

## **INTERBULL breeding values calculated August 2024**

This newsletter is primarily written for VikingGenetics staff and breeding advisors in Denmark, Sweden, and Finland, but can also be of interest for dairy farmers.

### **Table of content**

International breeding values for the traits and breeds shown in table 1 have been published 13<sup>th</sup> August 2024

<b>Current evaluation</b>	
Daughter proven bulls:  Yield Conformation Somatic cell count and udder health Longevity Calving – maternal and direct Female fertility  Milking speed and temperament  NTM for Nordic and foreign bulls	Young genomic tested bulls - HOL:  Yield Conformation Somatic cell count and udder health Longevity Calving – maternal and direct Female fertility  Milking speed and temperament

Table 1. Traits and breeds for which international breeding values are published.

<b>Trait:</b>	<b>International breeding values for the breeds:</b>
Yield	Red breeds, Holstein and Jersey
Conformation	Red breeds, Holstein and Jersey
Udder health	Red breeds, Holstein and Jersey
Longevity	Red breeds, Holstein and Jersey
Calving – maternal and direct	Red breeds and Holstein
Female fertility	Red breeds, Holstein and Jersey
Milking speed	Red breeds, Holstein and Jersey
Temperament	Red breeds and Holstein

You can find Interbull breeding values for all bulls with international breeding values on [www.nordicebv.info](http://www.nordicebv.info)

On the page you can search within breed or country. You can also search with the herdbook number or the name of the bull. Click on the herdbook number of the bull and view a graphical representation of the bulls' breeding values.

You can sort the bulls by different breeding values by clicking on the top line of the table.

Bulls from Denmark, Finland and Sweden are in the following grouped under DNK/FIN/SWE

## Daughter proven bulls

In the tables below, only sires that have breeding values based on daughter information is shown.

### Yield

In tables 2-4 is a comparison of the genetic level of yield for bulls from different countries. The analysis includes bulls born in 2017 or later, that have more than 60 daughters in the genetic evaluation.

Table 2. Genetic level for yield traits, Red breeds. Bulls born in 2017 or later.

Country	No. of bulls	Milkindex	Fatindex	Proteinindex	Y-index	Y-index STD
Australia	10	88,5	81,7	78,1	77,6	16,2
Canada	14	92,5	90,5	86,3	87,1	8,0
Germany	9	101,3	102,9	101,1	102,0	5,8
DNK/FIN/SWE	155	100,5	105,1	104,7	106,0	8,4
UK	10	82,3	77,5	70,3	71,2	15,4
Norway	111	98,5	93,1	95,3	93,3	9,6
New Zealand	10	89,3	88,8	84,0	85,1	10,4

Table 3. Genetic level for yield traits, Holstein. Bulls born in 2017 or later.

Country	No. of bulls	Milkindex	Fatindex	Proteinindex	Y-index	Y-index STD
Australia	54	96,8	103,0	98,5	101,5	10,2
Belgium	18	103,3	106,9	105,0	106,5	8,0
Canada	348	108,2	110,1	107,5	108,8	11,9
Switzerland	76	97,1	97,6	96,4	96,9	10,1
Czech Republic	43	109,0	107,0	106,3	106,0	9,9
Germany	679	111,9	105,9	110,1	107,4	9,5
DNK/FIN/SWE	235	99,8	102,8	103,2	103,8	9,0
Spain	64	113,3	102,3	105,7	101,9	8,5
Estonia	7	96,9	90,3	91,3	89,4	9,3
France	270	105,8	102,4	105,3	103,6	8,4
UK	44	100,3	109,0	102,3	106,5	8,4
Israel	114	100,8	101,0	99,4	100,0	7,2
Italy	159	107,2	105,3	107,0	106,0	8,8
Japan	21	110,2	107,7	106,0	105,9	8,4
Luxembourg	11	113,1	109,0	109,1	108,1	7,7
Netherlands	445	104,9	106,5	106,1	106,7	9,4
New Zealand	573	74,7	92,2	84,7	91,4	6,5
Poland	90	106,7	103,4	105,6	104,1	7,5
Slovenia	22	98,5	89,6	90,3	88,0	7,3
USA	2107	108,3	113,2	107,6	110,5	10,1

Table 4. Genetic level for yield traits, Jersey. Bulls born in 2017 or later.

Country	No. of bulls	Milkindex	Fatindex	Proteinindex	Y-index	Y-index STD
Australia	22	104,5	89,1	96,8	89,4	5,7
Canada	17	108,4	92,4	99,4	92,3	13,0
DNK/FIN/SWE	75	102,3	105,0	105,4	106,1	8,2
New Zealand	313	99,0	94,0	98,2	95,3	7,3
USA	340	114,7	100,4	108,0	101,1	10,9

International comparison for yield among most important populations shows that:

- Red breeds: DNK/FIN/SWE have higher genetic level than Norway and considerably higher level than Canada
- Holstein: USA has the highest genetic level while DNK/FIN/SWE has average genetic level
- Jersey: Denmark has higher genetic level than USA. New Zealand has considerably lower genetic level

## Conformation

The international genetic evaluation is done for 16 linear traits for Holstein, Red breeds and Jersey. In addition, frame, body condition score and locomotion are included in this trait group.

