The Bulletin.

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*May 2026 data

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Geoff Corbett
GM NZ Markets

Introduction

Kia ora koutou, welcome to this Winter edition of The Bulletin

As we settle into a new season, it's great to see the 25/26 mating performance sitting so closely to the previous year's record figures. At the time of writing, from 2.6 million spring-calving cows, the six-week in-calf rate is sitting at 70.4% which is a slight improvement on the previous season's 70.2%, and a testament to the focus and resilience of dairy farmers across the country.

Farmers are also continuing to use tools like sexed semen to improve their herd. Suzanne and Maurice from Bristol Grove Dairies in Southland are a great example of what's possible when sexed semen genetics are combined with focused mating management and the strategic use of dairy beef. Their fifth-generation farm is using a deliberate breeding strategy to accelerate genetic gain, tighten herd fertility and make every mating work harder. You can read more about their story on page 12

That same focus on purposeful breeding and long-term progress was also reflected at our annual Breeders' Day, where we had the opportunity to connect with many of our breeders and recognise their outstanding contribution to the New Zealand dairy sector.

Their efforts reflect years, and often generations, of careful breeding decisions, dedication, and commitment to continually improving the national herd.

The NZDIA Awards were another positive reflection of the industry's momentum and the opportunities ahead. It was inspiring to see so many young people stepping forward with innovation and a clear passion for the future of New Zealand dairy farming.

We hope you enjoy this issue, and we look forward to working alongside you throughout the season ahead.

Ngaa mihi
Geoff Corbett

Genetic gain

Why bull team movement isn't a bad thing

Izzy Willison
Head of Genetics

In the past, a bull could sit comfortably in a team for several years with little change, but today, that's no longer the case.

Bulls move in and out of our teams more frequently than they used to, and that movement can sometimes raise questions about the strength of the overall team. In reality, movement reflects the faster pace of genetic progress and more precise selection tools shaping today's herds.

The speed of genetic gain

The rate of genetic progress in the New Zealand dairy sector has accelerated significantly over the past decade. Tools such as genomic testing, improved data collection, and more sophisticated evaluation systems mean we can identify an animal's genetic merit earlier and with greater accuracy than ever before.

Through our GeneMark® Genomics service, more than two million animals have been genotyped. This enables farmers to make more informed breeding decisions by identifying superior genetics in their herd at a younger age. While some breeding values go up and some go down, the outcome is a more accurate prediction of an animal's genetic potential.

More data means more clarity

New Zealand has one of the most comprehensive dairy genomic databases in the world. Milk production, fertility, health and conformation traits, longevity, calving difficulty, and efficiency data flow in from herds nationwide every season, and when combined with genomic information, this creates an incredibly powerful picture of an animal's true breeding worth.

With multiple genetic evaluations released each year, new data continually feeds into the New Zealand Animal Evaluation (NZAEL) model. This ongoing stream of information provides sharper insight into how bulls rank relative to their peers, and in a rapidly advancing genetic landscape, even a very good bull can quickly be surpassed by an even better one.

As more phenotypic and genomic data flow into NZAEL, rankings continue to shift, emphasising the importance of using a team of genomic bulls rather than relying on the traits of a single animal.

Equally important is the size and quality of the candidate pool. Genomic testing has greatly expanded the number of young bulls that can be accurately assessed each year, increasing competition among top sires for a place in the team. Twenty years ago, selection decisions were made with less information and a smaller pool of candidates. Now, the intensity of selection has increased, which means our bull teams are more refined to reflect the very best genetics available.

Protecting farmer progress

More frequent movement within bull teams reflects the industry's focus on maximising herd improvement, shortening generation intervals, and accelerating efficiency gains.

If we left bulls in teams because they were 'good enough', genetic progress would slow, so by actively reviewing and updating teams as new data emerges, we ensure farmers are always accessing the strongest possible lineup.

Faster bull team turnover also reflects a high-performing, data-driven breeding programme. It signals that genetic gain is accelerating, selection pressure is strong, the benchmark for excellence keeps rising and farmers are receiving the best available genetics each season.

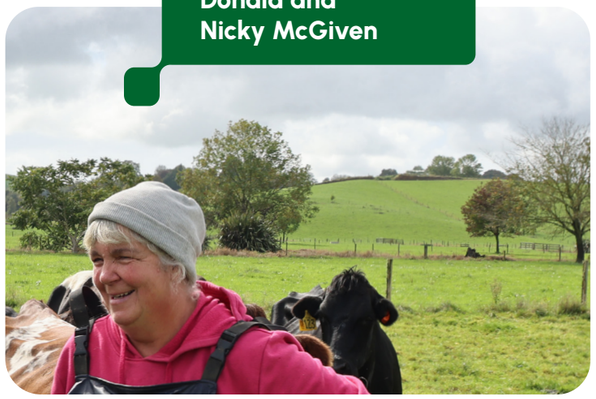
The New Zealand dairy sector operates in a competitive global market where efficiency, sustainability, and productivity matters more than ever. Rapid genetic advancement is one of the most powerful tools farmers have to meet those challenges.

When bulls move out of a team today, it's rarely because they weren't good or the team is underperforming. More often, it's because something even better has emerged, backed by stronger data, higher reliability, and greater confidence for Kiwi dairy farmers.

Keeping it going:

How MINDA® integration capabilities are helping Donald and Nicky stay in dairying

For Donald and Nicky McGiven, their focus is on staying on the land for as long as they can, and ensuring the workload remains sustainable as they do.



Donald and Nicky McGiven

On their 62-hectare farm in Ōtorohanga, Donald and Nicky use the integration capabilities in MINDA® to reduce day-to-day workload, helping them keep farming on their own terms.

The couple run a pasture-based crossbred herd with a peak number of 170 cows, milking twice a day. A worker covers the morning milking and Nicky is in the shed in the afternoons.

The farm has been part of Donald's life for decades. He grew up there in the 1960s, and after a career change, the couple bought the farm in the early 1990s.

They ran it through to the early 2000s before moving back to town, returning in 2013 after a decade with contract milkers in place - a move Nicky says surprised some.

"Everyone thought we were coming back to a lifestyle block."

With their four adult children settled in town and no immediate plans for the farm to change hands. Nicky says the focus is on keeping the operation manageable for themselves.

"This is our retirement. We're not looking to sell up. We want to stay on the farm, but in a way that works for us."

Reducing the work

That thinking has shaped how they've brought technology into the business.

Rather than relying on a single system, Donald and Nicky utilise MINDA for their herd recording and make use of the integration capabilities to help manage milkings, matings, animal health and compliance.

They are currently sharing their MINDA data with Fonterra, MilkHub® and CowManager®, and are also using SenseHub® Dairy for on-farm livestock monitoring.

"If a job's getting hard, we try to figure out a way to make it easier. We're all about making things simpler so we can keep going," Donald says.

That mindset has led to steady changes over time, particularly around mating and herd management. CowManager has been part of their system for several years, and this season they moved fully away from tail paint, choosing instead to rely on wearable data.

"If a job's getting hard, we try to figure out a way to make it easier. We're all about making things simpler so we can keep going," Donald says.

The result was a simpler process and a lower empty rate.

Donald says it's cut about half of his labour around mating. "I'm not out there tail painting or trying to pick cows in the paddock - it's taken a whole chunk of that work away."

Moving away from natural-mating bulls has also taken pressure off from a management and safety perspective.

"Bulls are hard work. You're always managing them, keeping them where they need to be. Not having them on farm just makes things easier."

One source of truth

The gains don't come from one big change, but from removing the need to do the same job twice.

For Donald and Nicky, that comes down to using MINDA as a central hub and making the most of the integration capabilities to keep information flowing into the systems they use every day.

"Inseminations, pregnancy, removals come through. Natural increase, tagging - everything comes through MINDA."

Instead of entering the same information across multiple platforms, it's recorded once and shared automatically, often done on the go.

Nicky says they have found the integrations in MINDA just work. "You can use it on your phone, and that makes a big difference when you're out in the paddock. You don't have to put the numbers in twice or re-enter anything - it's all just done."

Donald says on a smaller farm, that reduction in workload makes a real difference.

"Labour is expensive when you spread it across fewer cows. We've found running with integrations is the way we can make it work and still get a return on the property."

That same flow of information also supports compliance. Through their integration with Fonterra Farm Dairy Records (FDR), key data is already where it needs to be for reporting, without extra admin.

"It saves a lot of time. You're not going back and trying to pull everything together – it's already there."

Having everything flowing through MINDA has also improved the accuracy of their records and made day-to-day management simpler.

"When someone needs to see your records, everything's there," Nicky says. "Otherwise, you'd be fossicking around in paper trying to find things."

Working through a challenge

That clarity has been particularly valuable this season, as the couple work through mastitis challenges in the herd.

MINDA®

Getting on top of somatic cell count and identifying problem cows has

been a major focus this season. They've introduced additional monitoring tools to understand what's happening within the herd and how to manage it long-term.

Catching those changes early has helped them act sooner, even when cows don't show obvious signs.

"It might look fine in the paddock, but if our animal monitoring systems are telling you something's not right, you can draft her out and check."

Those early alerts, combined with accurate records in MINDA, help build a clearer picture over time.

Nicky says their vets are also using MINDA reports to help identify patterns, flag problem cows and support decisions around treatment and culling.

"They print out the graphs and go through it with us - you can actually see where the problems are sitting."

What comes next

Looking ahead, Donald and Nicky are interested in taking integration further.

One area Donald says they are particularly interested in is connecting MINDA with their MilkHub drafting system. Being able to draft directly from MINDA into their existing set-up would remove another layer of manual input and reduce the workload even further.

"If we can get everything talking to each other properly, that's the next step. The more MINDA does, the better off we are."

At one point, the couple thought the future might involve stepping back into a simpler beef system. Now, they see things differently.

"We thought we'd go down to beef slowly. But with the technology, this is easier than running beef."

"Milking cows is still our future, because all the infrastructure is now set up for efficiency."

For their farm, Donald says it comes back to one thing.

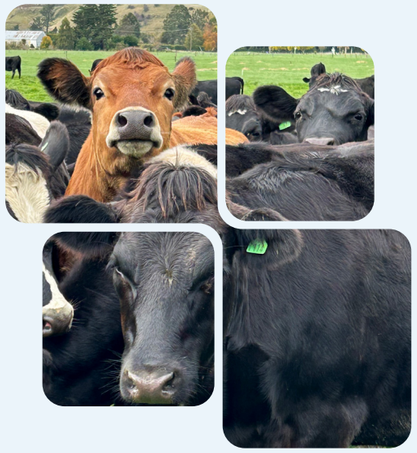
"Survivability is our main objective. And integrations are key to keeping the work manageable for us."

On a farm that has been part of their lives for so long, that matters - not just for the time saved, but for the ability to keep farming on their own terms.

"Milking cows is still our future, because all the infrastructure is now set up for efficiency."

Colleen and John Neustroski:

Decades of genetic improvement



In the heart of Southland, Colleen and John Neustroski have built their herd through decades of deliberate decisions.

With a focus on long term performance rather than short term gains, they have bred better cows, year after year. Today, their 585 cow herd ranks in the top 1% in New Zealand for BW, a measure that reflects both the discipline behind their approach and their commitment to genetic improvement.

That same long-term mindset has guided an impressive growth journey. In 1993, Colleen and John moved to Southland after sharemilking 300 cows near Te Aroha in the Waikato. Over time, they steadily expanded cow numbers and purchased several small neighbouring farms before acquiring their current 169-hectare property, Kahikatea Dairy, in 2006.

