

“Wildthing” and “Willrock” Receive Identical Genetic Evaluations

In accordance with the recently approved policy of Canadian Dairy Network (CDN), identical twin brothers from a split embryo, Gillette Wildthing (HOCANM7816547) and Gillette Willrock (HOCANM7816548), received their first official progeny proof in Canada on April 5, 2011 based on the pooled group of their daughters, landing at #5 LPI.

Genotyping analysis of these bulls has shown they have identical DNA and therefore are expected to have equal transmitting abilities based on the current genetic evaluation methods and models used in Canada and globally. The approach applied by CDN starting with the April 2011 genetic evaluation release is that twin brothers with identical genotypes and born since April 1, 2006 will receive identical genetic and genomic evaluations using the combined pool of their daughters and their identical genotypes.

“Wildthing” and “Willrock” are the first pair of progeny proven identical twins from a split embryo to have their Canadian evaluations computed and published in this manner. Each bull received the same evaluations based on a total of 122 daughters with production data and 74 classified daughters, which translates to higher Reliability values of 91% for production and 88% for type, compared to maintaining separate daughter groups. Both bulls will also have identical pages on the CDN web site providing details of daughter performance for production, type, calving and other functional traits. The CDN web site also includes a new label of “GI” displayed next to the semen code for linking to any other brothers with an identical genotype in the CDN database. Lists of registered progeny will remain distinct for each identical brother as will the phenotypic performance data presented on the Holstein Canada web site.

At the international level, identical evaluations for both bulls have been used by Interbull to generate MACE evaluations on all other country scales. Resulting published evaluations in each other country are therefore also expected to be identical unless either or both bulls have daughters with performance in the importing country.

For further information or clarification on this newly implemented CDN policy, please contact either Brian Van Doormaal or Dr. Gerrit Kistemaker at CDN.