### Breeding values for frame

EBV for frame is calculated from the 6 linear traits that are part of the international genetic evaluation. The composite NAV breeding value for frame also includes topline. There is no international genetic evaluation of topline.

We calculate international breeding value for frame based on a regression of NAV breeding values for the 6 linear international traits on NAV EBV for frame for Danish, Swedish and Finnish bulls born in 2004-05. The estimated regression coefficients are used to calculate international breeding value for frame for foreign bulls. This method is used to ensure the same relative weight between traits in NAV and international composite traits.

### Breeding values for feet and legs

EBV for feet and legs is calculated from the 3 linear traits that are part of the international genetic evaluation. The composite NAV breeding values for feet and legs also include hock quality and bone quality. There is no international genetic evaluation for these two traits.

We calculate international breeding value for feet and legs based on a regression of NAV breeding values for the 3 linear international traits on NAV EBV for feet and legs for Danish, Swedish and Finnish bulls born in 2004-05. The estimated regression coefficients are used to calculate international breeding value for feet and legs for foreign bulls.

### Breeding values for udder

The international genetic evaluation for udder includes 7 traits. The Nordic genetic evaluation for udder also includes teat thickness and udder balance. There is no international evaluation for these two traits.

We calculate international breeding value for udder based on a regression of NAV breeding values for the 7 linear international traits on NAV EBV for udder for Danish, Swedish and Finnish bulls born in 2004-05. The estimated regression coefficients are used to calculate international breeding value for udder for foreign bulls.

### Genetic level of composite conformation traits

In tables 5-7 is a comparison of genetic level of composite conformation traits for bulls from different countries. The calculation includes bulls that have at least 25 daughters in genetic evaluation.

Table 5. Genetic level for conformation traits, Red breeds. Bulls born in 2017 or later.

Country	No. of bulls	Frame		Feet&legs		Udder	
		Average	STD	Average	STD	Average	STD
Canada	23	104,7	7,1	102,9	5,3	100,8	8,7
Germany	12	106,8	11,3	105,8	5,5	105,0	8,1
DNK/FIN/SWE	134	97,3	10,2	100,6	5,0	100,6	8,2
UK	11	101,9	7,4			98,5	11,2
Norway	90	102,3	12,7	99,1	5,5	84,8	9,7

Table 6. Genetic level of conformation traits, Holstein. Bulls born in 2017 or later.

Country	No	Frame		Feet&legs		Udder	
		Average	STD	Average	STD	Average	STD
Australia	20	118,0	13,3	99,2	5,9	107,3	15,3
Belgium	17	112,0	12,5	104,8	6,9	105,4	6,9
Canada	300	113,8	10,7	97,2	5,8	111,5	9,3
Switzerland	92	109,6	9,3	98,8	5,3	110,2	9,5
Czech Republic	50	109,8	9,8	99,9	4,8	102,3	8,5
Germany	667	107,9	9,3	101,6	6,0	107,3	8,0
DNK/FIN/SWE	213	100,2	10,3	100,8	6,3	104,3	8,6
Spain	70	114,0	8,8	100,9	6,6	107,1	8,4
Estonia	8	104,9	8,4	99,3	3,8	94,6	11,5
France	251	117,7	9,9	102,7	6,1	111,5	9,1
UK	28	103,0	12,0	97,7	4,2	104,9	9,2
Italy	157	113,0	10,6	99,3	5,8	107,2	8,8
Japan	288	111,4	10,0	97,9	5,6	103,3	8,5
Luxembourg	9	111,0	8,2	101,2	4,6	102,8	9,7
Netherlands	370	107,8	9,8	105,6	7,4	103,4	9,3
New Zealand	576	83,1	8,8				
Poland	67	111,1	11,7	102,4	5,7	100,8	8,9
Slovenia	24	105,6	10,6	97,8	5,4	93,3	5,9
USA	1297	107,2	10,7	98,0	5,7	105,7	9,0

Table 7. Genetic level of conformation traits, Jersey. Bulls born in 2017 or later.

Country	No	Frame		Feet&legs		Udder	
		Average	STD	Average	STD	Average	STD
Australia	9	107,6	6,5	104,4	6,5	94,7	4,9
Canada	22	112,8	4,8	105,9	4,9	99,4	8,3
DNK/FIN/SWE	70	101,1	8,9	98,8	8,3	102,4	9,8
USA	250	112,2	7,9	102,2	6,4	101,2	8,4

International comparison for conformation traits among most important populations show that:

- Red breeds: Germany has the highest genetic level for both Frame, feet&legs and udder. Canada has similar genetic level for feet&legs and udder as DNK/FIN/SWE. Compared to Norway, DNK/FIN/SWE have similar genetic level for feet&legs and higher level for udder. DNK/FINSWE has the lowest genetic level for frame.
- Holstein: DNK/FIN/SWE has lower genetic level for frame than the main Holstein populations. Canada, Spain, France and Italy have the highest genetic level for frame. Populations with grass based dairy farming like New Zealand has lower genetic level for frame. For feet&legs Netherlands has the highest level and there are small differences between populations. DNK/FIN/SWE has around average genetic level for udder, while Canada and France have the highest genetic level for udder.
- Jersey: Denmark has lower genetic level for frame than USA, but higher level for udders

### Somatic cell count and udder health

Interbull does two international genetic evaluations – one for somatic cell count and one for udder health. In the first one only somatic cell count is included for all countries. NAV sends breeding values for somatic cell count to Interbull, so Nordic bulls get official breeding values for somatic cell count in countries where this trait is official. In the second evaluation breeding values based on mastitis diagnoses are included. NAV's official breeding value for udder health is used. For countries that do not record mastitis diagnoses, somatic cell count is included in this evaluation.