Developed through long-term use of LIC's Premier Sires® bull teams, their herd is predominantly crossbred and runs on a grass-first system, producing an impressive 305,000–310,000kgMS this year, or approximately 1,800kgMS/ha.

Colleen says maintaining that performance comes back to sticking with a breeding strategy they trust.

"We've always used the bull team. Only a handful of bulls make the cut into LIC's Premier Sire teams from hundreds, so we trust the process and it's paid off for us.

"Some nominate for certain traits, but using a team means we know we're getting great bulls that have strong traits and aren't leaning too heavily in one direction.

"We started using Jersey genetics over our yearlings for calving ease and to build numbers, but over the years good calving ease KiwiCross® bulls became available, and this has given us a great range for our system."

While genetics play a key role, Colleen says disciplined culling has been a big driver of their progress.

"Culling, done correctly, has been huge for us. We rear extra replacements so we can be tough on empties and any wastage. That way we can cull on production traits, not just necessity."

An analysis of their herd improvement plan with LIC several years ago revealed that lower BW heifers were coming from older cows, and Colleen says this insight helped sharpen their approach to culling.

"We took this insight on board, and since then, anything over eight years old leaves the herd to ensure replacements come from our best performers - which has made a real difference."

This selection pressure has been enabled by excellent reproduction performance which has helped their herd's performance steadily lift year after year.

While wintering cows only on grass and silage is rare in Southland, John says they have found a system that works well for them.

"For the last 16 or so years, our cows have only been on grass and silage wintering, no crops at all. We're lucky that we have a property for our wintering that suits our system."

Their approach centres on keeping cows fully fed and comfortable to prevent condition loss, while also actively managing the risk of the herd becoming over conditioned. Strategic use of grain in the spring and careful winter feeding with grass and silage help to protect condition and support the herd's performance through calving.

Technology also has a key role in how the Neustroskis make breeding and management decisions, and they have steadily incorporated tools that give them greater clarity and confidence.

Colleen says one of the most notable has been GeneMark® Genomics.

"DNA parentage has been quite critical for us. We're now 100% ancestry-recorded, which gives us confidence we're keeping the right calf from the right cow."

This parentage certainty ensures their best cows continue to drive progress in the herd and removes the guesswork that can quietly erode genetic gain.

Colleen says heat detection is another area where simple technology adds real value. Heat patches are used annually as a "safety net".

"You still have to interpret the signs, but they're helpful when you can't watch everything. They give us confidence around timing, especially during busy periods when constant watching isn't possible."

Short gestation semen has also become an essential part of their system, helping them tighten the calving spread and manage late calvers more effectively.

"Short gestation length semen has been a great tool for late calvers. We go to a lot of trouble to make sure those calves are separated so they aren't accidently reared."

This discipline reflects Colleen and John's wider attention to detail across the farm, with every mating decision being intentional.

Alongside genetics and reproduction, Colleen says they've made steady progress in animal health, particularly somatic cell count (SCC).

"We've been looking really hard at cell count, and have always done at least four herd tests a year."

"When we consider our SCC levels, 150,000 was fine years ago - now we like to sit around 50,000–75,000."

Regular herd testing, combined with their recently upgraded mastitis testing machine, gives them the information they need to make quick, accurate treatment decisions. John says, the impact has been clear: "Last spring, we didn't find a single case of mastitis until mid October."

Despite the added technology, Colleen says the fundamentals still matter most.

"The cows will look after you if you look after them. Feed them properly, breed them well and don't cut corners."

By trusting proven genetics, applying disciplined culling and using technology to support on-farm decision making, the Neustroskis have built a herd that continues to improve year after year.

"Some nominate for certain traits, but using a team means we know we're getting great bulls that have strong traits and aren't leaning too heavily in one direction."

Colleen and John Neustroski

Maurice and Suzanne Hanning

Breeding with intent:

Realising the value of sexed semen

On a fifth-generation dairy farm near Invercargill, husband-and-wife team Suzanne and Maurice Hanning have reshaped their herd's breeding strategy using fresh sexed semen for the first time across their whole herd.

Milking around 650 cows, Suzanne and Maurice run a predominantly crossbred herd with a slight lean toward Jersey, a balance that reflects both efficiency and adaptability within their system.

For the past five years, the farm has quietly built confidence using sexed semen in its heifers. The results were encouraging - with promising conception rates and a consistent lift in heifer calf numbers. But the real test came this season, when Suzanne says they decided to take the approach across a much larger portion of the herd.

"The in-calf rates we noticed from sexed semen in the heifers were positive. So, we thought, let's actually bite the bullet and try this across the herd."

That decision marked a significant shift, not only in their mating strategy, but in how the farm captures value from every calf born.

A different approach

The new approach was quickly put into action. The first 340 of their cows were inseminated with sexed semen, with the goal of producing around 90% heifer calves from that group. Around 65 lower Production Worth (PW) cows or those with poorer udders, were bred to beef.

It was a calculated split, designed to lift the value of every calf while still accelerating genetic gain within the herd.

By the end of the second week of AB, they had a 64% herd conception rate from using fresh sexed semen. Remaining cows were mated to conventional semen, followed by short gestation Hereford, before Hereford bulls were introduced after six weeks to catch any cows that had been missed.

Suzanne says she worked out the farm would end up with around 300 non-replacement calves.

"We knew if we were going to invest more into our AB we had to make that up somewhere. So, by doubling the value of those calves through breeding beef, that would go a long way toward covering the extra AB cost."

But the strategy isn't just about improvements for this season. By breeding replacements primarily from the most fertile cows, the Hanning's expectation is that herd fertility and calving patterns will continue to tighten over time.

Whether it delivers exactly as expected remains to be seen. But early data shows positive signs with their 6 week in-calf rate up 9% on last year.

Focusing on the basics

Before mating even began, Suzanne says the couple focused on getting the fundamentals right.

"We knew if we were going to invest more into our AB we had to make that up somewhere. So, by doubling the value of those calves through breeding beef, that would go a long way toward covering the extra AB cost."

"We revisited every single detail and aspect of our mating approach to see if there were areas we could do better."

Body condition score was closely monitored through winter, with three-year-olds wintered separately so they could be managed more carefully. Historically, that age group had a lower in-calf rate, so the team focused on ensuring they entered mating in ideal condition.

Other steps included:

- Blood testing to check trace element levels
- Adjusting mineral supplementation, including additional iodine
- Multiple rounds of MetriCheck® testing after calving
- Treating infections early where needed
- Using heat detection patches
- Careful observation of cows before mating

Suzanne says they also implemented a dedicated "picker" system during mating which involved the same person standing on the platform every day for six weeks, identifying cows on heat.

"It sounds tedious, but if you're spending an extra $10,000 on AB, you want to make sure you're mating the right cows."

Short returns were double checked, the herd was drenched with Cydectin in September, and lime flour dusting continued through to Christmas. The Hanning's also started doing Johne's testing about four years ago.

"We stepped up doing the basics really well to support strong conception rates with sexed semen. We prepared everything for mating so the only thing that could influence the in-calf result is the semen itself."

Long-term breeding philosophy

Since converting back to dairying nearly 20 years ago, Suzanne says her and Maurice have consistently focused on improving their herd by culling the bottom and breeding from the best animals.

"The best way to genetically improve your herd is to cull the bottom," she says. "Ever since we've been dairying, we have taken the bottom out continuously. We've done 25% replacements and sold surplus heifer calves."

Over time that steady selection pressure has produced a herd Suzanne describes as "reasonably tidy."

Steeped in more than 150 years of history, she says the farm itself has come full circle over time. "It actually started off as a dairy farm which was converted to sheep and beef in the 60s. Then, somewhat ironically, returned to dairy in 2007/08."

Today, that long history underpins a modern, performance-focused system, one where breeding decisions are increasingly strategic, and every mating carries more intent.

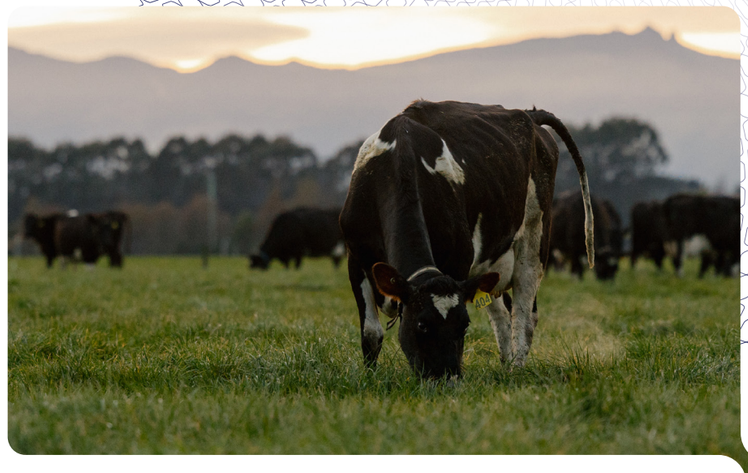
"I like to think that there's a lot of young, up-and-coming farmers that have benefitted from our breeding visions because they've been able to pick up good quality stock for reasonable prices. I'm also very conscious if I'm going to sell an animal, I want to make sure I would milk it myself."

The Hanning's breeding focus has largely centered on Breeding Worth (BW) and trusting national breeding systems to balance multiple traits rather than chasing individual characteristics.

"When you focus too narrowly on one thing, you can lose sight of everything else," she says. "If companies have been focused on breeding for hundreds of years and different people have been working in those companies and trying their best all that time, there can't be too much rubbish left!"

For other farmers thinking about adopting a similar approach, Suzanne stresses that success won't come from just one change.

"It's not a silver bullet," she says. "You have to do lots of little things well, to get the one thing right."



Animal Health

Breaking the BVD cycle

It's estimated that Bovine Viral Diarrhoea (BVD) costs the New Zealand dairy and beef industry more than $150 million every year.

After 25 years of veterinary practice, Andrew Weir joined LIC late last year. He is passionate about helping farmers keep their herds healthy, productive and protected. We sat down with Andrew to discuss the role persistently infected (PI) animals have in BVD spread, and what farmers can do to safeguard their herds.

What is a PI animal and why are they such a problem in BVD spread?

BVD control really comes down to finding and removing PI animals. A PI animal is one that was infected with BVD before it was born, so it carries and spreads the virus for its entire life.

PI animals are extremely efficient at spreading BVD. In my PhD study, for example, one herd of nearly 1,000 cows across three mobs had a single PI milking cow. Within about four months, more than 95% of the susceptible animals had been infected!

The good news is that once PI animals are found and removed, infection typically dies out quickly. The challenge is that pregnant cows can still be carrying infected calves, which restart the cycle once they're born.

It doesn't take much for BVD to find its way into a herd. That could be a pregnant cow having contact with an infected animal over the fence, or contaminated boots, gear or vehicles coming onto the farm. If a PI calf is born and not identified before mating, it can quickly spread infection and create another generation of PI animals. That's why I encourage farmers to test their replacement calves every year.

With spring calving approaching, what practical steps should farmers take now to protect their replacement heifers from BVD?

If BVD isn't active on your farm, it is likely your heifers haven't been exposed to BVD before so are highly susceptible to infection.

If heifers become infected during the first four months of pregnancy, they will either abort or give birth to a PI calf. In severe cases, a

quarter of the heifers can end up empty, or give birth to deformed or PI calves. That's a result no farmer wants, especially during an already busy and stressful time of year.

