LIVESTOCK BULL PROOFS

The latest bull proofs, published this week by AHDB Dairy, include changes in standings and the launch of three new genetic evaluations. Farmers Guardian takes a closer look.

New number one bull replaces long-term Holstein leader

Gen-1-Beg Lavaman edged into second place

A new number one bull in the shape of the Morgan son, Mocon, has taken its place in the proven Holstein sire rankings.

Mocon is a German-bred maternal grandson of Snowman and its predicted transmitting ability (PTA) features high milk production (826kg), low somatic cell counts (-23) and a favourable maintenance index (-22).

It earns a Profitable Lifetime Index (PLI) of £889.

In taking the number one position, Mocon ousts long-term leader Gen-1-Beg Lavaman (PLI £884) into second position.

Performance

Places three to seven are taken by bulls which have all featured previously in the top ten and whose daughter performance continues to support their impressive indexes.

In third position is S-S-I Shamrock Mystic (£654 PLI). It is followed by the high (30.6kg) protein sire, De-Su 11236 Balleto, whose progeny also display greater TB resistance than their cohorts.

View-Home Littlerock ranks fifth (PLI £646), followed in joint sixth position by Teemar Shamrock Alphabrot and VH Cole Clark (PLI £630).

Maintenance

Both Alphabrot and Clark have favourable maintenance indexes (-22), long daughter lifespan (+0.8) and good daughter fertility (+18.5 and +21.2, respectively).

New in eighth place is Larcrost Command, whose PLI is £633, while ninth ranking Co-op Robust Cabriulet (£528 PLI) transmits the highest weight of fat in the top 10 PLI sires at 38.9kg.

Cabriulet also features an impressive 4.8 per cent improvement for the newly released Calve Survival Index.

Rounding off the daughter-proven top 10 is another new entry, Apina Norman. This former number one genomic young sire also has the highest type merit of the top 10 EPLI sires at +2.15.

What is new in the Holstein indexes?

THREE new genetic evaluations: 
- Leanness advantage (SIS)
- Calf survival (CS)
- The dairy carcass index (BC)

have been launched by AHDB Dairy the April.

Calf survival (CS) has been developed using close to three million animal records from the British Cattle Movement Service, which show calves of some sires are more likely to survive their first 300 days of life than those sired by other bulls.

CS is published on a scale of about -5 to +5. It represents survival between tagging and 300 days. Each percentage point represents a 1 per cent improvement in survival of a bull’s progeny.

Leanness advantage (LA) is calculated directly from on-farm tenderness scores and digital meat scores, as well as carcass indexes of the National Butchery Data Centre type classification system.

LA is published on a scale of about -5 to +5. For each percentage point, 1 per cent fewer cowsheds come in.

Carcass Index (DCI) is primarily based on average daily carcass gain and carcass conformation calculated from weight and age data on most important attributes in the UK.

DCI is published on a scale of about -6 to +6. For each percentage point, an improvement in predicted in both carcass conformation and average daily carcass gain in a bull’s progeny.

CS, LA and DCI are not yet included in EPLI, but a standalone list for all three is published on the AHDB Dairy website.

Top 10 daughter-proven Holstein bulls ranked on EPLI

Top Jersey offers production, fitness and type

THere is a new leader in the top five Jersey bulls ranked on PLI.

This number one bull is Danish VJ Blajka Jason Janiko, whose PLI of 597 reflects good fitness traits, balance and calving ease. Janiko also has a high type merit score at +14.

Second to fifth ranked Jerseys are all bulls which have previously been featured in the top five, including production improver Danish VJ Tuved.

Dazzler to third is GCK Vivaldi (PLI 554), while fourth place stays with Sunset Canyon Dazzler (PLI 535).

Dazzler is also the top udder improver and joint top for Type Merit in the top five (TM 16). In fifth place is VJ Link (PLI 530).

The Auvergne breed is dominated by red and white bulls from Sweden and sees VR Gunnarstorp Back Gobeli (£527) unchanged in the number one position.

Moving from fourth to second...