Index for udder health is published in the Nordic countries when reliability is 40% or higher. In tables 8-10 is a comparison of genetic level of udder health for bulls from different countries.

Table 8. Genetic level for udder health, Red breeds. Bulls born in 2017 or later.

Country	No. of bulls	Average	STD
Australia	13	95,4	6,5
Canada	9	96,2	10,4
DNK/FIN/SWE	179	100,7	8,4
UK	6	96,7	4,1
Norway	115	100,8	9,1
New Zealand	22	91,9	7,5

Table 9. Genetic level for udder health, Holstein. Bulls born in 2017 or later.

Country	No. of bulls	Average	STD
Australia	54	96,1	7,2
Belgium	14	99,6	7,4
Canada	204	98,6	8,7
Switzerland	27	99,1	8,0
Czech Republic	46	96,1	7,1
Germany	491	100,3	7,5
DNK/FIN/SWE	232	102,2	6,7
Spain	72	102,7	8,6
Estonia	9	99,1	9,0
France	244	101,9	6,7
UK	28	98,5	7,5
Israel	117	100,7	8,0
Italy	152	100,1	8,7
Japan	218	93,9	7,0
Korea	6	97,2	4,4
Luxembourg	6	98,6	4,8
Netherlands	256	100,7	7,3
New Zealand	584	92,9	7,1
Poland	96	99,8	9,0
Slovenia	28	95,2	8,9
USA	1203	98,9	8,2

Table 10. Genetic level for udder health, Jersey. Bulls born in 2017 or later.

Country	No. of bulls	Average	STD
Australia	23	92,5	5,6
Canada	11	86,0	9,8
DNK/FIN/SWE	76	101,2	7,2
New Zealand	334	94,6	6,6
USA	133	84,3	9,3

International comparison for udder health among most important populations show that:

- Red breeds: DNK/FIN/SWE has same genetic level as Norway
- Holstein: DNK/FIN/SWE has similar or higher genetic level than other major European populations, USA and Canada
- Jersey: Denmark is substantially better than the other populations.

## Longevity

In tables 11-13 is a comparison of genetic level of longevity for bulls from different countries. Bulls are included if they have at least 40 daughters in the genetic evaluation.

Table 11. Genetic level for longevity, Red breeds. Bulls born in 2016 or later.

Country	No. of bulls	Average	STD
Australia	6	91,8	9,0
Canada	34	86,5	10,9
Germany	13	97,6	8,6
DNK/FIN/SWE	160	101,4	8,7
UK	12	79,0	5,9
Norge	120	90,9	7,4
USA	8	76,7	7,2

Table 12. Genetic level for longevity, Holstein. Bulls born in 2016 or later.

Country	No. of bulls	Average	STD
Australia	46	93,7	10,4
Austria	6	102,0	9,3
Belgium	18	103,6	6,8
Canada	459	100,6	8,9
Switzerland	109	94,7	8,5
Czech Republic	50	104,8	6,2
Germany	899	104,1	8,1
DNK/FIN/SWE	253	103,0	7,4
Spain	43	96,3	8,2
France	319	98,1	7,9
UK	36	98,4	14,2
Israel	140	92,9	5,8
Italy	161	98,7	7,0
Luxembourg	15	101,7	8,9
Netherlands	601	102,6	8,8
New Zealand	554	86,0	5,4
Poland	142	100,5	8,4
Slovenia	48	92,4	5,2
USA	2459	103,3	9,0

Table 13. Genetic level for longevity, Jersey. Bulls born in 2016 or later.

Country	No. of bulls	Average	STD
Australia	18	95,8	7,8
Canada	21	95,7	8,3
DNK/FIN/SWE	75	100,7	7,0
New Zealand	133	91,7	5,4
USA	417	99,7	7,8

International comparison for longevity among most important populations shows that:

- Red breeds: DNK/FIN/SWE has higher level than the other populations
- Holstein: DNK/FIN/SWE are among the countries with the highest genetic level
- Jersey: Denmark has the highest genetic level

## Calving – maternal and direct

For Red breeds Canada, Denmark, Finland, Norway, Sweden and The United States send data to this evaluation. It has not been possible to obtain enough high correlations between countries for still birth, so the international evaluation only includes calving ease (maternal and direct) for Red breeds.

In the Holstein group there are international breeding values for both still birth (maternal and direct) and calving ease (maternal and direct), but only for first lactation. In the Nordic countries also, information from later lactations and from birth weight is included in calving, maternal and calving, direct.

We have calculated international indices for calving, maternal and calving, direct by performing a regression between NAV breeding values for still birth and calving ease and NAV breeding value for calving for Nordic bulls born in 2001-2006. The calculated regression coefficients are used to calculate a calving index for foreign bulls - same method is used for calving, maternal and calving, direct.

