

News - NAV routine evaluation

15 March 2009

The latest NAV routine evaluation for yield, fertility, type, udder health, other diseases, calving traits, milk ability, temperament and NTM took place as scheduled. NAV carried out three evaluations per trait group:

Holstein evaluation, including data from: Danish Holstein, Danish Red Holstein, Swedish Holstein, Finnish Holstein, Finnish Ayrshire and Finn Cattle.

Red Dairy Cattle evaluation, including data from: Danish Red, Swedish Red, Finnish Ayrshire, Finnish Holstein and Finn Cattle.

Jersey evaluation, including data from: Danish Jersey and Swedish Jersey (only yield).

Extraction dates

Dates for extraction of data from national databases are given in table 1.

Table 1. Dates for extraction of data from the national databases

Trait	Denmark	Finland	Sweden
Yield	10.02.2009	08.02.2009	27.01.2009
Type, milk ability and temperament	19.02.2009	08.02.2009	09.02.2009
Fertility	10.02.2009	08.02.2009	07.02.2009
Udder health and other disease	10.02.2009	08.02.2009	07.02.2009
Calving	10.02.2009	08.02.2009	07.02.2009

News in relation to NAV genetic evaluation

No changes.

Interbull evaluation

In January INTERBULL started routine evaluation for milk ability, temperament, locomotion and body condition score. The international evaluation takes place for the different traits according to table 2.

Table 2. International evaluation

International trait	Breed	NAV data
Milk ability	Holstein, RDC and Jersey	NAV Milking speed EBVs
Temperament	Holstein and RDC	NAV Temperament EBVs
Body Condition Score	Holstein	Danish BCS EBVs
Locomotion	Holstein	NAV Rear legs rear view EBV

Genetic base

EBVs for bulls and females are expressed on the same cow base. This genetic evaluation included cows born from 15.03.2004 to 15.03.2006 in the genetic base (average 100).

For functional traits, sire models are used and EBVs for cows are not estimated. For functional traits, the genetic base includes bulls, which are sires of present cows – see table 3.

Table 3. Definition of genetic base for cows and bulls

Trait	Genetic base
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Yield, type, milk ability and temperament
Fertility, calving, mastitis resistance and
resistance against other diseases

Cows born 15.03.2004 -15.03.2006
Bulls born 15.03.2000 -15.03.2002

NTM – Nordic Total Merit Index

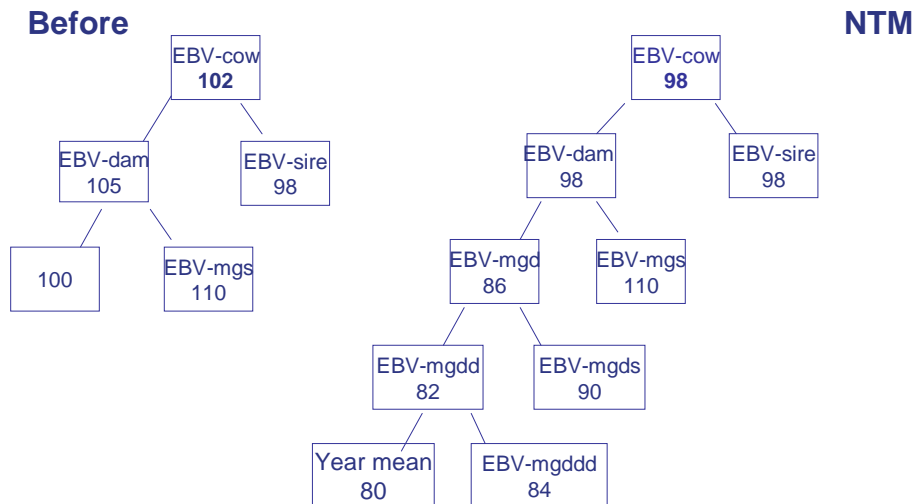
NTM - Nordic Total Merit - is the name of the total economic index for dairy cattle in Finland, Sweden and Denmark. This means that bulls and cows in all three countries have a NTM breeding value calculated the same way. It also means, for example, that a bull which is used in more than one country will have exactly the same NTM, independent of whether he is used in Finland, Sweden and Denmark. Table 4 - 7 give the weight factors for the different breeds used when calculating NTM. Weight factors are slightly different for cows and bulls due to an approximate multi trait method used for cow NTM.

Pedigree index

A pedigree index is calculated for all traits without an official EBV based on daughter or own records for both cows and bulls. The pedigree index is calculated as an average of sire and dam EBVs for both bulls and females - starting from the oldest animal

$$\text{Pedigree Index} = \frac{1}{2} \text{EBV}_{\text{sire}} + \frac{1}{2} \text{EBV}_{\text{dam}}$$

The pedigree index is calculated based on all information in the pedigree as illustrated for fertility for a female in figure 1. When the pedigree index is traced back to an unknown animal the EBV is set to a birth year mean. Birth year mean is calculated per country breed. This method is applied for all traits. The principles are illustrated in figure 1 for a female for fertility.



