Selection Indexes

Udder Composite Index

The weightings on individual traits in this index were the result of a Holstein Association USA study on herd life, and reflect each trait’s contribution to increased longevity. Traits included in the index are Udder Depth (UD), Fore Udder Attachment (FU), Rear Udder Height (UH), Rear Udder Width (UW), Udder Cleft (UC), Front Teat Placement (TP), and Rear Teat Placement (RP).

This index is the sum of PTAs for udder traits multiplied by their percentage contribution to the animal’s Jersey Performance Index. Udder traits make up 13.8% of the JPI score. Traits included in the index are Udder Depth (UD), Fore Udder Attachment (FU), Udder Cleft (UC), Rear Udder Height (RH), Teat Placement (TP), Teat Length (TL), and Rear Udder Width (RUW).

Identifying the differences between breed-specific selection and performance indexes

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See how this Holstein index compares with the Jersey Udder Index, broken down on the back of this brochure.
Total Performance Index

Looks at 12 traits that have been proven to be economically significant for enhancing producer profitability and the overall quality of the Holstein breed. Traits include PTA Protein, PTA Fat, Feed Efficiency, PTA Type, STA Dairy Form, Udder Composite, Feet & Legs Composite, PTA Productive Life, STA Somatic Cell Score, Fertility Index, PTA Daughter Calving Ease, and PTA Daughter Stillbirth. To account for periodic base changes, allowing TPI values to be compared over time, the value 2138 is added at the end of the formula as an adjustor.¹

Jersey Performance Index

A breed-specific selection tool that has been continually reviewed and updated based on sound science and relative economics of dairying. It includes nine traits (Protein, Fat, Productive Life, Cow Conception Rate, Heifer Conception Rate, Functional Trait Index, and Jersey Udder Index) to select productive, fertile, healthy, long lasting and trouble-free Jersey cows.²

Since each of these indexes incorporate slightly different traits, instead of comparing them by each individual trait, it is easiest to see the differences between their differences by looking at the weightings they place on the major trait categories of production (prod.), health & fertility (H&F), and conformation (conf.).

Feet & Leg Composite Index

Incorporates the three linear traits, Foot Angle (FA), Rear Legs-Rear View (RLR), and Rear Legs-Side View (RLS), combines with Feet & Legs Score (FLS), into one value that will help Holstein breeders achieve longer lasting, more profitable cattle.¹

Functional Trait Index: Jersey’s combination of Body Size and Feet & Leg Composites

The Functional Trait Index equals the PTAs of linear type traits weighted by their relative economic contribution to JPI. It makes up 1.2% of the JPI score and incorporates Stature, Rump Width, Strength, Rump Angle, Dairy Form, Foot Angle, and Rear Legs.²

Body Size Composite Index

Calculated from four linear traits: Stature, Strength, Body Depth, and Rump Width.¹