In Tables 14 and 15 the average genetic level for Red breed and Holstein bulls is shown for different countries. Only bulls born in 2017 or later are included. Bulls need to have breeding values for yield to be included.

Table 14. Genetic level for calving, maternal and calving, direct, Red breeds. Bulls born in 2017 or later.

Country	Calving, direct			Calving, maternal		
	No. of bulls	Average	STD	No. of bulls	Average	STD
Canada	21	93,0	6,0	10	96,9	7,9
DNK/FIN/SWE	156	100,8	7,1	133	100,2	6,3
Norway	112	99,4	8,1	114	91,8	7,2

Table 15. Genetic level for calving, maternal and calving, direct, Holstein. Bulls born in 2017 or later.

Country	Calving, direct			Calving, maternal		
	No. of bulls	Average	STD	No. of bulls	Average	STD
Australia	69	97,7	4,9	4	95,5	2,9
Austria	6	94,3	8,0	4	96,8	9,9
Belgium	18	98,6	4,9	18	100,9	5,5
Canada	374	98,6	5,7	292	102,6	4,7
Switzerland	102	96,8	5,2	69	100,3	7,6
Germany	760	99,1	5,8	672	100,9	6,0
DNK/FIN/SWE	241	100,6	5,7	235	102,3	5,8
Spain	40	97,7	4,1	12	102,3	3,8
France	307	96,9	5,9	269	104,9	7,6
UK	43	100,0	4,1	22	102,1	3,4
Israel	60	96,4	4,3	117	91,9	5,8
Italy	160	97,4	4,8	116	100,9	5,0
Luxembourg	14	97,0	4,5	10	100,7	8,0
Netherlands	442	98,9	5,9	387	98,7	7,5
Poland	102	96,6	4,5	95	97,9	6,1
USA	2217	100,2	5,1	1576	103,4	4,8



International comparison for calving traits among most important populations shows that:

- Red breeds: DNK/FIN/SWE and Norway have similar genetic level for calving, direct. For calving, maternal DNK/FIN/SWE has a higher level than Norway
- Holstein: DNK/FIN/SWE are around the average for both calving, direct and calving, maternal.

## Female fertility

NAV calculates breeding values for female fertility based on linear regression between NAV breeding values for female fertility and NAV breeding values for the sub-indices in female fertility. Basis for the regressions are Nordic bulls born in 2001-2005 – see more information below. The estimated regression coefficients are used to calculate international breeding value for female fertility for foreign bulls.

In practice 3 regressions are calculated with different explaining variables (Jersey only 2 and 3):

- 1: Female fertility = Ability to conceive ( $R^2$ , HOL = 0,05) ( $R^2$ , Red breeds = 0,35)
- 2: Female fertility = Days open ( $R^2$ , HOL = 0,87) ( $R^2$ , Red breeds = 0,85) ( $R^2$ , Jer = 0,87)
- 3: Female fertility = Ability to return to recycle after calving + ability to conceive + Days open ( $R^2$ , HOL = 0,96) ( $R^2$ , Red breeds = 0,94), ( $R^2$ , Jer = 0,94).

$R^2$  (degree of explanation) indicates the proportion of the variance of the index for female fertility, that the traits in the regression can explain. Since the regression is used on foreign bulls, and the genetic correlations between international and NAV traits are not 1, the observed degree of explanation will be lower.

For each foreign bull we use the regression with the greatest explanatory power given the international sub-indices that are available. The degree of explanation therefore depends largely of the traits being available from the different countries.

Table 16. Genetic level for female fertility, Red breeds. Bulls born in 2017 or later.

Country	No. of bulls	Average	STD
Australia	8	94,8	8,9
Canada	14	93,8	6,8
Germany	9	93,9	8,1
DNK/FIN/SWE	149	99,4	9,8
UK	9	93,1	6,2
Norway	99	111,7	6,9
New Zealand	7	95,9	6,8

Table 17. Genetic level for female fertility, Holstein. Bulls born in 2017 or later.

Country	No. of bulls	Average	STD
Australia	41	97,1	6,8
Belgium	19	92,4	6,7
Canada	328	96,4	9,3
Switzerland	75	95,3	4,4
Czech Republic	40	96,7	3,6
Germany	584	97,6	9,5
DNK/FIN/SWE	230	103,9	10,5
Spain	29	90,9	7,2
France	235	97,1	8,1
UK	30	101,7	6,2
Israel	102	96,5	2,6
Italy	138	96,2	8,6
Japan	21	92,9	5,5
Luxembourg	12	93,0	11,4
Netherlands	416	95,1	9,0
New Zealand	379	99,5	4,8
Poland	60	90,0	7,0
USA	2001	96,8	9,1

Table 18. Genetic level for female fertility, Jersey. Bulls born in 2017 or later.

Country	No. of bulls	Average	STD
Australia	17	90,1	8,3
Canada	15	87,1	10,2
DNK/FIN/SWE	87	100,7	12,8
New Zealand	179	98,0	6,2
USA	323	87,9	9,8

International comparison for female fertility among most important populations shows that:

- Red breeds: DNK/FIN/SWE has a lower level than Norway
- Holstein: DNK/FIN/SWE has a higher genetic level than all other populations
- Jersey: Genetic level is higher in Denmark than the other major countries

## Milking speed and temperament

In Tables 19-21, the genetic level for bulls from different countries, born in 2017 or later are shown for Holstein, Red breeds and Jersey.

