

Why did that bull's proof change?

Improvements were made in the production and type evaluations with the May Sire Summaries that impacted the rankings of both bulls and cows. The new methods include more data and results in evaluations that are more stable and consistent with genetic evaluations in other countries. USDA introduced a new all-breed animal model with the May 2007 genetic evaluations, making more records available for Brown Swiss and Jersey sires. Also, Holstein type evaluations were modified along with the introduction of new indexes for Holsteins, Jerseys and Brown Swiss. Below are highlights of the changes and the affect they had.

Holstein

New genetic parameters were used in the all-breed animal model that affected Daughter Pregnancy Rate (DPR). Holstein active-A.I. sires changed an average of $-.3$ DPR. This decline in DPR lead to decreased values for NM\$ and TPI™ as it is included in these calculations.

PTAT evaluations were improved, providing more stability in proofs from first to second crop. The average increase in Type was $+0.4$. Younger bulls, younger cows and second-crop bulls saw a higher increase.

The TPI formula was changed with more emphasis placed on improving reproductive performance and calving ability. The TPI index now includes a small weight on Daughter Stillbirth evaluations and increased amount of weight on Productive Life (PL) and DPR. Emphasis on production traits, particularly protein yield, was reduced. As such, on average TPI numbers dropped by 23 points

Jersey and Brown Swiss

USDA's change to the all-breed animal model caused a general decrease in PTAs for production traits, PL, DPR and NM\$. Much of the decrease in both breeds is due to the proper


adjustment of heterosis for crossbred animals used in the evaluation. In previous evaluations, some crossbred daughters were included with no heterosis adjustment.

The average Jersey bull changed by -6 for PTA protein and -60 for NM\$. The Jersey Association began publishing rankings of bulls for udder conformation using Jersey Udder Index (JUI). For Active A.I. sires, JUI values range from -3.63 to $+8.18$ with an average of 2.75 .


The Brown Swiss breed was impacted more by the new all-breed model than any other breed. The average Brown Swiss bull changed

by -9 PTA protein and -89 NM\$. The Brown Swiss Association changed the name of its breed index and changed the formula. The index is now called Progressive Performance Ranking and while similar to the old, it no longer includes PTAT in the index and puts more weight on PL and DPR.

May 2007 genetic evaluations look different than the February evaluations, therefore specific selection criteria may need to be adjusted to account for the new evaluation levels. For assistance with your selection criteria visit with your area NorthStar Cooperative representative. ★




The sign of health, fertility & profitability




7H7615 COLBY
 $+\$420$ NM $+2.21$ T $+5.6$ PL
 2.80 SCS $+2.8$ DPR

Frank Robinson
BRENNER FARMS, LITCHFIELD, MICH.




7H7536 COLDSRING
 $+\$356$ NM $+2.26$ T
 $+2.2$ PL 2.79 SCS
 $+0.1$ DPR

Superior Settler
HealthMark
Calyx Lake



7H7383 ZEUS
 $+\$353$ NM $+2.11$ T
 $+5.1$ PL 2.71 SCS
 $+1.8$ DPR


Lew-Max Houstens, Belding, Mich.




7H7043 DISON
 $+\$406$ NM $+1.42$ T
 $+3.4$ PL 2.69 SCS
 $+0.6$ DPR

Tom Carson & Family, Hesperia, Mich.

Select Sires' HealthMark™ sires offer a balance of health and fertility traits. IGENITY® DNA marker results combined with genetic evaluation data for SCS, DPR and PL are used to identify these sires. This group also shows Select Sires' promise of the balance of type and production you trust.





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