

Revision of Nordic total merit index, NTM

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Weight factors in total merit indices, are normally recalculated about every 10th year. However, in the meantime breed committees sometimes have wishes about small changes. For NTM, our joint Nordic total merit index, February's routine genetic evaluation will introduce some small changes for RDC and Jersey. For Holstein no changes have been done.

For RDC changes in milking speed and rump width

For RDC the weight on milking speed has been increased from 0.06 to 0.09. Further the optimum of rump width has changed from 6 to 5 in the calculation of EBV for Body.

Increased weight on milking speed is expected to give somewhat higher genetic progress for this trait, but since the weight change is low it has only little effect on ranking of bulls.

For Jersey changes in yield index and udder

For Jersey more emphasis has been put on fat and less on protein in the yield index going from 3:4:9 to 3:5:8 for milk, fat and protein. Further more weight has been put on udder conformation and less on yield. Weight on yield is lowered from 0.87 to 0.82 and weight on udder is increased from 0.15 to 0.20.

Changes within yield index have only small effects on genetic progress for milk, fat and protein. Changes in weight on yield and udder conformation are expected to give a little lower progress for yield and a little higher progress for udder. A little more progress is also expected for udder health and longevity because of correlations to yield and udder. However, since the changes are small they will only have a limited effect on ranking of bulls.