Table 19. Genetic level for milking speed and temperament, Red breeds. Bulls born in 2017 or later.

Country	Milking speed			Temperament		
	No. of bulls	Average	STD	No. of bulls	Average	STD
Canada	21	88,9	15,6	21	95,7	14,3
Germany	8	102,6	3,5	11	103,6	3,0
DNK/FIN/SWE	169	99,3	8,4	120	101,3	12,5
Norway	102	92,9	4,1	96	98,6	5,4

Table 20. Genetic level for milking speed and temperament, Holstein. Bulls born in 2017 or later.

Country	Milking speed			Temperament		
	No. of bulls	Average	STD	No. of bulls	Average	STD
Australia	30	101,8	8,9	30	105,1	9,1
Austria	6	99,7	8,7			
Belgium	14	89,2	8,8	13	102,4	11,8
Canada	245	97,6	11,2	240	103,7	13,4
Switzerland	96	97,4	10,4	96	103,0	10,3
Germany	518	96,5	9,7	400	101,0	15,3
DNK/FIN/SWE	212	100,4	8,1	163	100,6	16,5
France	249	94,8	9,7	246	103,7	11,0
UK	32	100,1	9,9	32	104,1	8,3
Italy	137	94,5	3,5	137	102,8	8,0
Luxembourg	8	92,1	7,3			
Netherlands	329	93,6	10,3	298	102,5	12,3
New Zealand	582	102,9	2,8	582	97,4	2,2
Slovenia	31	96,0	7,1			
USA	624	99,1	12,2	602	103,6	14,0

Table 21. Genetic level for milking speed, Jersey. Bulls born in 2017 or later.

Country	No. of bulls	Average	STD
Australien	16	102,8	10,6
Canada	20	99,4	8,0
DNK/FIN/SWE	74	101,1	10,0
New Zealand	296	98,5	6,9
USA	16	103,1	9,6

International comparison for milking speed and temperament among most important countries show that:

- Red breeds: DNK/FIN/SWE has a higher genetic level for milking speed and temperament than Norway and Canada
- Holstein: DNK/FIN/SWE has similar level as other populations for milking speed and temperament.
- Jersey: Denmark has similar genetic level as New Zealand and USA

## NTM for Nordic and foreign bulls

NTM index is calculated for all bulls (Nordic and others) that have official breeding values (NAV breeding values or international EBVs) for yield, udder health and conformation.

Interbull NTM is calculated by weighing the Interbull / NAV breeding values for yield, female fertility, calving (maternal and direct), udder health, longevity, feet&legs, udder, milking speed and temperament. The same economic weight factors are used as for NAV breeding values.

Rules for calculation of NTM based partly or entirely on international breeding values are stated below in order of priority.

### 1. Bull has NAV breeding value for a trait

If the bull has NAV breeding value for a specific trait, this is used in the calculation of NTM - no matter if the bull also has international breeding value for that trait.

### 2. Bull has no NAV breeding value, but has an international breeding value for a trait

If the bull does not have NAV breeding value for the trait, the international breeding value is used, provided that Interbull calculates international breeding values for that trait and the bull comes from a country which provides data for that trait.

### 3. Bull has no NAV or no international breeding value for a trait

For traits where no Interbull EBV is available or the bull has no Interbull EBV, and at the same time it is not tested in the Nordic countries, a pedigree index is used. Pedigree index is calculated as  $\frac{1}{2} (EBV_{\text{sire}} - 100) + \frac{1}{4} (EBV_{\text{maternal grand sire}} - 100) + 100$ . The contributions from the sire and maternal grand sire can be based on either NAV breeding values or international breeding values. If  $EBV_{\text{sire}}$  or  $EBV_{\text{maternal grand sire}}$  are unofficial the pedigree index is set to 100.

## Publication rules for NTM

All foreign and Nordic bulls that have Interbull breeding values for yield, udder health and udder get a public Interbull NTM. This NTM is calculated with a lower reliability than an NTM for Nordic proven bulls, where information for all traits is always available.

## Genetic level for Interbull NTM

In tables 22-24 genetic level for Interbull NTM for Jersey, Red breeds and Holstein are shown. Bulls included are born in 2017 or later.

Table 22. Genetic level for NTM, Red breeds. Bulls born in 2017 or later.

Country	No. of bulls	Average	STD
Canada	11	-21,7	12,8
Germany	8	4,1	7,0
DNK/FIN/SWE	152	9,2	9,5
UK	6	-37,8	5,5
Norway	92	-7,9	9,0

Table 23. Genetic level for NTM, Holstein. Bulls born in 2017 or later.

Country	No. of bulls	Average	STD
Australia	17	-0,5	12,1
Belgium	15	5,2	8,0
Canada	236	6,8	13,1
Switzerland	56	-5,6	13,1
Czech Republic	43	3,3	8,8
Germany	509	7,6	8,8
DNK/FIN/SWE	230	8,9	9,0
Spain	63	1,3	9,0
Estonia	6	-17,7	11,4
France	252	4,1	8,4
UK	25	9,2	7,9
Italy	152	4,1	8,8
Japan	21	1,5	7,4
Luxembourg	8	2,0	11,2
Netherlands	314	6,3	9,5
Poland	79	-0,9	9,1
Slovenia	22	-17,3	7,7
USA	1084	9,0	10,3

Table 24. Genetic level for NTM, Jersey. Bulls born in 2017 or later.