There are two main ways you can reduce your risk of something like that happening to your herd:

1. Vaccination:

Vaccinating heifers helps protect them against BVD infection and helps prevent PI calves from being produced.

2. BVD-free grazing:

Alternatively, you can arrange grazing on properties where all animals have been tested, including bulls and any beef cattle. It's also important to ensure transport trucks are clean and boundary fences are secure.

Vaccination is straightforward and gives you peace of mind, but as more people test their calves, BVD-free grazing offers an easy alternative to manage, with additional benefits like greater confidence in the health status of your returning animals.

What separates herds that successfully control BVD from those that continue to struggle with it?

Most dairy herds in New Zealand are already doing bulk milk testing, which is an excellent starting point. If that's all you do - and then clear the infection when it comes in from time to time - you're probably getting about half of the benefit compared to a more complete control programme. That alone is a big improvement.

But the farms that tend to stay on top of BVD usually use one or both of the main control tools (herd vaccination, and/or replacement calf screening).

It's usually cheaper to screen calves as you only need to screen replacements, in comparison to vaccinations which need to be done for all adult cows each year. Both approaches work well, and many farmers choose the option that best fits their system.

Beyond local disease control, what wider business benefits come from having confidence in a herd's BVD status?

Many farmers appreciate knowing they are doing the best by their cowsand enjoy a sense of satisfaction from knowing they have a healthy herd. I think that's something we should encourage and be proud of as an industry.

New Zealand has already reduced the number of infected dairy herds significantly from 15% down to just under 5% through bulk milk testing. While this is great news, it's important to point out that these figures have plateaued in recent years, which suggests we need to take further steps if we want to drive infection rates down even more.

Knowing the BVD status of cattle should be important when buying and selling stock. Tools like LIC's MINDA herd improvement software which records a lifetime BVD status, make it easier for farmers to check an animal's history and avoid introducing PI animals into their herd. The BVD Status Pack provides a simple and reliable way to confirm the individual BVD status of every animal in the herd.

If more herds were testing their calves and insisted on buying only BVD-free animals, we could make a real impact and further reduce the amount of BVD in New Zealand.

On-farm snapshot:

Building confidence ahead of mating

After 20 years, Clive Walden and his family have transformed their modest beef block in Northland into an 800-cow dairy operation. Starting with limited equity but a long-term commitment to farming, Clive converted the farm to dairy in 2008, milking 400 cows before steadily expanding the business to its current scale, milking once a day.

A focused breeding strategy underpins the Waldens' crossbred herd, with synchrony, AI and carefully selected bulls helping maximise genetic progress while supporting system efficiency.

Challenge:

For several years, Clive monitored BVD through bulk milk testing, which showed some high antibody levels but no PI animals.

"I wasn't freaking out about BVD as I thought my high antibody levels would prevent me from having a storm of BVD."

That changed when the bulk milk went positive and a PI was found in his herd, followed by the discovery of some PI heifers through blood testing with his vet. At the same time, rising mastitis rates and higher cell counts added to the uncertainty.

To confirm the BVD status of all animals in his herd, Clive recognised the need for a different approach and turned to LIC's BVD Status Pack.

Result:

Since using the Status Pack, Clive's milking herd is now fully BVD tested with individual results uploaded to MINDA. Individually testing all the animals at the herd test, captured one more PI animal in Clive's 3-year-olds, which was quickly removed from the herd. Using this pack not only enabled quick identification of another PI animal but has also provided Clive with confidence that all the remaining animals in the herd are BVD negative.

Recording cows as confirmed non PI has simplified management and reduced the need for repeat testing. "You can't just look at an animal and say, "that's a BVD animal" so when you test an animal for BVD you get that reassurance."

He also sees the Status Pack as a cost effective option, adding, "If you're going to test your herd for BVD, the Status Pack is a really economical way to do it - and you get 100 free tests a year which is a nice bonus."

Clive considers calf testing critical for early detection of PI animals and reducing future risk. "I've got calves being born now that are potentially PIs from last year's mating, because we had a PI in our herd that was likely spreading the virus - something we could have picked up earlier if we'd been using the Status Pack."

Now, using the BVD Status Pack has become part of his long-term animal health strategy, providing a practical and cost-effective approach to managing BVD in his herd.

"It's not a problem, until it is, right? If everything looks fine in your herd, you just keep cruising. But once you spot an issue, it can already be a bit late. Now that we've started using the BVD Status Pack, we wouldn't move away from it."

Izzy Willison
Head of Genetics

Premier Sires

Breeding for efficiency in your system

What type of cow is the best fit for your farm system?

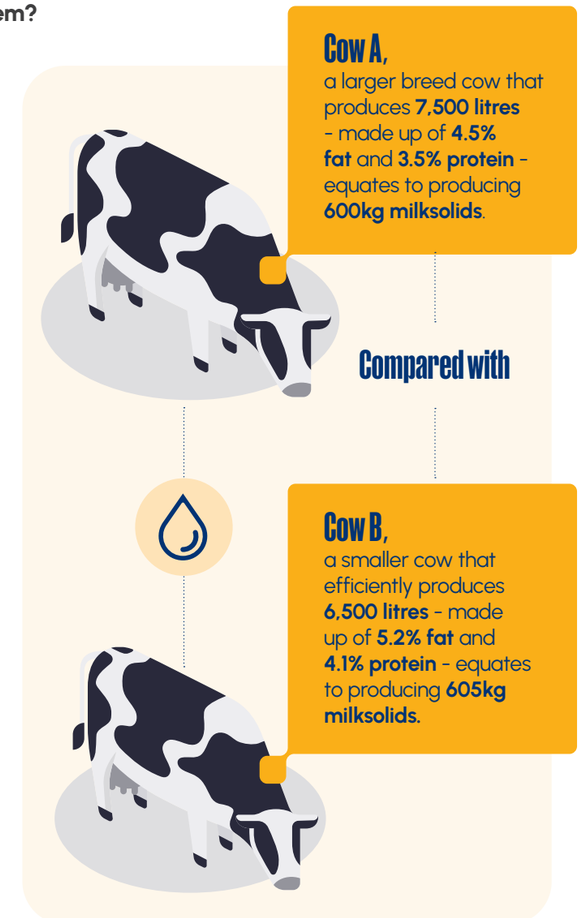
While some international systems reward milk volume and encourage breeding for larger-framed, high-output cows, New Zealand farmers operate under a different set of incentives. Here, the focus shifts to kilograms of milksolids, where efficiency plays an equally important role to production.

Success is often less about total litres and more about producing the **right** litres. A well-balanced, moderate-framed cow that converts feed into fat and protein, calves consistently, has a solid udder overall, and maintains body condition often outperforms a bigger cow when you look at the whole system.

Alongside production, it's important to consider feed supply and fertility. In tighter-feed or pasture-based systems, higher feed demand can place more pressure on body condition, fertility, and overall efficiency. Fertility outcomes are closely linked to how well cows maintain condition throughout the season. Where nutritional demand is harder to meet, reproductive performance can come under pressure. When cows fail to conceive on time, the knock-on effect can be significant. With calving dates shifting later and days in milk being pushed back over years, the milk production gains from larger cows can quickly diminish.

Our bull teams are designed to give farmers options across a range of breeding objectives including strength, capacity and efficiency, alongside fertility. We've been selecting for these traits for decades, ensuring farmers don't have to choose between production and reproduction and instead can breed cows that deliver on all fronts.

Across our Premier Sires teams, you'll see the diversity available to farmers - from sires that add capacity and strength, to those that excel for efficiency, fertility and functional traits. Each bull included in our teams represents a different breeding strategy, recognising that no two farms are identical, and no single type of cow suits every farming system.



Some of the most profitable cows are not the biggest; they're the most efficient converters of feed into milksolids, they get in calf, last in the herd and produce consistently year after year, without demanding exceptional inputs. By breeding cows that suit your farm's feed supply, environment and management style, you're better positioned for long-term profitability.

Kelli Buckley
Livestock Selection Manager

KiwiCross®:

Built to perform

New Zealand dairy herds demand cows that work hard, stay fertile, and last. The KiwiCross® bulls featured here have been selected with exactly that in mind - delivering strong milksolids, reliable fertility, sound udders and the structural balance needed to perform season after season in New Zealand's pasture based systems.

525061 PAPAMOA PIEDMONT

Papamoa Piedmont stands out as one of the highest gBW bulls in the group, combining a gBW of 519 with strong production credentials. He offers +62 kg fat and +30 kg protein, supported by useful volume, making him a genuine milksolids bull, without pushing extremes.

His strength is further reinforced through sound functionality, with positive fertility (+2.4), strong functional survival, and a well balanced udder profile including an Udder Overall gBV of 0.51.

Piedmont's dam was selected into the LIC GeneRate Elite ET programme as a heifer, highlighting the depth behind this bull. Sincere thanks to Robert and Marjorie Smith of Kurow for breeding a sire that combines economic performance with structural strength.

525061 Papamoa Piedmont

525037 STEVENSON TRIPLE THREE

Stevenson Triple Three brings a clear production focus, headlined by exceptional milk volume of +307 L, supported by solid component levels (+51 kg fat, +23 kg protein). He further distinguishes himself with outstanding fertility at +7.1, making him a powerful option for herds wanting output that does not compromise reproduction.

Bred by Paul and Andrea Stevenson of Kumara, Triple Three suits systems where throughput through the vat is a priority, while still maintaining acceptable structure and herd fitness.

525037 Stevenson Triple Three

525016 LOVELOCKS EMINENT ET

Lovelocks Eminent ET is built around structural quality and long term durability. He combines strong components (+50 kg fat, +12 kg protein) with outstanding udder and dairy conformation, reflected in an impressive Udder Overall gBV of 1.02 and strong fore and rear udder traits.

Eminent is the result of embryo work, with his dam selected into the LIC GeneRate Elite ET programme, reinforcing maternal consistency. Bred by Grant and Kathryn Lovelock of Dannevirke, he is well suited to breeders placing priority on udder quality and cow longevity.

525016 Lovelocks Eminent ET

525058 PLATEAU DENTON ET

Plateau Denton ET delivers a well balanced functional package. While moderate for milk, he excels where it matters for longevity, with strong fertility (+4.5), positive survival, and consistent udder traits including an Udder Overall gBV of 0.72.

His profile is well suited to pasture based systems where durability and efficiency are valued equally with production. Denton is another result of LIC GeneRate Elite embryo work, bred by Earl and Melissa McSweeney of Ashburton.

525018 MOODYS IMPRESSIVE ET

Moodys Impressive ET places fertility firmly at the forefront, with an excellent +7.1 fertility gBV, complemented by solid production (+50 kg fat, +18 kg protein). He also adds useful size and scale through strong capacity (+0.79), supporting cows that can convert feed efficiently.

Produced through GeneRate Elite embryo work, Impressive reflects both performance and balance. Thanks to Kyle and Emma Moody of Eketāhuna for breeding a bull that supports reproductive performance without sacrificing production.

524024 TONGATAHA TRAILBLAZER

Tongataha Trailblazer is a standout for type and longevity. He excels across udder traits, with a particularly strong Udder Overall gBV of 1.45, supported by exceptional fore and rear udder attachments and good teat placement.

His functional profile adds further appeal, with strong survival (+5.1) and a favourable somatic cell score, supporting cows that stay productive in the herd. Bred by Alan Butler of Hāwera, Trailblazer is ideally suited to herds prioritising structural strength and durability.

