

Proven and genomic 'movers and shakers' create interest in new bull lists

Too close to call

Lancashire-based Holstein breeder and former NMR/RABDF Gold Cup finalist James Tomlinson tells us what's grabbed his attention in the latest December sire rankings, in both the daughter-proven and genomic lists.

text **Rachael Porter**

There are plenty of 'new entries' in the proven and genomic sire rankings to catch the eye in the latest proof run, according to Lancashire-based producer James Tomlinson.

And he says that some including the new number-one Holstein Kings-Ransom Erdman, who heads the AHDB Dairy proven list, are worth a closer look more than others. James has used Erdman on his herd: "And he just keeps on improving, which is why he's made it to the top," he says. "I have cows in calf to this sire – one of the best daughter-proven bulls of the breed for transmitting longer lifespan. And he also excels for daughter fertility, with an index of +12.4, and reduces cell counts, with a score of -18."

Transmitting smaller than average stature to his daughters, this Planet son out of a Ramos dam also scores well for reducing the costs of maintenance (Maintenance Index -19), all of which earns him a Profitable Lifetime Index of £603.

"He's a good all rounder and I think he's a great choice for commercial producers." Erdman edges ahead of the former number one daughter-proven sire, Gen-



James Tomlinson: "There are so many to choose from – producers can be picky"

I-Beq Lavaman, whose index continues to feature an impressive Predicted Transmitting Ability (PTA) for protein at 23.1kg based on 163 UK daughters milking. His PLI remains high at £599. De-Su Ransom retains third position with a PLI of £591 and is the highest of many Roylane Socra Robust sons to feature near the top of the rankings. "But for me there's just not enough milk. But he's still an excellent sire," says James.

Co-Op Robust Cabriolet is another son of Robust and, as a new entrant in fourth position, he is the highest ranking of five sires which were offered last proof run

with genomic indexes and are making their debut in the top 10. Features of Cabriolet's December index include outstanding milk solids, with a PTA for fat of +29.8kg. With a PLI of £573 he exactly confirms the genomic index he earned as a young sire. "But, again, for me this sire falls down on somatic cell count score – he's +2 – and I won't use any sires that are plus on SCC. He does have extremely high milk though, at 547kg."

Rounding off the top five and climbing from 10th position is the Massey son, No-Fla Alta Everglade, who is the highest top 10 daughter fertility improver with a FI of +14.0. His PLI is £570. "This is a significant climb and I think it's because of his fertility score. But I do have concerns about his cow family. I've said before that I won't use any sires with a dam that is anything less than VG. It's important to me and, in past proof runs, I've flagged up sires with G and G+ dams and, interesting, they don't stay around."

Genomic graduates

The ones to watch, and that really excited James this time around, are full brothers Cashcoin and Cashmoney (Observer x Goldwyn), rank eighth and ninth with PLIs of £545 and £543 respectively. Both have graduated from the genomic young sire list and both also transmit strong type, with Type Merit scores released by Holstein UK today at +2.62 and +2.82.

"I used them as genomic sires and they're both the highest on type – by a mile – in the top 10."