Country	No. of bulls	Average	STD
Canada	6	-12,0	9,9
DNK/FIN/SWE	74	7,8	8,2
USA	15	-7,2	9,5

International comparison of changes since last run shows that:

- All countries: Changes are smaller changes with a minimal effect on the reliability and indexes.

## Changes since last run

In the evaluation in August 2024 the following changes are done compared to April 2024 evaluation. Only changes in major countries:

### Yield

- USA (ALL) has drop in information due to pedigree corrections and herd-year edits.
- Netherland (ALL) has drop in information due to pedigree corrections.
- Denmark, Finland, Sweden (ALL), has drop in EDC mostly cause by rounding effect.
- Germany (HOL) has made an overall base change. From this routine run onwards cow base is adjusted with each routine run, four months (birth month) forwards.
- France (HOL) has drop in information due to pedigree update.
- Italy (HOL) has increase in the threshold of reliability and daughters per herd meant that many bulls no longer achieved the requirements for submission.

### Fertility

- USA (ALL) has drop in information due to pedigree corrections and herd-year edits. Missing bulls due to loss of herds which led to their no longer being qualified.
- Denmark, Finland, Sweden (ALL) has drop in EDC mostly cause by rounding effect.
- Netherland (ALL) has drop in information due to pedigree corrections.
- Germany (HOL) has overall base change. From this routine run onwards cow base is adjusted with each routine run, four months (birth month) forwards. Some bulls changing from official to unofficial due to decrease in number of herds.

### Calving

- USA (ALL) has drop in information due to pedigree corrections and herd-year edits.
- Netherland (ALL) has drop in information due to pedigree corrections.
- Denmark, Finland, Sweden (ALL) has drop in EDC mostly cause by rounding effect.
- Germany (HOL) has overall base change. From this routine run onwards cow base is adjusted with each routine run, four months (birth month) forwards.
- France (HOL) has drop in information due to pedigree update.
- Italy (HOL) has drop in information due to changes in the input data. Increase in the threshold of reliability and daughters per herd meant that many bulls no longer achieved the requirements for submission.

### Conformation

- Netherland (ALL) has drop in information due to pedigree corrections.
- Denmark, Finland, Sweden (ALL) has drop in EDC mostly cause by rounding effect.
- Germany (HOL) has overall base change. From this routine run onwards cow base is adjusted with each routine run, four months (birth month) forwards.
- USA (HOL) has some bulls changed type of proofs to better reflect their status and some of them no longer qualified and have been removed. Some bulls drops in daughters due to parentage verification.
- USA (JER,RDC) has drop in information due to pedigree corrections and herd-year edits.

### Udder health

- USA (ALL) has drop in information due to pedigree corrections and herd-year edits.
- Netherland (ALL) has drop in information due to pedigree corrections.
- Denmark, Finland, Sweden (ALL) has drop in EDC mostly cause by rounding effect.
- Germany (HOL) has overall base change. From this routine run onwards cow base is adjusted with each routine run, four months (birth month) forwards. Drop in information and reliabilities due to data editing.
- France (HOL) has drop in information due to pedigree update.

- Italy (HOL) has Increase in the threshold of reliability and daughters per herd meant that many bulls no longer achieved the requirements for submission.

#### Longevity

- USA (ALL) has drop in information due to pedigree corrections and herd-year edits.
- Netherland (ALL) has drop in information due to pedigree corrections.
- Denmark, Finland, Sweden (ALL) has drop in EDC mostly caused by rounding effect.
- Germany (HOL) has overall base change. From this routine run onwards cow base is adjusted with each routine run, four months (birth month) forwards.
- Italy (HOL) has drop in information due to changes in the input data. Increase in the threshold of reliability and daughters per herd meant that many bulls no longer achieved the requirements for submission.

#### Milking speed and temperament

- Netherland (ALL) has drop in information due to pedigree corrections.
- Denmark, Finland, Sweden (ALL) has drop in EDC mostly caused by rounding effect.
- Germany (HOL) has overall base change. From this routine run onwards cow base is adjusted with each routine run, four months (birth month) forwards.
- Italy (HOL) has drop in information due to changes in the input data. Increase in the threshold of reliability and daughters per herd meant that many bulls no longer achieved the requirements for submission.

International comparison of NTM among most important populations shows that:

- Red breeds: DNK/FIN/SWE is better in NTM than Canada and Norway
- Holstein: DNK/FIN/SWE, UK and USA have the highest level and are closed followed by the major European populations.
- Jersey: Denmark's average NTM is more than 15 index points better than USA

## Genomic tested young Holstein bulls

In the tables below, only Holstein sires that have breeding values based on genomic information and no daughters is shown.

Averages are only shown for countries with more than 20 bulls.

### Yield

In tables 25 is a comparison of the genetic level of yield for bulls from different countries.

Table 25. Genetic level for yield traits, Holstein. Bulls born in 2021 or later.

