

# What is our aim in using composite type traits?

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## Breeding program

- set breeding goals
- make a plan how to reach the breeding goals
  - indexes are tools in animal selection
- time to time useful to take a look at the genetic progress
  - are we going to the right direction? speed?
  - are we doing correct things? correct way?

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## Optimum thinking in composite type traits

- set optimum /weights in each trait
- calculate how much the animal's offspring would deviate from the optimum if the animal is mated to a breed average animal
- combine the deviations by the corresponding weights in each trait
- the less the animal's offspring would deviate from the optimum, the higher index value the animal will get in that composite trait

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## How the optimums should be set?

- key question = what are we trying to do with the composite trait?
  - improve some other trait?
    - health, longevity, milkability etc
  - make milking of the cows as trouble free as possible?
    - robot milking as a special case?
  - show how the animals should look like?
    - all traits should contribute

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## Thinks to consider

- interpretation of indexes for composite type traits should be as simple as possible
  - same ideology for all composite traits?
  - same approach for all breeds?
- acceptance is important: farmers want to use it in their selection decisions
- Interbull
  - high correlations between countries beneficial

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