525021 HACKER CLARITY ET

Hacker Clarity ET offers a reliable, functional package, highlighted by strong udder structure with an Udder Overall gBV of 1.01 and good width and attachment traits. He combines this with positive fertility and survival, supporting cows that perform consistently.

Clarity is a full ET split embryo bull from a dam selected into the LIC GeneRate Elite ET programme. Bred by Liz and Sebastian Hacker of Dargaville, he is a particularly safe option where consistency and functionality are valued.

525065 HACKER CATAPULT ET

Hacker Catapult ET mirrors his full brother closely, offering the same strong udder structure (Udder Overall gBV 1.00) and functional balance. His near identical profile provides breeders with confidence and choice when utilising this elite GeneRate Elite dam line.

525058 Plateau Denton ET

525018 Moodys Impressive ET

524024 Tongataha Trailblazer

525021 Hacker Clarity ET

525065 Hacker Catapult ET

Michele van der Aa
Breeding Specialist

Holstein-Friesian:

Sires stepping into the spotlight

Holstein Friesian herds are built on cows that can produce, last, and leave their mark on the next generation. The bulls featured here reflect that philosophy, combining proven pedigree depth with strong on farm performance. From standout maternal lines to elite embryo programmes, these sires offer a blend of production, structure, and durability, suited to Friesian herds that value both performance today and genetic legacy for the future.

125026 MAYBELLAR WIMBLEDON MYLO

Mylo represents a truly classy addition to any line-up. As a son of PROGENESIS WIMBLEDON, he is backed by a maternal pedigree rich in outstanding classification, with his dam scoring 85 VG, his granddam 89 VG, and his great-granddam achieving Excellence.

Mylo's dam, sired by CULGLEN BF ILLUSION S2F has been an exceptional performer from the outset. She produced over 760 kgMS in her first lactation as a two-year-old, cruised past that in her second, and is on track to do it all over again this season. An extraordinary demonstration of both consistency and durability.

A sincere thank you to Anieka and Nick Templer of Balfour for their passion for breeding. Mylo offers the best of overseas influence, while remaining well suited to New Zealand's pastoral systems. Mylo delivers good volume without being extreme, maintaining solid fat and protein percentages alongside positive fertility, helping ensure his daughters are productive and long-lasting in the herd. This is further supported by his tidy udder overall and dairy conformation gBVs - a given really considering his pedigree.

125066 GLENMEAD ODYSSEY VALIANT S2F
125067 GLENMEAD PE CALLISTO-ET S1F
125069 GLENMEAD LG STRIDER-ET S3F

The Kookie family of Kevin and Felicity Clark in Whakatane is making a significant impact on the New Zealand dairy industry. It is a pedigree defined by consistency, where longevity is the norm, with cows regularly reaching 10 or more lactations. Dam classifications are reliably strong, with scores of 7 and 8 common throughout, and production leaves no room for passengers, with excess of 600 milksolids per lactation an expected standard.

Dam of 125026 Maybellar Wimbledon Mylo

Dam of 125066 Glenmead Odyssey Valiant S2F

Dam of 125067 Glenmead PE Callisto-ET S1F

Dam of 125069 Glenmead LG Strider-ET S3F

Our 2026 Genetics Catalogue features three outstanding bulls from the Glenmead stud. Valiant, a son of WELLS RIDGE J ODYSSEY-ET S2F, represents the culmination of strong Glenmead breeding. His dam, an exceptional GLENMEAD SB TRAPEZE S1F daughter, was identified early as a standout and entered into the GeneRate embryo programme. That decision proved highly rewarding with her sole resulting embryo, a MARCHEL WM JACKPOT-ET S2F heifer, going on to become a powerhouse in her own right, producing half-brothers Strider and Callisto (by LIGHTBURN SAQ GASOLINE-ET and PAYNES GADSBY ELEMENT S1F respectively).

Each of the three bulls offered presents a well-rounded and high-quality package, making them difficult to separate and well suited to a wide range of farming and breeding objectives. Whether it be production, fertility, volume, udders or liveweight, a combination of all, or extremes in one or two traits, these bulls will have something to suit everyone.

125048 LUDLOW ZULU IRONHIDE S2F

As a son of WAITARIA JACKPOT ZULU-ET S2F, Ironhide brings together a compelling package of traits. He offers strong production alongside positive fertility, is A2A2, and carries very attractive type gBVs. This is highlighted by an udder overall gBV of 0.90 and a dairy conformation gBV of 0.49.

Ironhide is a bull well worth taking note of, not simply because of what he offers, but also because of where he comes from – an outstanding LIGHTBURN FREE RANGE-ET dam. At six years of age, she achieved an impressive udder overall score of 8 at classification, reflecting both phenomenal type and longevity. In addition, she has demonstrated exceptional reproductive performance, consistently conceiving to her first mating each season.

Ironhide represents a well-balanced sire option, making him a valuable option for herds seeking reliability and long-term performance. Congratulations to Jason and Fiona Ludlow of Karamea for delivering such a superb sire.

124045 - MEANDER RAFA ASPIRING-ET S1F

Aspiring was a standout from the outset. So much so that when it became clear he wouldn't produce enough inseminations to gain a proof, a rare exception was made to carry him over for a second season.

Bred from the renowned "A" family of Robert and Annemarie Bruin in Otautau, Aspiring carries a pedigree of real strength. His great-granddam is the formidable MEANDER FMI APRIL S2F, inducted into LIC's Hall of Fame last year, lending proven credibility to his sire potential. His dam, a BELLAMYS DM GALANT-ET S1F daughter, is the kind of cow many would aspire to replicate across a herd, consistently hovering around 600 milksolids per season, routinely gets in calf early, and combines functionality with profitability. She is also a standout for type, classifying 85 VG as a five-year-old.

Aspiring is sired by ASHDALE STAR RAFA-ET S1F, a bull noted for siring exceptional udders. While Rafa's influence has been limited due to a short working life, this presents a valuable opportunity to capture those traits within your own herd. Aspiring is very much a "get the job done" sire, boasting some of the highest fat and protein percentages in the Friesian line-up, demonstrating excellent efficiency with his moderate liveweight and lower litres.

125048 Ludlow Zulu Ironhide S2F

Dam of 124045 - Meander Rafa Aspiring-ET S1F

Danie Swart
Breeding Specialist

Jersey: Upcoming champions

It's great to see more fantastic high-ranking young genomic Jersey bulls coming through, offering farmers greater choice and adding depth to our Jersey breed. It reflects the strong work of our breeders who continue to lift the bar and deliver great results for the Kiwi dairy sector.

Below are just some of the standout '25-code Jersey bulls from our latest Genetics Catalogue that will feature in potential Premier Sires teams. All six were used as sires of sons last year through LIC contract mating and ET programmes, reflecting the confidence already placed in them based on their genetic merit and the strength of their cow families.

325008 Tironui Generation Rune

325202 Glenui Te Anau Latrell

325008 TIRONUI GENERATION RUNE

Bred by Murray and Janet Gibb, Rune is out of a great family, with Tironui Integ Meg featuring as his grand dam. The family is well proven, with bulls such as Superman and Montage also coming through this line, noted for longevity and consistent production. Rune's pedigree is stacked with production, particularly with his sire Paynes RB Generation-ET and his grand sire, Rockland LQ Berkly. Rune is one of the highest gBW genomic bulls, with high fat and protein gBV's combined with good udder overall and capacity gBV's.

He is available through the potential Premier Sires Forward Pack team and from Alpha Nominated.

325032 ROCKLAND ACHILLIES COAL-ET S3J

Coal was bred by Matthew and Emma Darke and is the son of Paynes Berkly Clare ET - one of the highest ranked genomically tested Jersey females in New Zealand. Clare-ET also has another son in the LIC stable, Rockland Pluto Colson-ET. High production and milksolids are strong attributes in this cow family.

Coal is available in the potential Premier Sires Forward Pack team and through Alpha® Nominated.

325202 GLENUI TE ANAU LATRELL

Coming out of the Glenui herd of Tony and Leslie Landers, Latrell is from one of the most influential cow families in New Zealand, with Glenui Integrity Lace ET a key matriarch in his pedigree. This Jersey Future bull is a true all-rounder, bringing together Glenui and Lynbrook - two of the most well-known studs in the country. Latrell ranks highly for protein, fat and fertility gBV's, combined with an udder overall gBV of 0.96.

He is available in the potential Premier Sires sexed team and in Alpha Nominated.

325032 Rockland Achillies Coal-ET S3J

325001 PAYNES ZOLTIN ELECTRIC-ET

Building on the recent success of their proven bulls, Generation and Excelsior, Brad and Claire have another exciting bull in Paynes Zoltin Electric ET.

Several influential production sires are prominent in his pedigree, including Berkly, Lotto and Monopoly. Electric ET stands out for udder overall, with an udder overall gBV of 1.08 and a rear udder gBV of 1.21.

Electric is available in the potential Premier Sires sexed team and from Alpha Nominated.

325001 Paynes Zoltin Electric-ET

325024 HAWTHORN GROVE LONIC ZAKINOS

All the way from Hokitika, Zakinos was bred by Ron and Jackie Monk, and is a half-brother to Hawthorn Grove L Zoltin-ET. His impressive dam Hawthorn Grove Hutton is a great production cow, with a PW over 600 and LW's over 1,000. The entire cow family excels in production and high classification scores.

Zakinos is available in the potential Premier Sires Forward Pack team and through Alpha Nominated.

325024 Hawthorn Grove Lonic Zakinos

325026 RIVERINA PARKES CROCKETT

Bred by Warren and Louise Berry, Crockett is an exciting bull who excels in protein and fat gBV's. He is one of the highest-production genomic Jersey bulls in the catalogue, with good liveweight and udder overall gBV's - making him a great all-rounder choice. His dam, Riverina Pop Candice-ET, records a PW over 600 and an LW over 1,000.

Crockett is available in the potential Premier Sires Forward Pack team and in Alpha Nominated.