Country	No. of bulls	Milkindex	Fatindex	Proteinindex	Y-index	Y-index STD
Australia	105	98,6	106,6	101,1	104,8	9,0
Belgium	27	110,6	116,6	113,3	115,8	6,1
Brasilia	8	112,4	115,6	109,3	112,3	5,5
Canada	644	109,2	119,6	110,9	116,1	11,7
Switzerland	29	103,0	106,0	103,1	104,8	10,1
Czech Republic	60	114,5	114,8	113,7	114,1	6,0
Germany	823	115,4	114,6	116,5	115,7	7,9
DNK/FIN/SWE	172	98,9	118,1	112,3	118,9	7,9
Spain	120	112,1	107,1	108,9	107,1	10,1
France	634	108,5	108,4	110,9	110,2	8,0
UK	69	105,6	122,7	112,3	119,7	16,1
Hungary	60	110,4	105,5	104,9	103,8	8,4
Italy	133	112,1	112,8	114,4	114,1	8,5
Netherlands	848	108,3	113,4	112,4	114,0	7,9
New Zealand	13	72,2	91,2	84,0	91,0	5,9
Poland	106	112,5	112,0	114,2	113,4	7,6
USA	2694	111,1	124,2	115,0	121,1	7,6

International comparison for yield shows that DNK/FIN/SWE, has same genetic level as other major countries

### Conformation

The international genetic evaluation is done for 16 linear traits for Holstein. In addition, frame condition score and locomotion are included in this trait group.

Calculation of frame, feet&legs and udder follows same principles as for daughter proven bulls.

In tables 26 is a comparison of genetic level of composite conformation traits for bulls from different countries.



Table 26. Genetic level of conformation traits, Holstein. Bulls born in 2021 or later.

Country	No	Frame		Feet&legs		Udder	
		Average	STD	Average	STD	Average	STD
Australia	15	110,8	10,6	100,1	5,0	108,5	8,3
Belgium	13	108,9	8,4	107,8	7,1	105,5	7,0
Canada	392	116,0	11,6	100,2	5,1	111,1	8,4
Switzerland	10	119,1	7,7	103,1	3,4	119,9	8,3
Czech Republic	29	111,2	7,9	102,2	5,6	106,4	8,0
Germany	480	109,4	9,0	104,1	5,1	110,7	7,5
DNK/FIN/SWE	101	104,0	12,4	101,9	5,0	108,9	8,0
Spain	74	116,3	12,5	103,2	5,0	116,8	9,1
France	368	117,2	8,7	106,0	4,5	117,6	8,2
UK	42	105,9	9,4	99,2	3,6	103,1	9,7
Hungary	35	109,0	10,8	100,0	4,2	101,9	6,0
Italy	71	115,1	8,9	101,4	3,5	111,2	8,9
Netherlands	509	108,6	8,9	107,6	6,9	106,2	8,6
Poland	65	114,7	7,3	102,2	4,8	111,8	9,2
USA	1611	106,6	9,6	97,9	4,7	103,1	8,3

International comparison for conformation traits among most important populations shows that DNK/FIN/SWE has lower genetic level for frame than other populations. For feet&legs and there are only small differences between populations. For Udder France and Spain have the highest level while DNK/FIN/SWE is around average.

## Somatic cell count and udder health

In tables 27 is a comparison of genetic level of udder health for bulls from different countries.

Table 27. Genetic level for udder health, Holstein. Bulls born in 2021 or later.

Country	No. of bulls	Average	STD
Australia	15	96,8	5,3
Belgium	13	101,8	5,9
Canada	392	99,0	5,5
Switzerland	10	102,3	7,8
Czech Republic	19	99,5	5,3
Germany	492	103,0	5,7
DNK/FIN/SWE	102	104,6	5,7
Spain	74	103,4	8,8
France	347	107,7	5,7
UK	48	100,5	4,9
Hungary	12	94,7	5,3
Italy	70	102,1	5,8
Netherlands	507	102,2	6,3
Poland	65	105,5	6,4
USA	1642	99,8	4,7

International comparison for udder health among most important populations show that DNK/FIN/SWE is around average for the European populations while North American populations have a lower level.

## Longevity

In tables 28 is a comparison of genetic level of longevity for bulls from different countries.

Table 28. Genetic level for longevity, Holstein. Bulls born in 2021 or later.

Country	No. of bulls	Average	STD
Australia	15	98,8	7,1
Belgium	13	107,3	5,4
Canada	392	105,8	5,6
Switzerland	10	108,1	9,1
Czech Republic	19	105,4	6,7
Germany	493	114,5	5,5
DNK/FIN/SWE	102	111,1	5,6
Spain	74	108,1	9,0
France	375	110,7	5,9
UK	48	108,0	5,2
Hungary	35	100,1	6,0
Italy	71	107,8	5,8
Netherlands	510	110,2	7,5
Poland	65	107,4	5,5
USA	1644	108,1	4,5

International comparison for longevity among most important populations shows smaller difference between the major populations.

## Calving – maternal and direct

In Tables 29 the average genetic level for bulls is shown for different countries.

Table 29. Genetic level for calving, maternal and calving, direct, HOL. Bulls born in 2021 or later.

