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?
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

How the optimums should be set?

• key question = what are we trying 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
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