

EastGen

Invested in your future.

2017 Winning
Christmas card entry



Digital Dermatitis (DD) - New health trait added for December 2017

With files from Canadian Dairy Network

In December 2017, Canada will join the handful of leading countries worldwide that have national genetic evaluations aimed at directly improving hoof health. This success story has resulted from various research initiatives since 2009 culminated by a national project led by the University of Guelph and then the development of genomic evaluations for Digital Dermatitis in Holsteins.

Dairy producers recognize lameness as the top animal health and welfare issue with an important economic impact at the farm level.

How is the data collected? Hoof Supervisor System™ is used by hoof trimmers across Canada

- Collects detailed data related to 19 hoof lesions found in 12 regions on each of the four hoofs.

Continued on page 2...

Update December 2017

About the Illustrator

We are pleased to congratulate Mary Brander of Rockwood, Ontario, on her grand prize entry for our 2017 Christmas card. Mary is 12 years old and attends grade 7 at Rockwood Centennial Public School. She's from a dairy farm milking Jerseys and Holsteins and is an active 4-H member completing 18 clubs to date. When Mary isn't busy on the farm or painting, she enjoys playing hockey, soccer and rugby.

Merry Christmas

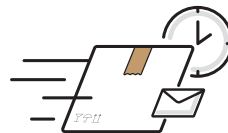
We wish you all the joys of the season and a happy new year.

- The EastGen Family



Holiday Closures

To allow our field staff to enjoy the holidays with family and friends there will be no breeding service on December 25 and January 1. EastGen's head office will be closed December 25, 26 and January 1.



December Proofs

Watch for your December 2017 Price and Proof sheet following genetic evaluations December 5, 2017.

EastGen's 2017/2018 County Zone Meetings Schedule - See details on page 2

Digital Dermatitis (DD) - New health trait added for December 2017 - Continued from page 1

- Data flows to the national database at Canadian DHI and then CDN
- Based on 300,000 records in 1,200 herds

Why Digital Dermatitis:

- One of the most important hoof lesions recorded is Digital Dermatitis (DD)
- has an incidence rate of 18% among cows presented to the hoof trimmers and
 - a heritability of 8%.

Other details:

This is a genomic evaluation

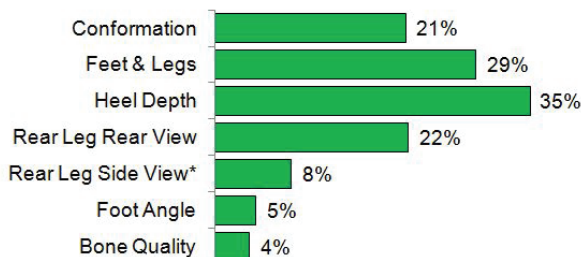
- Sires must have daughters in at least 5 herds and a minimum REL of 70%
- Currently over 2,500 sires surpass these limits (~2/3 of the Top LPI list)
- As for all functional traits, the average DD proof for sires is set to 100.
- Sires with a rating of 100 are expected to have 82% of their daughters without any case of DD
- This percentage increases by 1% for every one point increase in RBV for Digital Dermatitis

Association with Other Traits

- Feet & Legs accounts for 28% of the overall classification scorecard weighting currently
- Heel Depth & Rear Leg Rear View (RLRV) have the highest correlation with DD

Other Trait Correlations: LPI and Pro\$ have the highest correlations with DD both >40%

Proof Correlations with Digital Dermatitis



* Rear Leg Side View has an intermediate optimum so this correlation is the square root of the R^2 of the quadratic prediction equation.

- Fat Yield (36%), Protein Yield (33%), Milk Yield (27%) and Herd Life (27%) all >25% level.
- Low Somatic Cell Score (which is desirable), Lactation Persistency & Conformation are >20%.

In summary

- Digital Dermatitis (DD) first genetic and genomic evaluations will be this December 2017
- It is a first step towards the direct genetic improvement of hoof health in Canadian Holsteins.
- Dairy producers are encouraged to get their hoof trimmer to contribute data for their herds to the national collection system
- An increase of 5 points translates to an expected 5% reduction in the incidence of digital dermatitis.
- Due to high correlations with LPI, Pro\$ and several traits of importance, Canadian dairy herds have already made significant gains due to indirect selection

For additional information on this new trait visit the Canadian Dairy Network - www.cdn.ca

October Winners "Get more heifers" promotion



Congratulations to Henria Holsteins of Conn, ON, for winning the second Pro-genesis heifer in the "Get more Heifers" special. Maria, Henk and family will have their choice of a high genomic Progenesis Heifer (\$3000.00 credit towards choice).



Congratulations to Bryan & Jennifer Weldrick of Tavistock, ON, on winning the monthly draw for 2 female embryos of high genetic merit.