Country	Calving, direct			Calving, maternal		
	No. of bulls	Average	STD	No. of bulls	Average	STD
Australia	15	98,9	3,1	14	101,2	6,3
Belgium	13	99,8	3,6	13	102,0	4,3
Canada	385	99,1	4,3	392	102,3	4,9
Switzerland	10	99,4	2,9	10	103,3	5,7
Czech Republic	19	99,7	4,5	19	104,7	4,0
Germany	476	100,9	3,9	480	103,5	5,1
DNK/FIN/SWE	92	100,7	4,0	101	102,9	4,5
Spain	74	98,3	5,1	74	99,6	5,0
France	347	98,0	4,0	340	101,8	4,5
UK	48	101,2	3,5	42	104,1	3,6
Hungary	35	98,3	3,5	12	100,7	2,9
Italy	71	99,9	3,5	70	103,7	4,2
Netherlands	497	100,5	4,0	509	101,3	5,0
Poland	65	97,5	4,3	65	100,9	5,0
USA	1600	100,9	3,4	1609	104,5	3,7

International comparison for calving (direct and maternal) shows that USA is best, and DNK/FIN/SWE has similar level as the other major countries

## Female fertility

In Tables 30 the average genetic level for bulls is shown for different countries.

Table 30. Genetic level for female fertility, Holstein. Bulls born in 2021 or later.

Country	No. of bulls	Average	STD
Australia	15	99,0	6,2
Belgium	13	99,6	4,4
Canada	392	96,3	7,4
Switzerland	10	99,4	8,1
Czech Republic	19	99,1	6,4
Germany	480	102,7	6,0
DNK/FIN/SWE	101	106,4	7,3
Spain	74	98,9	8,6
France	340	102,8	6,9
UK	42	102,6	5,3
Italy	71	100,3	6,9
Netherlands	509	99,2	7,5
Poland	65	100,2	6,1
USA	1611	100,5	5,3

International comparison for female fertility among most important populations shows that DNK/FIN/SWE is in the top.

## Milking speed and temperament

In Tables 31, the genetic level for bulls from different countries.

Table 31. Genetic level for milking speed and temperament, Holstein. Bulls born in 2021 or later.

Country	Milking speed			Temperament		
	No. of bulls	Average	STD	No. of bulls	Average	STD
Australia	14	98,4	2,2	6	101,0	2,4
Belgium	12	94,7	3,2	11	104,2	8,0
Canada	375	98,8	6,2	349	104,3	10,6
Switzerland	10	97,3	2,4			
Czech Republic	18	99,1	7,0			
Germany	477	99,7	3,5	476	103,3	6,8
DNK/FIN/SWE	101	103,9	3,5	101	102,7	3,8
Spain	74	97,4	2,7	66	103,8	1,2
France	367	95,1	4,3	339	104,7	2,6
UK	41	99,9	5,9	39	103,2	1,3
Italy	70	94,4	8,2	68	103,1	7,7
Netherlands	507	96,6	5,2	503	102,7	9,4
Poland	65	94,4	17,6	54	102,9	1,5
USA	1491	101,3	5,5	1274	103,4	3,8

For milking speed DNK/FIN/SWE has the highest genetic level. For temperament are only small differences between populations.

## Changes since last run

In the evaluation in August 2024 the following changes are done compared to April 2024 evaluation:

### Yield:

- France has missing bulls due to routine pedigree update
- Germany has base change and changes in status and publication of bulls born in 2021/2022
- Italy has decrease in reliability due to the changes of the information in the system

### Fertility:

- France has missing bulls due to routine pedigree update and change in type of proofs for heifer fertility traits
- Germany has base change and changes in status and publication of bulls born in 2021/2022
- Italy has decrease in reliability due to the changes of the information in the system
- Denmark, Finland, Sweden has decrease in reliability due to rounding

### Calving:

- France has missing bulls due to routine pedigree update
- Germany has base change and changes in status and publication of bulls born in 2021/2022
- Italy has decrease in reliability due to the changes of the information in the system
- Denmark, Finland, Sweden has decrease in reliability due to rounding

### Conformation:

- France has missing bulls due to routine pedigree update
- Germany has base change and changes in status and publication of bulls born in 2021/2022
- Italy has decrease in reliability due to the changes of the information in the system

### Udder health:

- France has missing bulls due to routine pedigree update
- Germany has base change and changes in status and publication of bulls born in 2021/2022.
- Italy has decrease in reliability due to the changes of the information in the system
- Denmark, Finland, Sweden has decrease in reliability due to rounding

### Longevity:

- France has missing bulls due to routine pedigree update
- Germany has base change and changes in status and publication of bulls born in 2021/2022
- Italy has decrease in reliability due to the changes of the information in the system

### Milking speed and temperament:

- France has missing bulls due to routine pedigree update
- Germany has base change and changes in status and publication of bulls born in 2021/2022
- Italy has decrease in reliability due to the changes of the information in the system

International comparison of changes since last run shows that:

- All countries: Changes are smaller changes with a minimal effect on the reliability and indexes.

**Dates of publication of Interbull breeding values in 2024:**

Month	Date
August	13
December	3

The indices can be found at the national databases in Denmark, Sweden, and Finland 2-3 days after they have been published by Interbull.

Regards

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