Looking to the genomic rankings and James says that, again, producers will be

Gen-I-Beq Lavaman



No-Fla Alta Everglade



| name | sire | mat. grandsire | supplier | production | | | | | | functional traits | | | | | conformation | | | |
|---------------------------|------------|-----------------|----------------------|------------|------|--------|------------|-------|-----------|-------------------|--------|-----|----------|----------------|--------------|-------|-------|-------|
| | | | | rel. | milk | kg fat | kg protein | % fat | % protein | £PLI | maint. | SCC | lifespan | fertility ind. | dCE | F&L | udder | TM |
| proven sires | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Kings-Ransom Erdman | Planet | Ramos | Bullsemen.com | 85 | +490 | +23.0 | +15.4 | +0.04 | -0.01 | 603 | -19 | -18 | 0.7 | 12.4 | 1.1 | 0.40 | 0.27 | 0.36 |
| Gen-I-Beq Lavaman | Man-O-Man | Goldwyn | Semex | 96 | +359 | +19.6 | +23.1 | +0.07 | +0.14 | 599 | -2 | -4 | 0.1 | 13.8 | 1.4 | 1.13 | 1.14 | 1.19 |
| De-Su Ransom | Robust | Ramos | TAG UK | 81 | +177 | +15.4 | +13.7 | +0.11 | +0.10 | 591 | 9 | -17 | 0.7 | 10.9 | 1.4 | 2.46 | 0.98 | 1.70 |
| Co-Op Robust Cabriolet | Robust | Planet | Bullsemen.com | 81 | +547 | +29.8 | +21.2 | +0.10 | +0.04 | 573 | -13 | 2 | 0.5 | 6.6 | 1.6 | 1.16 | 1.07 | 1.13 |
| No-Fla Alta Everglade | Massey | O Man | Alta Genetics | 82 | +376 | +25.7 | +19.1 | +0.13 | +0.08 | 570 | 20 | -13 | 0.3 | 14.0 | 1.9 | 1.38 | 0.62 | 0.92 |
| Co-Op Rb Obsr Indy | Observer | Ramos | Bullsemen.com | 82 | +513 | +12.4 | +16.3 | -0.09 | +0.00 | 553 | -1 | -29 | 0.5 | 12.3 | 1.1 | 1.15 | 1.29 | 1.48 |
| United-Pride Erdman Evan | Erdman | Wizard | AI Services NI | 78 | +514 | +21.7 | +17.7 | +0.02 | +0.01 | 546 | -20 | -16 | 0.5 | 11.1 | 0.3 | -0.45 | 0.08 | -0.22 |
| Farnear-Tbr-Bh Cashcoin | Observer | Goldwyn | King Street/Molecare | 79 | +505 | +19.1 | +15.0 | -0.01 | -0.02 | 545 | -12 | -15 | 0.5 | 7.9 | 1.7 | 1.82 | 2.42 | 2.62 |
| Farnear-Tbr-Bh Cashmoney | Observer | Goldwyn | King Street/WFE | 77 | +288 | +16.6 | +12.1 | +0.06 | +0.03 | 543 | — | -19 | 0.5 | 8.3 | 0.5 | 2.64 | 2.39 | 2.82 |
| Prehen Omen | O Man | Goldwyn | Bullsemen.com | 96 | +177 | +19.8 | +19.1 | +0.16 | +0.17 | 541 | 6 | -8 | 0.4 | 7.9 | 1.3 | 0.89 | 0.71 | 0.82 |
| genomic sires | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Sandy-Valley-I Penmanship | Enforcer | Número Uno | Semex | 67 | +637 | +29.0 | +26.2 | +0.05 | +0.07 | 724 | 17 | -17 | 0.7 | 12.3 | 0.4 | 1.89 | 1.59 | 1.91 |
| Stantons Checkers | Predestine | Freddie | Semex | 67 | +129 | +25.3 | +11.2 | +0.25 | +0.09 | 683 | -2 | -16 | 0.8 | 11.8 | 1.6 | 2.48 | 1.85 | 2.41 |
| Apina Nadal | Rocky | Goliath | Genus | 67 | +485 | +33.8 | +22.3 | +0.18 | +0.08 | 682 | 15 | -16 | 0.6 | 9.3 | 0.6 | 1.95 | 1.98 | 2.32 |
| No-Fla Junket | Balisto | Levi | Genus | 67 | +282 | +24.0 | +15.8 | +0.16 | +0.08 | 674 | 8 | -28 | 0.6 | 11.1 | 1.8 | 2.58 | 1.61 | 2.28 |
| Topcroft Pesky Trix | Pesky | Iota | Genus | 67 | +301 | +25.7 | +19.9 | +0.17 | +0.12 | 665 | 6 | -19 | 0.4 | 11.9 | 0.4 | 1.66 | 1.71 | 2.14 |
| Peak Alta Firebird | Camaro | Robust | Alta | 67 | +514 | +28.3 | +20.2 | +0.10 | +0.04 | 660 | — | -16 | 0.7 | 11.5 | 0.7 | 1.73 | 1.47 | 1.84 |
| Ballycairn Darius | Racer | Brigeen Russell | Genus | 67 | +219 | +20.4 | +14.9 | +0.15 | +0.10 | 649 | 2 | -22 | 0.5 | 14.1 | 1.7 | 1.67 | 1.52 | 1.94 |
| De-Su 12365 Endeavor | Tango | Shamrock | Genus | 67 | +533 | +33.0 | +19.5 | +0.14 | +0.03 | 649 | 0 | -14 | 0.6 | 9.9 | 1.1 | 1.36 | 1.79 | 2.02 |
| Comestar Loic | Flame | Sudan | Semex | 67 | +397 | +35.4 | +23.7 | +0.24 | +0.13 | 649 | 9 | -11 | 0.4 | 9.1 | 0.2 | 0.78 | 1.15 | 1.13 |
| Cogent Peak Alex | Bettman | Número Uno | Cogent | 67 | +156 | +21.4 | +14.9 | +0.19 | +0.12 | 648 | 9 | -26 | 0.6 | 9.7 | 0.9 | 2.16 | 2.12 | 2.44 |

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

hard pushed to pick between them. Every one of the new top 10 sires not only transmits outstanding health and fertility but they also offering positive milk quality.

The bull which does this better than any other is Sandy-Valley-I Penmanship (Enforcer x Número Uno), who retains his number one position with a PLI of £724. “As PLIs go, that’s massive and miles ahead of any other sire,” says James.

Impressive PLI

With high protein production (+26.2kg) among his many virtues he remains the only sire to break the £700 barrier.

“I’ve used a lot of Shottle sires on my herd already, so unfortunately I can’t use him.

“But I am spoilt for choice in the top 20 in the genomic rankings. There are some excellent bulls, so I can be picky.”

Also unchanged in second position is Stantons Checkers (Predestine x Freddie) whose Lifespan Index of +0.8 is the best of the breed. But it’s the third-position sire – Apina Nadal (Rocky x Goliath), who combines one of the highest PTAs for weight of fat with solid daughter fitness, who has caught James’ eye. “I’m definitely going to take a closer look at him and his pedigree. And I may add him to my AI flask,” he says.

The highest British-bred sire Topcroft Pesky Trix (Pesky x Alta Iota), with a PLI of £665 and who remains in fifth place, is another bull that James is watching, not

least because he’s already used him on his herd. “I think it’s important to have a British-bred bull from a British cow family.”

The top 10 is rounded off by three sires that share equal positions. De-Su 11756 Octavian, All Nure Uno Placebo and De-Su Firewall each have a PLI of £643. Octavian has the best SCC index of the top 10 sires (-30); Placebo transmits the highest type of the top £PLI bulls (Type Merit +2.46); and Firewall excels for fitness, type and fertility across the board.

“I’ve already used Octavian and I’m looking to buy more. And I’m definitely enquiring about some Placebo semen too. They’re both Número Uno sons and I like their sire stacks,” says James. |

Farnear-Tbr-Bh Cashcoin



Peak Alta Firebird