325026 Riverina Parkes Crockett

2026 KiwiCross® Forward Pack Team (A2A2)

Winter Premier Sires

AB Code	Bull Name	Breed Split	gBW/Rel %	Protein gBV (kg)	Milkfat gBV (kg)	Milk gBV (litres)	Liveweight gBV (kg)	Fertility gBV %	Somatic Cell Score gBV	Overall Opinion gBV	Udder Overall gBV	Dairy Conformation gBV	Heifer Calving Difficulty BV%/Rel%	Cow Calving Difficulty BV%/Rel%	Gestation Length BV	A2	Sire
525059	PLATEAU **NEVADA**-ET	F8J8	**521/50**	14.3	55.3	-6	7	5.4	-0.05	0.32	0.44	0.16	-5.0/28	-1.0/29	-6.7	A2/A2	PAYNES SORCERER-ET
525037	STEVENSON **TRIPLE-THREE**	F10J6	**506/47**	23.4	50.7	307	32	7.1	-0.26	0.19	0.82	0.64	-4.0/28	-0.9/28	-6.6	A2/A2	RHANTANA ZEPPELIN
525023	KAINUI **UNIVERSE**	F11J5	**496/59**	25.8	43.9	-248	7	1.8	0.20	-0.10	0.75	0.28	-3.9/28	-0.5/33	-2.7	A2/A2	PAYNES SUBLIME-ET
525034	SECRETERRY **ILLUMINATE**	F7J9	**491/48**	14.6	43.5	-205	-19	3.2	-0.11	0.42	0.49	0.16	-2.8/30	-0.8/29	-9.9	A2/A2	PAYNES SORCERER-ET
521015	PAYNES **STAMINA**-ET	F12J4	**486/97**	20.5	44.7	-79	28	6.3	-0.12	0.17	0.43	0.46	-1.2/87	-0.3/97	-4.8	A2/A2	MEANDER TD AZURE-ET SIF
525009	PAYNES **POPULAR**	F9J7	**478/56**	22.1	36.6	1	-4	3.6	-0.23	0.11	0.71	0.27	-4.0/28	-0.8/31	-3.9	A2/A2	PAYNES SPECIALIST
525008	PAYNES **PANORAMIC**	F9J7	**471/58**	11.8	40.7	-280	-27	1.7	0.25	0.03	0.72	0.92	-2.9/22	-1.2/31	-0.4	A2/A2	BALANTIS TEMPEST-ET
525045	WEIRBURNS **SHOWSTOPPER**-ET	F10J6	**461/48**	25.3	31.2	59	5	5.2	-0.42	0.39	0.85	0.47	-0.6/13	-0.4/27	-3.4	A2/A2	WAIMATA TRUMPCARD-ET
524024	TONGATAHA **TRAILBLAZER**	F9J7	**451/57**	24.0	35.5	-280	27	3.3	0.06	0.24	1.45	0.75	-0.2/41	-1.5/78	-0.3	A2/A2	ROUBROEKS AIR-RIFLE-ET
524063	ARKANS **DYNAMIC**-ET	F9J7	**450/58**	13.4	47.1	-308	29	7.1	0.69	0.20	0.41	0.51	-3.3/57	-0.9/70	0.4	A2/A2	JULIAN TU-MEKE
522050	JULIAN **TU-MEKE**	F8J8	**442/93**	18.7	46.9	-151	4	2.2	0.64	0.09	0.50	0.46	-3.9/97	-1.1/98	-2.7	A2/A2	DOWSON HONENUI-ET
523001	PAYNES **SALVATION**-ET	F8J8	**438/60**	31.1	45.4	302	26	2.2	0.41	0.03	0.97	0.42	1.8/82	1.9/92	-4.5	A2/A2	GREENMILE RIFLEMAN-ET
	Expected team weighted average		**462/97**	**20.4**	**43.4**	**-75**	**10**	**4.1**	**0.08**	**0.18**	**0.71**	**0.46**	**-2.5/95**	**-0.6/96**	**-3.8**		

Shaded bulls include daughter information with LIC gBW & gBV data.
Non shaded bulls are genomically selected with LIC gBW & gBV data.

2026 Holstein-Friesian Forward Pack Team (A1/A2) Winter Premier Sires

AB Code	Bull Name	gBW/Rel %	Protein gBV (kg)	Milkfat gBV (kg)	Milk gBV (litres)	Liveweight gBV (kg)	Fertility gBV %	Somatic Cell Score gBV	Overall Opinion gBV	Udder Overall gBV	Dairy Conformation gBV	Heifer Calving Difficulty BV%/Rel%	Cow Calving Difficulty BV%/Rel%	Gestation Length BV	A2	Sire
122056	MAH FINN **SAGE**-ET S1F	**471/91**	16.3	55.3	-8	13	2.7	0.38	0.39	0.69	0.22	7.0/56	1.0/94	-3.1	A2/A2	MILL-RIDGE TS FINN-ET S1F
122058	TELESIS FLEX **THEODORE** S1F	**437/88**	26.3	53.8	809	66	5.5	-0.36	0.18	0.40	0.56	8.7/82	-0.4/98	-5.3	A2/A2	MILL-RIDGE TS FLEX-ET S1F
125044	PAYNES APEX **POLARITY**-ET P S2F	**433/45**	19.1	49.9	43	60	7.1	-0.37	0.25	0.44	0.36	7.0/12	1.5/28	0.4	A1/A2	WITTENHAM MJ APEX-ET P S2F
125029	MEANDER MR-RIGHT **ABNER** S2F	**419/55**	16.9	41.0	86	25	6.8	-0.16	0.32	0.61	0.25	9.2/16	1.1/28	-2.8	A2/A2	DICKSONS GUSTO MR-RIGHT-ET S2F
125040	MEANDER SEV **AGGREGATE** S2F	**406/48**	20.4	48.5	347	50	5.2	0.38	0.37	0.51	0.48	8.7/16	1.7/27	-3.5	A2/A2	TRONNOCO SG SEVERYN-ET
122034	BUELIN MB **BLAST-OFF** S1F	**403/88**	35.1	40.4	500	28	1.0	0.44	0.14	0.80	0.24	4.4/45	-0.4/96	-5.5	A1/A2	MCKAY BM BAKERBOY-ET S2F
125041	KAYSON PFS **DOMINATION** S1F	**397/55**	32.6	45.6	757	42	3.2	0.18	0.18	0.54	0.54	0.9/25	0.8/28	0.7	A2/A2	PRATTLEYS LUCID FREE-STYLE S1F
125066	GLENMEAD ODYSSEY **VALIANT** S2F	**387/48**	25.7	41.7	181	75	6.0	-0.23	0.27	0.99	0.58	4.6/17	2.7/30	-3.4	A2/A2	WELLS RIDGE J ODYSSEY-ET S2F
124007	ATAWHAI GENTLE **COSTELLO** S1F	**380/56**	17.5	47.1	377	42	6.4	0.04	0.32	0.47	0.22	5.8/19	-1.1/74	-5.3	A1/A2	MILL-RIDGE MF GENTLEMAN-ET S1F
125065	CHATFIELDS ALLEGIANCE **ZEKE** S1F	**378/51**	23.3	37.5	-60	32	2.2	0.04	0.14	0.65	0.39	6.0/13	0.2/31	-0.2	A2/A2	MEANDER MANU ALLEGIANCE S1F
125052	WAIOKURA PE **MARAVELI** S1F	**363/47**	31.8	43.6	566	60	1.4	0.10	0.13	0.70	0.56	3.7/24	0.9/29	0.6	A2/A2	PAYNES GADSBY ENTOURAGE S1F
125022	WAITARIA ALLROUNDER **TITAN** S2F	**351/48**	28.4	35.8	651	56	6.9	0.01	0.11	0.66	0.55	4.6/14	0.1/27	-3.7	A2/A2	MEANDER GRIF ALLROUNDER-ET S2F
	Expected team weighted average	**389/97**	**24.4**	**45.1**	**352**	**46**	**4.5**	**0.04**	**0.23**	**0.62**	**0.41**	**5.9/94**	**0.7/96**	**-2.6**		

The following bulls have less than 16 parts Holstein-Friesian		
122034	BUELIN MB **BLAST-OFF** S1F	F15J1
125041	KAYSON PFS **DOMINATION** S1F	F15J1

Shaded bulls include daughter information with LIC gBW & gBV data.
Non shaded bulls are genomically selected with LIC gBW & gBV data.

2026 Jersey **Forward Pack Team (A2A2)**

Winter Premier Sires

AB Code	Bull Name	gBW/Rel %	Protein gBV (kg)	Milkfat gBV (kg)	Milk gBV (litres)	Liveweight gBV (kg)	Fertility gBV %	Somatic Cell Score gBV	Overall Opinion gBV	Udder Overall gBV	Dairy Conformation gBV	Heifer Calving Difficulty BV%/Rel%	Cow Calving Difficulty BV%/Rel%	Gestation Length BV	A2	Sire
320029	ROCKLAND LQ **BERKLY**	**508/98**	10.2	46.2	-410	-26	6.0	-0.09	0.48	0.73	0.30	-8.8/90	-2.1/98	2.9	A2/A2	LYNBROOK KING QUADRANT
324018	BENWORTH TM **GRIFFINPOLL**-P JC15	**498/57**	19.4	36.6	-242	-29	2.7	-0.53	0.04	0.39	0.40	-6.2/62	-0.2/78	4.7	A2/A2	TIRONUI GB MONTAGE-ET
325008	TIRONUI GENERATION **RUNE**	**490/57**	7.5	38.0	-607	-32	1.9	-0.22	0.18	0.63	0.62	-9.8/25	-2.4/30	1.5	A2/A2	PAYNES RB GENERATION-ET
325032	ROCKLAND ACHILLIES **COAL**-ET S3J	**483/48**	6.1	35.7	-558	-28	6.5	-0.39	0.13	0.56	0.23	-6.6/17	-1.7/27	-0.8	A2/A2	RIVERINA BAS ACHILLIES-ET S2J
325024	HAWTHORN GROVE LONIC **ZAKINOS**	**458/49**	5.2	34.5	-540	-23	7.5	-0.31	0.32	0.63	0.30	-10.1/24	-1.5/30	-2.9	A2/A2	GLENHAVEN BRISBANE LONIC
325028	LAKE DOWNS NOVAK **CHISEL**	**423/53**	1.5	25.0	-617	-41	4.8	-0.39	0.35	1.24	0.50	-9.0/17	-2.3/21	-0.6	A2/A2	THORNWOOD PROFIT NOVAK
325006	MAHAREE ZOLTIN **QUEBEC**-ET	**421/49**	-0.3	28.8	-587	-39	11.8	-0.11	0.19	0.63	0.08	-8.4/25	-2.0/28	-1.8	A2/A2	HAWTHORN GROVE L ZOLTIN-ET
325004	HIWA GENERATION **ANTON**	**393/56**	3.3	39.9	-640	-3	0.3	-0.28	0.41	0.40	0.69	-8.6/24	-2.3/28	1.4	A2/A2	PAYNES RB GENERATION-ET
322002	PAYNES RB **GENERATION**-ET	**371/89**	3.1	37.2	-726	18	4.2	-0.01	0.43	0.75	0.53	-9.9/79	-2.6/94	-0.2	A2/A2	ROCKLAND LQ BERKLY
	Expected team weighted average	**449/96**	**6.2**	**35.8**	**-547**	**-23**	**5.1**	**-0.26**	**0.28**	**0.66**	**0.41**	**-8.6/93**	**-1.9/94**	**0.5**		

The following bulls have less than 16 parts Jersey

324018	BENWORTH TM **GRIFFINPOLL**-P JC15	J15F1

Shaded bulls include daughter information with LIC gBW & gBV data.
Non shaded bulls are genomically selected with LIC gBW & gBV data.

