

Ayrshire base changes explanation

Today we see the April proof release for all dairy breeds. The industry sees changes to the Base of all breeds. Here we have an explanation of the base change for the Ayrshire breed.

Genetic indexes provide us with information on how an animals genetic merit compares to the average animal milking at the time. This average (base) animal has a PTA of zero for every trait. Each year, as the national herd makes genetic progress, the average will also rise. It is for this reason that we have base changes. The genetic base for all breeds is reset every April to the average genetic merit of cows born over a four-year window to mimic the breed average. This year the base is made up from the average of animals born 2014 to 2017. The changes to the previous Ayrshire base are given in the table below.

| TRAIT | AYRSHIRE |
|--------------|-----------------|
| MILK | -35 |
| FAT | -1.0 |
| PROTEIN | -1.0 |
| FAT% | 0.00 |
| PROTEIN% | 0.00 |
| SCC | 0 |
| FERTILITY | 0.0 |
| LIFESPAN | -2 |
| MAINTENANCE | -1 |
| PLI | -27 |
| | |
| TYPE MERIT | -0.04 |
| UDDER | -0.07 |
| FEET & LEGS | -0.06 |
| ST | 0.00 |
| CW | -0.01 |
| BD | -0.02 |
| ANG | -0.02 |
| RA | 0.00 |
| RW | -0.05 |
| RLS | -0.01 |
| FA | -0.03 |
| FUA | -0.02 |
| RUH | -0.05 |
| CL | -0.03 |
| UD | 0.00 |
| FTP | -0.02 |
| RTP | |
| TPS | -0.01 |
| TL | 0.03 |
| TEMP | 0.01 |
| EOM | 0.01 |