



The Point



A better bottom line is a breeding away

A **better bottom line** is just a breeding away with FeedPRO sires. High feed prices and lower milk prices have created a renewed interest in selecting for improved feed efficiency. Unfortunately, directly measuring and selecting for feed efficiency is not practical because of the expense to measure individual cow feed intakes. However, our current genetic evaluations measure a large variety of traits, so Select Sires took another look at feed efficiency to see if we could identify some key indicator traits among those that we currently evaluate.



The science behind FeedPRO

Researchers in the U.K. have done studies of body traits, body condition score and feed intake. They developed an index that combines milk, fat and protein yield with stature, chest width, body depth and rump width. The index they developed had a 90 percent correlation with feed intake.¹ Additional research articles have confirmed the relationship between body size and feed intake. Unfortunately, this research does not allow us to identify cows that more efficiently digest the feed they consume. But, we can identify the majority of feed intake differences in our dairy cows using traits we already measure.

“Bulls carrying the FeedPRO designation have the ability to make a higher-producing, moderate-sized animal that will provide customers with greater income over feed cost.”

~Chuck Sattler, vice president of genetic programs for Select Sires

Building the FeedPRO index

Based on these research articles, as well as others, Select Sires has built an index that identifies sires whose daughters offer the most income over feed cost. A variety of trait combinations were considered for the FeedPRO index. These indexes were then tested by applying them to the Active A.I. list and selecting the top bulls. Averages of the selected bulls were then entered into an income over feed supplement cost calculator developed at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. This tool was used to estimate income over feed costs for the various trial indexes. Through this exercise, Select Sires learned that selecting for a balance of production, body size, and other traits was more cost effective than simply selecting for more production. Select Sires used these tools to identify the combination of traits that maximized income over feed costs.

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Pre-pay and earn 5%

In our continued effort to help you stretch your buying power, NorthStar Cooperative is once again offering a 5 percent year-end pre-payment opportunity. For every dollar you pre-pay on your A.I. Services, DHI Services or AntelBio account prior to December 31, 2009, NorthStar Cooperative will credit your account \$1.05.



Pre-payments can be made by cash or check, credit cards are not accepted for this program. For more information or to make a pre-payment call 800.631.3510.

Stockowner notices

Stockowner meetings are fast approaching and all stockowners are encouraged to attend to cast a vote for the election of directors and resolutions and advisory committee members. To be eligible to vote at the 2010 stockowner meetings you must be sign-up as a common stockowner by December 31, 2009.

For more information on how to become a NorthStar stockowner, talk to your area NorthStar representative.

~ Now Accepting ~



Enhancing producer profitability through integrated services.

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Comparison of FeedPRO to other indexes

You may be asking how the FeedPRO index compares with other selection indexes that are currently available within the industry. As Table 1 shows, the correlation of FeedPRO is moderately high with production traits, Net Merit and TPI™. This means that FeedPRO is aggressively selecting for increased production, but still identifies a noticeably different group of bulls. FeedPRO sires have the ability to produce a higher producing, moderate-sized animal that will provide you with greater income over feed cost!

FeedPRO can be used alongside existing designations like HealthMark™, HerdLife Builder™, Calving Ease and Superior Settler™ to easily find sires to meet any breeding goal. FeedPRO may also be included as part of a custom-selection index that can be created by your Select Mating Service™ (SMSTM) genetic consultant. Look for the FeedPRO logo for More Income, Less Feed!

Milk	Fat	Protein	NM\$	TPI
.62	.74	.78	.84	.66

¹ R.F. Veerkamp 1998 J Dairy Sci 81:1109-1119. Selection for Economic Efficiency of Dairy Cattle Using Information on Live Weight and Feed Intake: A Review



“Feed efficiency is a critical issue to dairy farm profitability and we are currently researching methods of selecting for more efficient cows. Though we have much to learn, I find Select’s application of this science to be sound and useful for today’s dairy

producers. In my review of FeedPRO, I found that daughters of FeedPRO sires have an advantage, on average of 24 to 26 cents per day in income over feed cost when compared to the active A.I. average. I salute Select Sires for their efforts in helping producers put more emphasis on moderate-sized cows while maintaining production.”

~Dr. Chad Dechow, Dairy Genetics Research Scientist



“I have reviewed the science behind FeedPRO and find its application and philosophy to be very much in line with the message of overall economic efficiency that The Ohio State University relays in Extension programming. I support Select Sires in this endeavor and believe the philosophy of FeedPRO is sound in improving income over feed cost.”

~Dr. Maurice Eastridge, professor, The Ohio State University



FeedPRO Sires

Code	Name	Milk	Fat	Pro	NM\$	GTPI™
7HO6417	O MAN	+1101	+77	+59	+779	+2039
7HO6838	MATCHES	+2012	+69	+51	+422	+1774
7HO7043	DISON	+1440	+22	+47	+458	+1730
7HO7475	RI-VAL	+1769	+68	+57	+410	+1719
7HO7560	BLITZ JINTX	+2406	+61	+41	+414	+1668
7HO7901	RELIABLE	+1618	+64	+41	+386	+1689
7HO8081	PLANET	+2581	+86	+77	+763	+2154
7HO8236	SPARTACUS	+2206	+86	+57	+431	+1704
7HO8344	COOP	+1377	+59	+53	+462	+1744
7HO8361	DOMINGO	+1406	+67	+41	+612	+1901
7HO8492	ELIAS	+603	+67	+28	+555	+1870
7HO8530	AUTUMN	+724	+77	+33	+518	+1803
7HO8534	PENNY	+934	+39	+42	+467	+1708
7HO8553	ASTROLGER	+1544	+51	+51	+517	+1956
7HO8559	BOGART	+996	+70	+44	+644	+2036
7HO8612	BOB	+1491	+75	+60	+478	+1809
7HO8625	BUTCH	+1197	+61	+61	+574	+1859
7HO8661	COURAGE	+1034	+91	+42	+526	+1868
7HO8715	OFFICER	+362	+58	+37	+519	+1846
7HO8744	SECRET	+1082	+75	+51	+609	+1902
7HO8747	BRONCO	+2020	+71	+64	+635	+2072
7HO8856	NIAGRA	+2399	+85	+77	+587	+2041
7JE620	MAXIMUS	-29	+99	+29	+422	+193
7JE714	MATINEE	+1218	+99	+38	+481	+207
7JE817	KWARTZ	+1847	+76	+50	+459	+217
7GU395	AARON	+1030	+66	+28	+307	+208
7GU398	ALSTAR	+1104	+49	+26	+418	+177
7GU405	GRUMPY	+726	+43	+23	+295	+146

¹FeedPRO, HealthMark, HerdLife Builder, Superior Settler, Select Mating Service, and SMS are trademarks of Select Sires Inc. TPI is a trademark of Holstein Association USA.