

DESCRIPTION OF NATIONAL GENETIC EVALUATION SYSTEMS

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| Country (or countries) | United States of America |
| Main trait group | Workability (milking speed) |
| Breed(s) | BSW |
| Trait definition(s) and unit(s) of measurement | Milking speed; rated on a scale of 1 (slow) to 8 (fast) |
| Method of measuring and collecting data | Owner-assigned scores collected by Brown Swiss Cattle Breeders' Association as part of its linear type appraisal program |
| Time period for data inclusion | Milking speed scores from 2004 and later; pedigree from birth years 1985 and later |
| Age groups (e.g. parities) included | Calving age of ≤ 68 months |
| Other criteria (data edits) for inclusion of records | Valid sire identification required |
| Criteria for extension of records (if applicable) | Not applicable |
| Sire categories | AI and NS |
| Environmental effects, pre-adjustments | None |
| Method (model) of genetic evaluation | AM |
| Environmental effects³ in the genetic evaluation model | Herd-appraisal date (F), parity (1–3)-lactation stage (5 stages) (F), PE (R) |
| Adjustment for heterogeneous variance in evaluation model | None |
| Use of genetic groups and relationships | Unknown parents grouped by birth year (4-year groups) |
| Blending of foreign/Interbull information in evaluation | None |
| Genetic parameters in the evaluation | h^2 , 0.195; genetic variance, 0.377; PE, 0.424; RP, 0.414 |
| System validation | Evaluations compared with those from previous evaluation; means, SDs, and large differences examined |
| Expression of genetic evaluations | RBV with mean of 100 and SD of 5 |
| Definition of genetic reference base | Bulls born in 2000–04 with ≥ 10 daughters |
| Next base change | April 2015 |

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| Calculation of reliability | Iterative method that estimates contributions from parents, animal's own record, and progeny |
| Criteria for official publication of evaluations | At least 10 daughters |
| Number of evaluations/publications per year | 3 (April, August, December) |
| Use in total merit index⁴ | None |
| Anticipated changes in the near future | Eventual extension to other breeds; use of actual milking times being investigated |
| Key reference on methodology applied | Wiggans, G.R., L.L.M. Thornton, R.R. Neitzel, and N. Gengler. 2007. Short communication: Genetic evaluation of milking speed for Brown Swiss dairy cattle in the United States . J. Dairy Sci. 90(2):1021–1023. |
| Key organisation: name, address, phone, fax, e-mail, web site | Animal Improvement Programs Laboratory Agricultural Research Service, U.S. Dept. of Agriculture Bldg. 005, Room 306, BARC-West 10300 Baltimore Ave. Beltsville, Maryland 20705-2350, USA Voice: 301-504-8334; Fax: 301-504-8092 E-mail: aipl.inquiry@ars.usda.gov web site: http://aipl.arsusda.gov |