Figur 1 Example - female pedigree index for fertility

Table 4. Weights factors for bulls and cows in NTM for Holstein

Trait	NTM weight	NTM cow weights considering approx Multi Trait	
		Bulls	Cow with own yield records
Yield index	0.75	0.68	0.68
Growth	0.06	0.06	0.06
Fertility	0.31	0.31	0.31
Birth index	0.15	0.15	0.15
Calving index	0.17	0.17	0.17
Udder health	0.35	0.35	0.35
Other disease	0.12	0.12	0.12
Body	0.00	0.00	0.00
Feet & legs	0.15	0.15	0.15
Udder	0.18	0.18	0.23
Milk ability	0.08	0.08	0.08
Temperament	0.03	0.03	0.03
Longevity	0.11	0.11	0.11

Table 5. Weights factors for bulls and cows in NTM for RDC

Trait	NTM weight	NTM cow weights considering approx Multi Trait	
		Bulls	Cow with own yield records
Yield index	0.92	0.84	0.84
Growth	0.00	0.00	0.00
Fertility	0.26	0.26	0.26
Birth index	0.14	0.14	0.14
Calving index	0.12	0.12	0.12
Udder health	0.32	0.32	0.32
Other disease	0.12	0.12	0.12
Body	0.00	0.00	0.00
Feet & legs	0.09	0.09	0.09
Udder	0.32	0.32	0.37
Milk ability	0.06	0.06	0.06
Temperament	0.03	0.03	0.03
Longevity	0.08	0.08	0.08

Table 6. Weights factors for bulls and cows in NTM for Jersey

Trait	NTM weight	NTM cow weights considering approx Multi Trait	
		Bulls	Cow with own yield records
Yield index	0.87	0.78	0.78
Growth	0.00	0.00	0.00
Fertility	0.26	0.26	0.26
Birth index	0.06	0.06	0.06
Calving index	0.06	0.06	0.06
Udder health	0.49	0.49	0.49
Other disease	0.04	0.04	0.04
Body	0.00	0.00	0.00
Feet & legs	0.05	0.05	0.05
Udder	0.15	0.15	0.22
Milk ability	0.10	0.10	0.10
Temperament	0.03	0.03	0.03
Longevity	0.12	0.12	0.12

Table 7. Weights factors for bulls and cows in NTM for Red Holstein

Trait	NTM weight	NTM cow weights considering approx Multi Trait	
		Bulls	Cow with own yield records
Yield index	0.75	0.68	0.68
Growth	0.11	0.11	0.11
Fertility	0.23	0.23	0.23
Birth index	0.17	0.17	0.17
Calving index	0.17	0.17	0.17
Udder health	0.35	0.35	0.35
Other disease	0.12	0.12	0.12
Body	0.00	0.00	0.00
Feet & legs	0.15	0.15	0.15
Udder	0.24	0.24	0.29
Milk ability	0.08	0.08	0.08
Temperament	0.03	0.03	0.03
Longevity	0.11	0.11	0.11

Publication of NTM

A bull gets an official NTM, when the bull has official EBVs for yield, type and mastitis. For traits without an official EBV, a pedigree index is used.

NAV – frequency and timing of routine runs

NAV performs 6 evaluations per year for all traits. The NAV evaluations are timed in a way so NAV can deliver updated EBVs to all the international evaluations. In Table 8, the current and future NAV and INTERBULL release dates are shown.

Table 8. NAV and INTERBULL release dates in 2009. EBVs released at NAV dates in bold will be delivered to international genetic evaluation

Month	2009	
	NAV	INTERBULL
January	15	13
February		
March	13	
April		7
May	15	
June		
July		
August	14	18
September		
October	15	
November		
December	1	

You can get more information about the joint Nordic evaluation:

General about Nordic Cattle Genetic Evaluation: www.nordicebv.info

Contact person: Gert Pedersen Aamand, Ph.: +45 87405288 gap@landscentret.dk,

Denmark: www.landscentret.dk/nav

Contact person: Ulrik Sander Nielsen, Danish Cattle, Ph. +45 87405289, usn@landscentret.dk

Sweden: www.svenskmjolk.se

Contact person: Jan-Åke Eriksson, Swedish Dairy Association, Ph. +46 08-790 58 67

jan-ake.eriksson@svenskmjolk.se

Finland: www.faba.fi

Contact person: Jukka Pösö, Faba Breeding, Ph +[358-\(0\)207472071](tel:+358-0207472071) jukka.poso@faba.fi