him to our AI flask."

Ransom pushes April's number-two sire, Prehen Omen, into third place, now with a PLI of £582. UK-bred Omen's high milk solids protein percentage, at +0.16, is impressive. "For me, he's very much out of the same mould as Classic and Manifold – they're all similar and score less than 1.0 for type," says James.

Fourth place is occupied by Kings-Ransom Erdman, whose continuing improvement for daughter Lifespan Index sees him rank with the best of the breed for this trait at +0.7. He improves his PLI to £561. And he's another sire that James is excited about. "Again, his breeding is slightly different to many of the other tops bulls. He's a Planet son from a Ramos, producing daughters with a slightly sickled legs and he's minus two for stature. But looking at all his scores, he's a really good all rounder."

Stand-out sire

Climbing into the top 10 to take seventh place is a popular sire of sons who started his career as a high genomic young bull, Seagull-Bay Supersire. "He's the stand-out bull for me in the whole list," says James, adding that he used him – and his sons – as a genomic sire. "I've daughters due to calve at Christmas and I'm looking forward to seeing how they milk."

When it comes to milk and solids production, Supersire certainly leads the rankings by a mile, with +908kg milk, +37.2kg fat and +27.7kg protein. He

Amax rc



Gran-J Oman McCormick



name	sire	mat. grandsire	supplier	production						functional traits					conformation			
				rel.	milk	kg fat	kg protein	% fat	% protein	EPLI	maint.	SCC	lifespan	fertility ind.	dCE	F&L	udder	TM
Gen-I-Beq Lavaman	Man-O-Man	Goldwyn	Semex	95	+338	+20.9	+23.1	+0.09	+0.15	615	-4	-4	0.1	12.8	1.9	1.56	1.19	1.39
De-Su Ransom	Robust	Ramos	TAG UK	76	+259	+18.2	+14.9	+0.10	+0.08	595	12	-16	0.7	10.3	1.3	2.35	1.45	2.03
Prehen Omen	O Man	Goldwyn	Bullsemen.com	96	+243	+22.1	+21.0	+0.15	+0.16	582	6	-11	0.4	8.4	1.5	0.94	0.71	0.82
Kings-Ransom Erdman	Planet	Ramos	Bullsemen.com	85	+468	+21.9	+14.4	+0.04	-0.01	561	-19	-17	0.7	9.5	1.2	0.70	0.33	0.50
Mainstream Manifold	O Man	BW Marshall	Semex	99	+769	+31.0	+25.5	+0.01	+0.01	535	13	-9	0.3	12.3	1.4	-0.99	0.95	0.29
Laurelhill Classic	O Man	Laudan	Genus	95	+312	+11.3	+15.9	-0.01	+0.07	530	10	-15	0.6	15.8	1.4	-0.41	0.53	0.33
Seagull-Bay Supersire	Robust	Planet	Cogent	85	+908	+37.2	+27.7	+0.02	-0.02	527	10	-6	0.4	2.8	0.9	1.06	1.51	1.55
Roylane Flex	Beacon	O Man	Semex	81	+339	+17.9	+17.4	+0.06	+0.08	527	3	-11	0.3	10.6	1.1	1.45	1.38	1.71
Gran-J Oman McCormick	O Man	Durham	Genus	99	-84	+19.0	+4.9	+0.29	+0.10	524	-3	-13	0.2	19.5	0.7	1.23	0.58	0.99
No-Fla Alta Everglade	Massey	O Man	Alta	82	+378	+25.3	+19.4	+0.13	+0.09	517	22	-9	0.3	10.7	2.0	1.44	0.59	0.91