2026 Holstein-Friesian **A2A2 Team**

Winter Premier Sires

AB Code	Bull Name	gBW/Rel %	Protein gBV (kg)	Milkfat gBV (kg)	Milk gBV (litres)	Liveweight gBV (kg)	Fertility gBV %	Somatic Cell Score gBV	Overall Opinion gBV	Udder Overall gBV	Dairy Conformation gBV	Heifer Calving Difficulty BV%/Rel%	Cow Calving Difficulty BV%/Rel%	Gestation Length BV	A2	Sire
122058	TELESIS FLEX **THEODORE** S1F	**437/88**	26.3	53.8	809	66	5.5	-0.36	0.18	0.40	0.56	8.7/82	-0.4/98	-5.3	A2/A2	MILL-RIDGE TS FLEX-ET S1F
125029	MEANDER MR-RIGHT **ABNER** S2F	**419/55**	16.9	41.0	86	25	6.8	-0.16	0.32	0.61	0.25	9.2/16	1.1/28	-2.8	A2/A2	DICKSONS GUSTO MR-RIGHT-ET S2F
125041	KAYSON PFS **DOMINATION** S1F	**397/55**	32.6	45.6	757	42	3.2	0.18	0.18	0.54	0.54	0.9/25	0.8/28	0.7	A2/A2	PRATTLEYS LUCID FREE-STYLE S1F
122008	DICKSONS FINN **MINDSET**-ET S1F	**380/89**	16.0	41.7	215	31	3.6	-0.23	0.28	0.51	0.16	7.1/34	0.2/94	-2.1	A2/A2	MILL-RIDGE TS FINN-ET S1F
125052	WAIOKURA PE **MARAVELI** S1F	**363/47**	31.8	43.6	566	60	1.4	0.10	0.13	0.70	0.56	3.7/24	0.9/29	0.6	A2/A2	PAYNES GADSBY ENTOURAGE S1F
125013	ROWDY ELEMENT **MOOFASA** S1F	**356/48**	33.1	49.5	650	88	3.5	-0.25	0.11	0.44	0.32	6.3/24	0.7/28	-2.4	A2/A2	PAYNES GADSBY ELEMENT S1F
125022	WAITARIA ALLROUNDER **TITAN** S2F	**351/48**	28.4	35.8	651	56	6.9	0.01	0.11	0.66	0.55	4.6/14	0.1/27	-3.7	A2/A2	MEANDER GRIF ALLROUNDER-ET S2F
124054	FERNGLADE LAMBO **COMET**-ET S1F	**342/49**	15.1	44.9	384	43	5.1	0.14	0.38	0.53	0.45	6.7/16	1.8/64	-0.7	A2/A2	ASHDALE AZURE LAMBO S1F
125024	YELLOWSTONE WA **RASPBERY**-ET S2F	**335/59**	25.7	49.1	967	50	0.5	-0.03	0.30	0.70	0.36	7.0/28	2.4/31	-1.9	A2/A2	WESTCOAST ALCOVE
124036	MILLNERS PP **LIFE-OF-RILEY** S2F	**328/60**	18.2	32.9	198	7	1.2	0.04	0.16	0.58	0.19	9.2/15	4.4/68	-1.1	A2/A2	PAYNES LR PACMAN-ET S2F
124032	MAHAREE ICARUS **BARRETT** S2F	**322/59**	20.1	53.3	703	87	3.7	-0.16	0.60	0.65	0.32	6.8/27	4.9/68	-6.3	A2/A2	SANDY-VALLEY ICARUS-ET
124041	YELLOWSTONE BGC **OUTLANDER** S1F	**322/58**	24.8	36.0	933	0	1.3	0.47	0.17	0.52	0.10	6.6/13	-0.3/60	-3.6	A2/A2	BELLAMYS GAME-CHANGER-ET S1F
123004	PAYNES GADSBY **ENTOURAGE** S1F ^	**308/59**	26.2	22.5	157	34	4.4	-0.09	0.05	0.44	0.23	3.3/79	0.4/94	1.4	A2/A2	BELLAMYS RS GADSBY-ET S1F
	Expected team weighted average	**356/97**	**24.1**	**44.4**	**533**	**50**	**3.9**	**-0.06**	**0.25**	**0.55**	**0.37**	**6.2/94**	**1.3/96**	**-2.2**		

The following bulls have less than 16 parts Holstein-Friesian

125041	KAYSON PFS **DOMINATION** S1F	F15J1

Shaded bulls include daughter information with LIC gBW & gBV data.
Non shaded bulls are genomically selected with LIC gBW & gBV data.
^ Recessive fertility gene carrier

2026 KiwiCross® Sexed Team (A2A2)

Winter Premier Sires

AB Code	Bull Name	Breed Split	gBW/Rel %	Protein gBV (kg)	Milkfat gBV (kg)	Milk gBV (litres)	Liveweight gBV (kg)	Fertility gBV %	Somatic Cell Score gBV	Overall Opinion gBV	Udder Overall gBV	Dairy Conformation gBV	Heifer Calving Difficulty BV%/Rel%	Cow Calving Difficulty BV%/Rel%	Gestation Length BV	A2	Sire
525046	WEIRBURNS **INTERGALACTIC**-ET	F8J8	**508/48**	18.5	36.4	-104	-1	8.2	-0.35	0.25	0.42	0.43	-4.5/28	-1.1/30	-3.9	A2/A2	PAYNES SORCERER-ET
521005	PAYNES **SUBLIME**-ET	F12J4	**492/97**	33.5	47.8	339	26	1.0	0.17	-0.06	0.91	0.26	-1.0/85	0.1/99	-1.8	A2/A2	MEANDER TD AZURE-ET SIF
522036	BURMEISTERS **BEASTIE**-ET	F8J8	**486/88**	16.9	50.1	433	-11	1.9	-0.12	0.45	0.76	0.66	-0.3/36	-0.9/59	-0.4	A2/A2	SPEAKES SLIPSTREAM ET
524039	WITTENHAM **HOTSHOT**	F9J7	**475/58**	13.2	44.4	-448	22	5.7	0.14	0.38	0.43	0.61	2.1/39	0.7/64	-5.5	A2/A2	GREENMILE RIFLEMAN-ET
525052	KAINUI **BARNEY-BOY**-ET	F9J7	**475/48**	15.2	48.8	-290	1	1.7	-0.01	0.14	0.72	0.45	-1.7/17	-0.7/28	-6.5	A2/A2	KAIPER TOMAK
525056	PLATEAU **DAWSON**-ET	F9J7	**469/49**	20.5	56.7	-71	55	3.4	0.16	0.24	0.70	0.81	-0.1/24	0.1/29	-2.4	A2/A2	PAYNES SALVATION-ET
525018	MOODYS **IMPRESSIVE**-ET	F11J5	**466/47**	18.2	50.2	-111	49	7.1	0.20	0.18	0.75	0.73	0.2/28	0.0/28	-5.6	A2/A2	RHANTANA ZEPPELIN
520063	SANSONS **EMERALD**-ET	F9J7	**463/98**	31.6	47.8	676	15	4.1	0.40	0.41	0.57	0.25	-0.6/91	-0.3/99	3.2	A2/A2	GLEN KORU PROCLAIMER-ET
524051	PUKERIMU **STALLONE**-ET	F9J7	**462/57**	19.9	36.5	48	5	6.8	0.25	0.34	0.72	0.56	-1.2/56	-1.3/59	0.7	A2/A2	TATAWAI WRESTLER-ET
524064	RHANTANA **CHIEFTAIN**	F7J9	**462/57**	16.2	48.5	-190	7	0.6	-0.05	0.25	0.43	0.41	-5.9/55	-1.6/58	-4.1	A2/A2	JULIAN TU-MEKE
523075	ARKANS **GAMBLER**	F10J6	**455/59**	13.5	41.1	-321	-12	3.4	0.20	0.08	0.71	0.13	-1.7/68	-1.3/98	-1.4	A2/A2	PAYNES SUBLIME-ET
524046	BOUTONS **TRADEMARK**-ET	F9J7	**453/56**	16.9	33.8	-375	8	7.8	0.23	0.30	0.98	0.57	-4.8/54	-0.6/59	-0.9	A2/A2	ROUBROEKS AIR-RIFLE-ET
522040	ARKANS **CAREER**-ET ^	F8J8	**441/88**	22.6	30.3	332	-14	5.5	0.14	0.15	0.70	0.72	-3.8/36	-0.5/89	2.4	A2/A2	ARKANS BOOMBOX-ET
525066	TOPCROSS **TANCRED**-ET	F8J8	**433/49**	19.4	52.6	119	36	3.4	0.10	0.55	0.62	0.54	-1.8/25	-0.4/30	1.2	A2/A2	BUELIN ORAN
	Expected team weighted average		**456/97**	**19.7**	**44.6**	**3**	**13**	**4.3**	**0.10**	**0.26**	**0.67**	**0.51**	**-1.8/96**	**-0.6/97**	**-1.8**		

Shaded bulls include daughter information with LIC gBW & gBV data.
Non shaded bulls are genomically selected with LIC gBW & gBV data.
^ Recessive fertility gene carrier

2026 Holstein-Friesian Sexed Team (A1/A2)

Winter Premier Sires

AB Code	Bull Name	gBW/Rel %	Protein gBV (kg)	Milkfat gBV (kg)	Milk gBV (litres)	Liveweight gBV (kg)	Fertility gBV %	Somatic Cell Score gBV	Overall Opinion gBV	Udder Overall gBV	Dairy Conformation gBV	Heifer Calving Difficulty BV%/Rel%	Cow Calving Difficulty BV%/Rel%	Gestation Length BV	A2	Sire
122015	TANGLEWOOD MF **STORM** S1F ^	**439/90**	15.9	52.5	338	60	5.2	-0.60	0.42	0.68	0.27	14.3/50	1.3/97	-5.7	A1/A2	MILL-RIDGE TS FINN-ET S1F
124045	MEANDER RAFA **ASPIRING**-ET S1F ^	**437/58**	19.3	53.4	175	35	2.2	-0.05	0.33	1.12	0.37	8.1/24	4.9/60	-6.8	A1/A2	ASHDALE STAR RAFA-ET S1F
125027	MEANDER BRAZEN **AMOS**-ET S2F	**436/47**	37.6	39.6	634	41	2.5	-0.02	0.23	0.49	0.23	5.7/16	0.6/28	-5.7	A1/A2	MATTAJUDE MJ BRAZEN-ET S2F
124027	WAITARIA RAFA **HARVARD**-ET S1F ^	**435/56**	16.5	41.0	114	-5	6.3	-0.09	0.33	0.49	0.02	6.4/13	0.1/73	-2.1	A1/A2	ASHDALE STAR RAFA-ET S1F
125045	MCINTYRES WA **NAPOLEON**-ET P S3F #	**435/47**	25.0	37.1	492	43	7.4	-0.65	0.26	0.62	0.44	5.3/14	0.9/30	-1.0	A1/A2	WITTENHAM MJ APEX-ET P S2F
125025	DICKSONS WA **MULTIPOL**-ET PP S2F	**432/46**	20.7	51.6	247	39	2.4	-0.27	0.50	0.37	0.18	8.2/13	1.7/30	1.6	A2/A2	WITTENHAM MJ APEX-ET P S2F
125067	GLENMEAD PE **CALLISTO**-ET S1F	**402/47**	40.7	42.8	977	58	2.3	-0.28	0.36	1.00	0.34	5.6/24	0.9/29	-3.4	A2/A2	PAYNES GADSBY ELEMENT S1F
125069	GLENMEAD LG **STRIDER**-ET S3F	**393/56**	26.7	42.9	342	58	4.1	-0.03	0.29	0.50	0.29	5.3/23	0.9/30	-2.7	A2/A2	LIGHTBURN SAQ GASOLINE-ET
123067	MEANDER MANU **ALLEGIANCE** S1F	**392/58**	18.6	26.9	-153	-12	1.5	-0.63	0.22	0.41	0.23	8.1/20	-0.5/98	0.3	A1/A2	MATTAJUDE BG MANU-ET S1F
122008	DICKSONS FINN **MINDSET**-ET S1F	**380/89**	16.0	41.7	215	31	3.6	-0.23	0.28	0.51	0.16	7.1/34	0.2/94	-2.1	A2/A2	MILL-RIDGE TS FINN-ET S1F
124040	BAGWORTH FREE **BANKSY** S1F #	**364/56**	17.9	34.1	80	18	4.8	0.30	-0.02	0.87	0.38	-0.2/49	-0.5/70	-0.8	A2/A2	PRATTLEYS LUCID FREE-STYLE S1F
122070	COSTARS MB **QUICKFIRE**-ET S2F	**346/89**	44.9	44.0	940	71	2.4	0.64	0.32	0.60	0.74	2.8/26	1.2/63	-0.3	A1/A2	MCKAY BM BAKERBOY-ET S2F
124054	FERNGLADE LAMBO **COMET**-ET S1F	**342/49**	15.1	44.9	384	43	5.1	0.14	0.38	0.53	0.45	6.7/16	1.8/64	-0.7	A2/A2	ASHDALE AZURE LAMBO S1F
125048	LUDLOW ZULU **IRONHIDE** S2F	**334/47**	27.1	40.8	388	79	3.8	0.21	0.04	0.90	0.49	7.6/13	2.1/26	-0.6	A2/A2	WAITARIA JACKPOT ZULU-ET S2F
	Expected team weighted average	**387/97**	**24.4**	**42.4**	**369**	**40**	**3.8**	**-0.11**	**0.28**	**0.65**	**0.33**	**6.5/95**	**1.1/97**	**-2.1**		

