

DESCRIPTION OF NATIONAL GENETIC EVALUATION SYSTEMS

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

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.
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