

Youngstock survival is included in NTM

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In May 2016 youngstock survival is included in NTM for RDC, Holstein and Jersey.

An index for youngstock survival was introduced in November 2014. It describes survival during the rearing period for bull calves and heifers. This index will be included in NTM from May 2016.

Weight is similar to weight on birth in NTM

It is economically beneficial to genetically improve youngstock survival to get a lower occurrence of dead calves during the rearing period. Further, results show that the genetic correlations between youngstock survival and other traits in NTM generally are close to zero.

Therefore, in order to strengthen NTM and to get genetic progress for youngstock survival, Nordic farmers have decided that this trait will be included in NTM.

The weight factor used to include youngstock survival into NTM is based on breed-specific economical calculations. For all breeds, the size of weight factor is comparable to the weight on birth index. The relative weight on youngstock survival is however highest for RDC. This is partly due to a larger genetic variation for survival traits in the rearing period in RDC and partly due to the effect of higher economic value of growth in RDC.

Only limited re-ranking

Including youngstock survival in NTM has only limited effect on ranking in Holstein and Jersey. The effect is somewhat larger in RDC due to the higher weight.

Most important is that NTM will be strengthened so that the value of 1 NTM unit will be higher than before.

All the current weights for different sub-indices in NTM and the correlations between NTM and sub-indices can be found on NAV web page (www.nordicebv.info) under NTM and breeding values/NTM.