The following bulls have less than 16 parts Holstein-Friesian

124040	BAGWORTH FREE **BANKSY** S1F #	F15J1
122070	COSTARS MB **QUICKFIRE**-ET S2F	F15J1

Shaded bulls include daughter information with LIC gBW & gBV data.
Non shaded bulls are genomically selected with LIC gBW & gBV data.
Red Factor
^ Recessive fertility gene carrier

2026 Jersey Sexed Team (A2A2)

Winter Premier Sires

AB Code	Bull Name	gBW/Rel %	Protein gBV (kg)	Milkfat gBV (kg)	Milk gBV (litres)	Liveweight gBV (kg)	Fertility gBV %	Somatic Cell Score gBV	Overall Opinion gBV	Udder Overall gBV	Dairy Conformation gBV	Heifer Calving Difficulty BV%/Rel%	Cow Calving Difficulty BV%/Rel%	Gestation Length BV	A2	Sire
322001	PAYNES TITUS **EXCELSIOR**-ET	**565/90**	8.4	36.2	-391	-49	9.6	-0.60	0.20	0.84	0.28	-7.8/85	-1.8/96	-2.2	A2/A2	THORNWOOD BANFF TITUS
325202	GLENUI TE ANAU **LATRELL**	**517/48**	11.3	36.1	-309	-29	8.2	-0.48	0.02	0.96	0.26	-8.1/25	-1.3/28	-2.1	A2/A2	LYNBROOK TN TE ANAU
324018	BENWORTH TM **GRIFFINPOLL**-P JC15	**498/57**	19.4	36.6	-242	-29	2.7	-0.53	0.04	0.39	0.40	-6.2/62	-0.2/78	4.7	A2/A2	TIRONUI GB MONTAGE-ET
325008	TIRONUI GENERATION **RUNE**	**490/57**	7.5	38.0	-607	-32	1.9	-0.22	0.18	0.63	0.62	-9.8/25	-2.4/30	1.5	A2/A2	PAYNES RB GENERATION-ET
325032	ROCKLAND ACHILLIES **COAL**-ET S3J	**483/48**	6.1	35.7	-558	-28	6.5	-0.39	0.13	0.56	0.23	-6.6/17	-1.7/27	-0.8	A2/A2	RIVERINA BAS ACHILLIES-ET S2J
325010	THORNWOOD AUBREY **TEXAS**-ET	**482/49**	11.2	38.8	-295	-42	2.8	-0.42	0.13	0.38	0.29	-8.5/15	-1.9/25	-0.6	A2/A2	MOKAI FIRST CLASS AUBREY
325003	EVLEEN BRISBANE **LATHAM**	**463/48**	7.1	24.8	-613	-44	9.2	-0.49	0.21	0.44	0.06	-9.5/21	-1.0/26	-1.0	A2/A2	GLENHAVEN BRISBANE LONIC
325028	LAKE DOWNS NOVAK **CHISEL**	**423/53**	1.5	25.0	-617	-41	4.8	-0.39	0.35	1.24	0.50	-9.0/17	-2.3/21	-0.6	A2/A2	THORNWOOD PROFIT NOVAK
325006	MAHAREE ZOLTIN **QUEBEC**-ET	**421/49**	-0.3	28.8	-587	-39	11.8	-0.11	0.19	0.63	0.08	-8.4/25	-2.0/28	-1.8	A2/A2	HAWTHORN GROVE L ZOLTIN-ET
325005	RIVERVIEW ECLAIRE **RUAPEHU**	**420/49**	5.9	34.4	-582	-8	5.5	-0.21	0.15	0.48	0.36	-7.9/19	-1.5/26	1.0	A2/A2	PAYNES TITUS ECLAIRE
325208	LITTLE RIVER BERKLY **NASHVILLE**	**415/59**	1.8	32.1	-629	-48	6.6	0.05	0.24	0.48	0.26	-8.6/27	-2.2/30	3.7	A2/A2	ROCKLAND LQ BERKLY
324204	GLENUI ORSIM **SIRPRISE**-ET	**401/57**	5.7	27.1	-657	-11	7.4	-0.12	0.04	0.53	0.55	-8.1/32	-3.5/52	2.8	A2/A2	MAHAREE AZ ORSIM
	Expected team weighted average	**456/96**	**7.1**	**32.8**	**-507**	**-33**	**6.4**	**-0.33**	**0.16**	**0.63**	**0.32**	**-8.2/94**	**-1.8/95**	**0.4**		

The following bulls have less than 16 parts Jersey

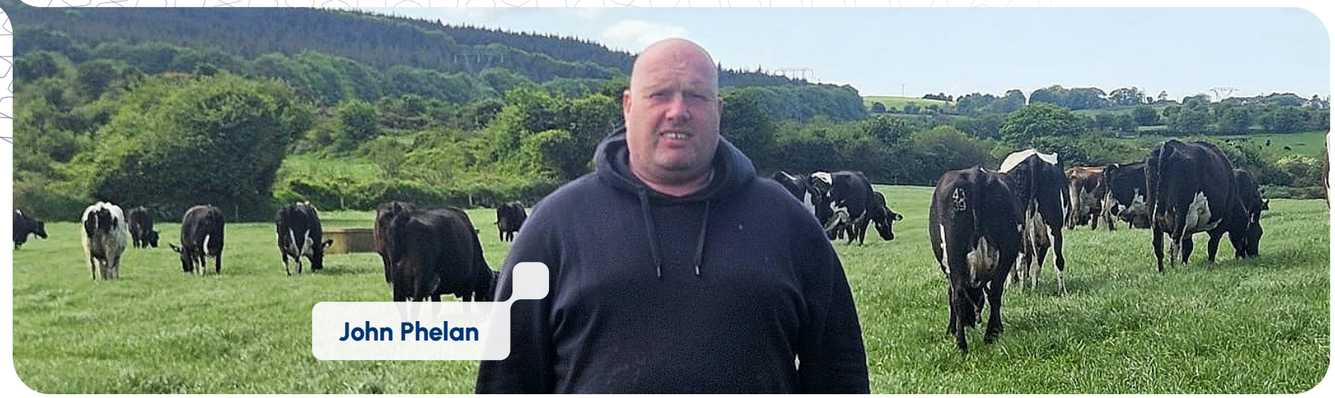
324018	BENWORTH TM **GRIFFINPOLL**-P JC15	J15F1

Shaded bulls include daughter information with LIC gBW & gBV data.
Non shaded bulls are genomically selected with LIC gBW & gBV data.

The Phelan family:

An Irish grazing system with a Kiwi twist

On Ireland's south-east coast, John Phelan is running a system that would look strikingly familiar to New Zealand dairy farms.


John Phelan

Milking 280 predominantly crossbred cows, John's approach is built around moderate-sized, highly fertile animals that convert grass into milksolids efficiently. It's a system he has refined over more than 20 years on the family farm, alongside his wife Siobhan, their children and wider family.

That long-term thinking now underpins every breeding decision on the farm.

Today, the entire herd is run through a structured mating programme. The top 60% of cows, along with all heifers, are bred to sexed semen for the first three weeks, with the remainder going straight to dairy beef. From week four onwards, all cows are mated to beef, tightening the calving pattern and adding value to non-replacement stock.

From winter milk to a spring system

When John returned home from agricultural college in 1999, the farm looked very different. At the time, it operated a winter milking system focused on volume.

"We were paid on litres, not solids," he says. "You could roll cows from one season to the next."

But as Ireland moved towards seasonal spring calving, fertility became a pain point, with empty rates climbing into the high teens and mating periods stretching out to 15 or 16 weeks.

"Fertility was a big issue. Once rolling cows stopped, we had to solve that problem."

John says the solution wasn't a quick fix, it was a rethink of their breeding strategy.

"You're hoping to get eight or nine lactations out of a cow. So, a wrong decision can live with you for a long time."

Breeding seasons have tightened to 10–11 weeks, with John now disappointed if empty rates creep above 10%.

"Since we've started using LIC genetics, it's very rare that we wouldn't be in single figures for empty rates. If we were in double figures now, something's going wrong," he says.

A turning point: Kiwi genetics

While carrying out AB work on other farms, John noticed some herds using New Zealand genetics. Curious, he decided to try a small amount over his own herd.

"I saw a bull called Hugo in an LIC catalogue. He looked balanced, so I gave him a go."

What began as a small trial quickly grew. Jerseys, Norwegian Red and Friesian crosses followed, and when the first crossbred heifers calved, the difference was obvious.

"I remember looking at them and thinking, 'Geez, I've missed a trick here.' They were giving us everything we wanted."

By the mid 2000s, John had committed fully to crossbreeding, replacing a large proportion of his herd with crossbred heifers.

Adapting to a changing environment

Today, John milks 280 cows across two farms, stocked at around 2.9 cows per hectare - which is a deliberate step back from higher stocking rates.

"We were up around 3.6 cows per hectare at one point. But the summers have changed. We could have two months in the summer where we might have to start feeding silage, which can get expensive."

More frequent droughts have reduced grass growth from 14–16 tonnes, to closer to 10–12 tonnes annually. On the farm's dry, shallow soils, that shift has real consequences.

"It dries out very quickly here, so you have to match your stocking rate, and your cow, to that."

That's where KiwiCross genetics continue to prove their worth.

"Solaris is one of the first KiwiCross bulls we used, and they were just brilliant stock. I couldn't say enough good things about them. Since then, we've been trying to keep the cows somewhere in the middle of the road. If one gets too Friesian, we'll put a Jersey on her, and vice versa."

Smaller cows, more output

The move to KiwiCross genetics has delivered gains well beyond fertility.

Calving ease, animal health and milk composition have all improved significantly.

"About 97% of the herd calves unassisted. It's a very healthy system."

John says milk quality has also lifted, with averages now exceeding 5% fat and close to 4% protein, levels that were out of reach in the old system.

"We would never have seen that with the black and white cows we had before. You'd have days in spring where you were struggling to hit 3% protein."

At the same time, cow size has reduced dramatically. The herd now averages 480–490kg liveweight, more than 100kg lighter than previous generations, while producing around 530kg of milksolids per cow.

"They're a very efficient cow for their size."

At one point, John admits, he had a "speed wobble" - briefly stepping away from his LIC programme.

"I used Irish sired bulls on some of the cows, and when those cows calved, I was disappointed straight away because there was no uniformity. Some were big, some were small, they were everywhere."

Two years later, when those animals entered the milking herd, the gap widened.

"They were easily standing 70 or 80 kilos heavier as heifers, than our LIC bred counterparts. And I'd say in 90% of cases, they produced less."

