

Accessing Publishable Lactations and Classifications

In conjunction with the August 2007 genetic evaluation release, the Canadian Dairy Network (CDN) web site (www.cdn.ca) added new information pages linked to each cow's "Genetic Evaluation Summary" page. This additional data, available for all dairy breeds, is accessible for cows that have any publishable lactations or a Canadian classification.

Publishable Lactations

In addition to the traditional genetic evaluation details for bulls and cows, the CDN web site now also displays each cow's publishable lactation records. Once the "Genetic Evaluation Summary" page for the cow of interest is displayed, using the "Animal Query" or "Group Query" tools, a click on the tab labelled "Lactations" takes the user to a full page display of all publishable lactations available at CDN, including projected records. As an example, Figure 1 shows the "Publishable Lactation Summary" for Granduc Maggie Storm, the dam of the current #1 LPI sire, Dudoc Mr Burns *RC. By clicking on the desired options, lactation records can also be converted to display in pounds rather than kilograms and/or in mature equivalents instead of BCAs and BCA deviations. Following the list of publishable lactations, lifetime totals and averages for BCAs and BCA deviations are also shown. While parallel publishable lactation information has been available via the Holstein Canada web site (www.holstein.ca) for several years, this new page on the CDN web site provides access to this performance information for all dairy breeds in Canada.

Figure 1: Example "Publishable Lactation Summary" Page

Publishable Lactation Summary																	
HOCANF6873895		GRANDUC MAGGIE STORM						%INB	%R								
Born 02-SEP-97		ET BW RC						6.57%	14%								
PUBLISHABLE LACTATIONS				Records quoted are in kg				Convert to lbs	Express in Mature Equivalents								
Calving			Avg					BCA				BCA Deviations					
Date	Age	2X	DIM	Milk	Fat	%F	Prot	%P	SCS	Milk	Fat	Prot	Comp	Milk	Fat	Prot	Comp
25-JAN-00	2-4	2X	305	12533	446	3.6	390	3.1	298	288	293	879		+65	+39	+54	+158
			365	14474	514	3.5	458	3.2									
			461	16845	609	3.6	546	3.2									
23-JUN-01	3-9	2X	305	19096	732	3.8	589	3.1	407	423	390	1220		+128	+147	+107	+382
			365	21934	848	3.9	685	3.1									
			828	33480	1255	3.8	1090	3.3									
02-DEC-03	6-3	3X	305	17304	627	3.6	527	3.0	313	309	306	928		+72	+73	+62	+207
			365	19217	697	3.6	596	3.1									
			588	23663	880	3.7	765	3.2									
14-OCT-05	8-1	3X	92	5051	185	3.7	142	2.8									
4 Lactation(s):			79039	2929	3.7	2543	3.2		339	340	330		+88	+86	+74		
GENETIC EVALUATION DATA																	
Calving			Entire Lactation		Test Day Records Currently Eligible for Genetic Evaluation												
Date	Age	Reason	DIM	Test Days	Total	No. with Protein	Supervised										
25-JAN-00	2-4		461	9	9	9	9										
23-JUN-01	3-9	Normal Calving	828	10	10	10	10										
Total for Genetic Evaluation:					19	19	19										

In addition to the list of publishable lactations, the CDN report also displays information specific to data from the cow's lactations eligible for genetic evaluations. For each cow, eligible lactations include up to the first three lactations with the calving age prior to 5-5. Lactations identified as initiated by hormone induction or an abortion, instead of a normal calving, do not qualify for genetic evaluations. For each lactation, only valid test day records between 5 and 305 days in milk with at least a milk yield recorded may be used for genetic evaluations. The report also provides counts of eligible test days with components testing (i.e.: protein) and those recorded through supervised testing. All counters display the current up-to-date eligibility status at the time of the query and the results do not necessarily represent the data used in the latest official genetic index published for each cow.

Classifications

Similar to accessing each cow's production details, clicking on the "Classification" tab takes the user to a display of all classification data (see Figure 2 for Granduc Maggie Storm). For the latest classification, the scores for overall conformation, the four major scorecard traits and the 22 descriptive traits are presented. The lower section displays any previous classifications for the cow and includes her Final Class, Final Score and the major scorecard ratings. For each classification record displayed, those that are used for genetic evaluations are clearly indicated. The current genetic evaluation system in Canada uses all first lactation classifications and reclassifications but not those from later lactations due to the special nature of such classifications.

Figure 2: Example "Type Classification Summary" Page

Type Classification Summary										
HOCANF6873895		GRANDUC MAGGIE STORM				%INB		%R		
Born 02-SEP-97		ET BW RC				6.57%		14%		
CURRENT CLASSIFICATION										
Classification				Final Class	Final Score	Mammary System	Feet & Legs	Dairy Strength	Rump	Used For Genetic Evaluation
Date	Age	Lactation	DIM							
17-FEB-04	6-5	3	77	VG	87	86	90	91	86	No
Descriptive Traits:										
Udder Depth	5	Foot Angle	6	Stature	8	Rump Angle	5			
Udder Texture	8	Heel Depth	8	Height at Front End	6	Pin Width	4			
Median Suspensory	6	Bone Quality	8	Chest Width	7	Loin Strength	9			
Fore Attachment	5	Rear Legs Side View	4	Body Depth	4					
Front Teat Placement	6	Rear Legs Rear View	7	Angularity	9					
Rear Attachment Height	9									
Rear Attachment Width	6									
Rear Teat Placement	5									
Teat Length	7									
PREVIOUS CLASSIFICATION(S)										
Classification				Final Class	Final Score	Mammary System	Feet & Legs	Dairy Strength	Rump	Used For Genetic Evaluation
Date	Age	Lactation	DIM							
30-OCT-00	3-1	1	279	VG	86	88	83	87	90	Yes
18-AUG-00	2-11	1	206	GP	83	84	84	82	84	Yes

Summary

The CDN web site is an excellent source for obtaining genetic improvement information for animals in any dairy breed in Canada. In an effort to best meet the needs of dairy producers and industry organizations interested in such data, the CDN web site recently added access to lactation and classification details for each cow with official data recorded in Canada. The links to the "Lactation" and "Classification" pages from the "Genetic Evaluation Summary" will be provide valuable information to those interested in Canadian dairy cattle genetics.

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