2017/2018 COUNTY ZONE MEETINGS

** Indicates Delegate Election

FRONTENAC - Zone 4

Monday, December 11, 2017, 10:30 a.m.,
Battersea United Church, Battersea, ON
In conjunction with Holstein club meeting

RENFREW - Zone 4

Wednesday, December 13, 2017, 10:30 a.m.,
Cobden Civitan Hall, 35 Main St., Cobden, ON
In conjunction with Holstein club meeting

GLENGARRY, PRESCOTT, RUSSELL - Zone 2 & CARLETON, DUNDAS, STORMONT - Zone 3**

Thursday, December 14, 2017, 10:30 a.m.,
Vriesdale Farms Inc., 10780 Church Road,
Mountain, ON

** Delegate elections

Guest speakers *This meeting only

- **Henry Ceelen** - On-farm reproduction strategies and the benefits of rumination monitoring.
- **Brad Sayles** - The rapidly changing global genetics industry and how Semex's genetic programs will keep pace.

REGION OF NIAGARA (N&S), HALDIMAND, WENTWORTH - Zone 10

Tuesday, January 16, 2018, 10:30 a.m.,
Arnold Jansema, 158 Lane Road, Dunnville, ON

MIDDLESEX, ELGIN, ESSEX-KENT, LAMBTON - Zone 12 **

Wednesday, January 17, 2018, 10:30 a.m.,
Wicketthorn Farms Inc.
4334 Woodhull Road, London, ON
In conjunction with Holstein Club

OXFORD, BRANT, NORFOLK - Zone 10

Thursday, January 18, 2018, 10:30 a.m.,
Dualane Farms, 404507 Union Road,
Ingersoll, ON
In conjunction with Holstein Club

WATERLOO - Zone 9 **

Friday, January 19, 2018, 10:30 a.m., Green Acre Farms Ltd.,
The Wagler Family, 4152 Huron Road, New Hamburg, ON

HURON - Zone 12 **

Tuesday, January 23, 2018, 10:30 a.m., Heather Holme
Farms Inc., The McNeil Family, 36682 Gore Road,
Goderich, ON

PERTH - Zone 11

Wednesday, January 24, 2018, 10:30 a.m.,
Shylane Holsteins, 4589 Perth Road 108, Stratford, ON

RENCONTRE REGIONAL DES ÉLEVEURS

FRANCOPHONE D'EASTGEN Thursday, January 25, 2018,
10:30 a.m., Fromagerie St-Albert, 150, St-Paul Street,
St. Albert, ON

WELLINGTON - Zone 9**

Friday, January 26, 2018, 10:30 a.m., Shantrose Holsteins,
Steven B & Wilma Shantz, 1354 Willis Road, West Montrose,
ON

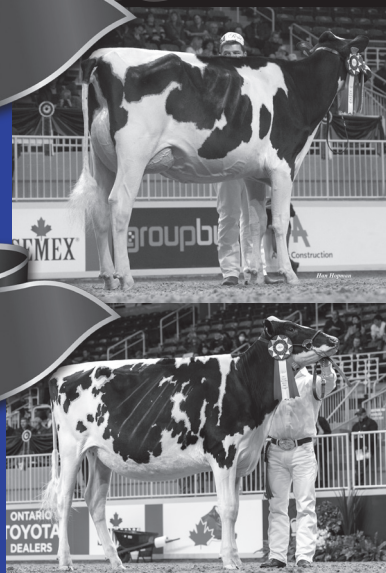
DOORMAN AND SON DOMINATE ROYAL WINTER FAIR HOLSTEIN SHOW

0200H006480
VAL-BISSON DOORMAN
PREMIER SIRE
OF CANADIAN NATIONAL
HOLSTEIN SHOW

32 Dtrs in Top 10
Florbil Doorman Lilly
1st Milking Yearling

DOORMAN'S SON
0200H010146
WALNUTLAWN
SOLOMON

6 Dtrs in Top 10
Kingsway Soloman Gorgeous
Junior Champion &
1st Summer Yearling



SHOWCASING SEMEX'S FINEST

Please check the events page at www.eastgen.ca
for additional zone meeting dates to be announced.

Watch for his first Canadian proof in December 2017



Line-up of Comestar Lineman daughters at Woodhey Holsteins, United Kingdom

Comestar **LINEMAN**

0200HO10000 MOGUL x MAN-O-MAN x GOLDWYN



IMMUNITY+



CALVING EASE



ROBOTREADY

Watch for the anticipated first proof of **Comestar Lineman** this December! Lineman is maternal brother to Comestar Lautrust, a bull used heavily in today's breeding strategies. Made for today's dairymen, Lineman is sure to sire well-balanced cows with impressive udders, great feet & legs and tremendous health trait improvement. It's time to put Lineman on your radar!

GPA LPI	+3134
Pro\$	\$2148
Mammary System	+14
Feet & Legs	+12
Herd Life	107
Somatic Cell Score	2.50
Calving Ability	103*
Daughter Fertility	102

* Official
GPA 17*AUG



www.eastgen.ca