John is quick to point out it's not a criticism of Irish genetics, but rather the system they're bred for.

"A lot of those bulls come from herds that are housed for long periods and heavily fed. Their figures look great, but it's a different environment."

For his grazing system, he says, the fit simply wasn't there. "The LIC bulls seem to be more tapered towards the proper grazing cow."

"That was probably the only speed wobble I ever had, and it only lasted about five minutes. I knew straight away I'd made a mistake."

The proof is in the pudding

John says some farmers who followed a similar breeding path and made the same detour are now seeing the consequences.

"There are other local farmers who have followed the same breeding programme as ourselves for years," he says. "They probably had the same speed wobble, but let it last longer."

"The production has dropped on their systems, trying to do the same thing as us, and a lot of those guys are back using LIC genetics again."

"The proof is in the pudding. I'm very happy with what we have at the moment. The selection of bulls is excellent. For obvious reasons, I keep going back because I like what I have. All I'd say is, keep the good bulls coming."

Fast facts

Herd Size	280
Stocking Rate	2.9
Production/cow	530 kgms
Fat %	5.12
Protein %	3.99
6 week In-calf Rate	76%
Mating Length	11 weeks
Empty Rate	9%

Celebrating

25 years of LIC Australia

LIC Australia is celebrating 25 years as a company, and more than 50 years of delivering pasture-based genetics across the Tasman.

While LIC's roots are firmly in New Zealand, today our co-op supports farmers in more than 20 countries.

Paul Dunbar, LIC General Manager International, says that international reach - including LIC's long-standing presence in Australia - plays an important role in strengthening returns for our Kiwi shareholders here at home.

"Every investment we make offshore is grounded in creating value for New Zealand farmers. By growing markets like Australia, we're reinvesting back into the genetics, tools and services that support Kiwi dairy farmers."

Australia remains a key part of that story. LIC's pasture-based genetics are well suited to Australian conditions, and farmer demand continues to grow.

LIC Australia Country Manager, Hilary Lunn, says the co-op's success in Australia has always been built on the relationships and trust developed with the farmers who rely on our genetics and support.

"We've worked alongside farmers as their systems evolve, helping them lift performance in a way that suits their conditions. These relationships are built on delivering reliable dairy genetics and local support farmers can count on year after year."

Looking ahead, our Australia business remains focused on lifting productivity and sustainability for Australian farmers, while continuing to contribute to the strength of the co-op and the long-term success of New Zealand shareholders.

L to R: Hilary Lunn, Mike Waite, Colleen Mourie and Rowan Priest

David Power
Dairy Genetics Product Manager

Building bull teams for long-term improvement

When you're looking at bull teams, it's easy to focus on the average genomic breeding worth (gBW) and assume it tells the full story. While a team's average gBW gives an indication of expected on farm performance, averages alone can mask weaknesses in traits that matter.

Our Premier Sires teams combine bulls that may excel in different traits, but still meet the minimum standards required to deliver reliable, all round performance.

For example, our current KiwiCross Premier Sires team includes Tongataha Trailblazer, the top ranked KiwiCross bull for overall udder at 1.45, alongside Paynes Salvation, one of the highest protein kg KiwiCross bulls available at 31 kg protein. While each bull stands out for a particular strength, both meet our minimum criteria across the key traits New Zealand farmers tell us are non negotiable for their herd: milk solids, fertility, liveweight and udders.

Minimum thresholds are shaped by breed averages, the traits we want to rapidly improve in our national dairy population and the traits you tell us matter most on farm. For our farmers, the result is high gBW bull teams that don't compromise on traits - just balanced, reliable genetics that support your herd's long term improvement.

Once a bull is determined to meet the minimum criteria to make the team, our focus shifts to building a balanced and diverse lineup. This includes looking at:

- Pedigree
- Sire of sons to avoid over-representation from any individual bull
- Spread of genetics across both Forward Pack and sexed teams
- Maintaining similar average gBW between each team

This approach reduces inbreeding risk, maintains genetic diversity and ensures farmers get consistent performance regardless of which team they choose or their farming system.

Ben Smith
SRG Chair

Update from your SRG

Your voice in action

As the Chair of your Shareholder Reference Group (SRG), I often talk about the unique strength of our co-operative, and the ability for shareholders to have a genuine say in how our business operates.

Recently, we saw a practical example of this spirit in action, one that has led to a more equitable outcome for all farmers using LIC genetics.

It started with a single conversation. A shareholder approached their local SRG member with some detailed analysis they had done regarding semen delivered on farm. They had identified a pattern where the distribution of semen from our bull teams wasn't as balanced as it could be.

From insight to action

A core role of the SRG is to ensure shareholder perspectives are heard. In this case the feedback was shared with LIC management, providing both the data and context.

It's important to acknowledge the scale and complexity of AB logistics. Delivering genetics across the country, every day, farm to farm, is no small job and importantly the SRG's role was not to determine the solution, but to ensure information was communicated and considered through the right channels.

LIC worked through the detail and recognised that while the system was built for operational efficiency, there was room to strengthen how it showed up in practice.

As a result of this engagement, LIC has implemented an updated bull rostering system that ensures the highest Breeding Worth (BW) bull is rostered on day 1, and ensured better monitoring of the bull team BW across all regions. The result is a more even distribution of BW across all regions and a higher delivery of BW through LIC's Premier Sires bull teams.

The co-operative spirit in practice

This outcome highlights the role of the SRG to connect shareholder perspectives with your co-op so that informed feedback can contribute to better outcomes.

We all have a stake in this, and a shared interest in making sure it continues to work well for farmers across the country. If you see an area that could be improved or have an idea worth exploring, we encourage you to get in touch.

Visit the LIC website to find the contact details for the SRG member in your region or catch us at local industry events.

Ben Smith
SRG Chair

Back Row, L-R: Linda Rollinson, Michelle Oldham-Smith, Ben Smith, Phil Lowe, Kirsten Watson, Nikki Cameron
Front Row, L-R: Hadlee Cade, Clarence Stolte, Frances Beeston, Aleisha Broomfield, Dan Joho

NZDIA celebrate

top talent across New Zealand

The 2026 Dairy Industry Awards have brought together winners from 11 regional competitions and national titles, recognising performance and leadership across the dairy sector.

Congratulations to this year's National Award winners:

- Share Farmer of the Year: Scott & Stacey Mackereth
- Dairy Manager of the Year: Lauren McConnachie
- Dairy Trainee of the Year: Mark Ready

LIC Chief Executive David Chin was also pleased to present Karl and Jess Wood with the LIC Animal Wellbeing Recording and Productivity Merit Award and Adrian Waugh with the LIC Interview Award.

As a proud, long-standing sponsor, LIC sees the Dairy Industry Awards as an investment in the next generation of dairy leaders.

"These awards are always a great reminder of the passion and commitment that exists in our sector. From first-time entrants to national winners, the talent coming through is exciting to see.

As a co-operative built by farmers, for farmers, we're proud to support the Dairy Industry Awards and celebrate the people who are helping to shape the future of dairying in New Zealand."

Karl Wood, Jess Wood and David Chin

Adrian Waugh and David Chin

Breeders' Day

Honouring the work behind every generation at Breeders' Day

LIC was proud to welcome more than 140 breeders to our annual Breeders' Day celebration on 28 May, recognising the incredible contribution they make to driving genetic progress across New Zealand's national herd.

Speaking at the event, LIC Chair Corrigan Sowman reflected on the enduring impact breeders have on the dairy sector, both for today's farmers and future generations:

"LIC's breeding programmes are continually evolving to stay aligned with what farmers need now, and what they'll need in the future. That progress is made possible through the long-term decisions and investment of our breeders, and as a co-op we're proud to connect that directly with farmers right across the country."

The day included a tour of the Newstead bull farm and testing facilities, followed by a bull parade in the Bull Barn, where semen collection takes place year-round. Breeders also heard more about LIC's latest research and development work, and the future-focused breeding programmes helping shape the next generation of dairy genetics.

The celebrations concluded with an awards dinner at Claudelands Events Centre in Hamilton, featuring a keynote from Waikato farmer and former New Zealand Māori rugby league captain, Tawera Nikau. Tawera joined us to share an inspiring message about striving to be the best at what you do, overcoming barriers, setting goals, and recognising the important role farming plays in shaping strong futures and resilient communities.

The awards ceremony began with the presentation of the SPS Farmer of the Year award, won by Peter and Sandi Thompson

Based in Ngatea, Peter and Sandi run a 400-cow operation, on 135-hectares and have been part of LIC's SPS programme for 11 years.

LIC Sire Proving Scheme Manager Ann Scott says: "Since 2015, Peter and Sandi have reared more than 753 SPS calves and milked 635 SPS daughters. With every female DNA tested and genomically profiled, and 98% ancestry recorded, they have shown an outstanding level of commitment to SPS. Their achievements are a great example of what's possible through the scheme."

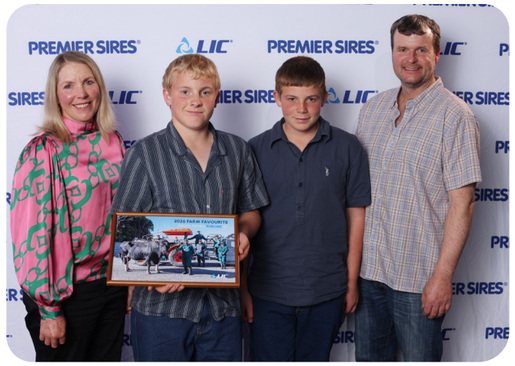
Award Winners:

- **Top Genomic KiwiCross**
  Alan Butler for 524024 Tongataha Trailblazer
- **Top Genomic Friesian**
  Robert and Annemarie Bruin for 123067 Meander Manu Allegiance S1F
- **Top Genomic Jersey**
  Krystle Bennett and Nigel Brinkworth for 324018 Benworth TM Griffinpoll-P JC15
- **Graduate of the Year**
  Brad Payne and Claire Brodie for 322002 Paynes Rb Generation-ET
- **Farm Favourite**
  Brad Payne and Claire Brodie for 521005 Paynes Sublime-ET
- **Top Daughter Proven Bull**
  Sara Greene & Justin Sanson for 520063 Sansons Emerald-ET
- **SPS Farmer of the Year**
  Peter and Sandi Thompson

Breeders' Day 2026 Awards Dinner

Kelli Buckley, Liz and John McKerchar

SPS Farmers of the Year - Sandi and Peter Thompson, with Ann Scott



Claire Brodie, Archie Payne, Austin Payne and Brad Payne

Charlie, Liz and Heidi Hacker, Lucy Morris, Rivers, Rene, Manpreet and Harman Singh, Sebastian, Emilie and Sophia Hacker

Sara Greene and Justin Sanson

Cara How, Lesley Landers, Claire Reeve and Karen McErlean

Robert and Annemarie Bruin, David Chin

John Bellamy, Charlotte Gray, Jan Bellamy and David Power

Krystle Bennett, Nigel Brinkworth and David Chin

Alan Butler, Dilma Paixao and David Chin

LIC Board Chair, Corrigan Sowman

LIC Head of Genetics, Izzy Willison

Tawera Nikau

Murray Hawkings, Gavin Steer, Ella Leilua, Carl, Daniel and Freya Lynch, and Kate Lambert

Walter and Mary van Rossum, Rosemarie and Bryce Costar, and Abbey Stantiall

Private Bag 3016
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