genomic sires																			
Sandy-Valley-I Penmanship	Enforcer	Número Uno	Semex	67	+665	+31.0	+27.4	+0.06	+0.07	743	17	-17	0.7	12.0	0.8	1.96	1.64	2.01	
Stantons Checkers	Predestine	Freddie	Semex	66	+250	+29.9	+13.8	+0.25	+0.07	677	-2	-16	0.7	10.3	1.8	2.38	1.84	2.35	
De-Su Firewall	Jackman	Shamrock	Semex	67	+298	+26.5	+14.8	+0.18	+0.06	669	-9	-25	0.6	11.1	1.3	1.09	1.95	2.04	
Topcroft Pesky Trix	Pesky	Iota	Genus	67	+306	+27.0	+19.5	+0.18	+0.12	660	6	-18	0.4	11.6	0.8	1.70	1.72	2.17	
Comestar Loic	Flame	Sudan	Semex	67	+397	+35.8	+23.7	+0.24	+0.13	657	18	-11	0.4	9.1	0.5	0.85	1.01	1.03	
Pes009 Boardshop	Enforcer	Bookem	Semex	67	+593	+25.7	+23.2	+0.03	+0.05	657	6	-19	0.6	11.9	1.2	1.88	1.49	1.85	
Apina Nadal	Rocky	Goliath	Genus	67	+458	+34.0	+21.3	+0.19	+0.08	652	14	-16	0.5	8.8	0.8	1.84	1.96	2.25	
De-Su 12272 Apex	Cashcoin	Número Uno	Genus	67	+474	+18.7	+14.0	+0.00	-0.02	648	-16	-32	0.7	11.8	1.4	0.93	2.25	2.26	
De-Su 11756 Octavian	Número Uno	Bookem	Genus	68	+767	+35.7	+25.8	+0.06	+0.01	637	15	-29	0.5	6.8	-0.4	1.16	1.63	1.77	
Amax rc	Aikman	Pioneer	Mastergen	67	+479	+29.5	+22.0	+0.13	+0.08	630	0	-22	0.4	3.7	1.3	2.83	1.66	2.20	

Table 1: Top 10 daughter-proven and top 10 genomic sires available in the UK ranked on PLI (source: DairyCo breeding+ and Holstein UK)

manages to combine this with solid fitness figures resulting in a PLI of £527. “He is absolutely tremendous and extremely difficult to over look,” adds James.

Sharing seventh place is Beacon son, Roylane Flex. Flex improves his PLI thanks to gains to his daughter fertility and conformation traits.

Genomic leader

Genomic young sires now account for more than 40% of all black-and-white inseminations in the UK. Sitting in the top spot is Canadian-bred Sandy-Valley-I Penmanship, who is 66 EPLI points ahead

of his closest rival. This Enforcer son, from a Número Uno dam, transmits a combination of high production with outstanding daughter lifespan (+0.7) and fertility (+12.0), which sees his PLI continue to move upwards and now reach £743. With figures based largely on his own DNA together with an element of his parents’ performance, it is the latter which has improved during the past few months. “He’s a clear PLI leader, but I can’t use him on my herd due to his pedigree. That would be a shame if it weren’t for the fact that there are so many other really good sires to choose from,” says James.

Second ranking Stantons Checkers (Predestine x Freddie) is one of four newcomers to the top 10, making his debut with a PLI of £677, a particularly high percentage fat (+0.25%) and a high Lifespan Index (+0.7). He also scores favourably for maintenance (-2), indicating his progeny require less feed than average for their own maintenance and he is the highest type transmitter in the top 10. “And I may use him on our herd. I need to dig a little deeper into his pedigree and mull it over. But there’s no doubt that he’s a great sire and he does have a different sire stack, so I am tempted by his figures.”

Topcroft Pesky Trix, who moves into fourth position with a PLI of £660, has really captured James’ attention. The highest UK-bred sire and from a pure British cow family, he offers solid production and superb fitness and is backed by a family that is chalking up high lifetime yields and maintaining its fertility.

“He’s a sire that I’ll definitely use. He’s from a really good cow family and because he’s UK-bred, he’s ‘tried and tested’ – we know his daughters will perform in UK-based herds.”

Boardshop holds his PLI at £657 and shares fifth place with newcomer, Comestar Loic (Flame x Sudan), whose breeding pattern is notable for its high milk components. |



Han Hopman