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## Hoof Health is now in the overall breeding goal in Sweden, Denmark and Finland

*VikingGenetics is the pioneer when it comes to breeding for hoof health. We have sires that are reliably evaluated for hoof performance, which reduces lameness and improve hoof health and longevity. We can breed for cows with healthy feet that can walk and eat easily and produce at their optimum.*

Hoof health is a trait that is not related to Feet & Legs as most dairymen might expect. In August 2011, hoof health was included in the Nordic Total Merit (NTM) Index, being the first time in history hoof health is included in an overall breeding goal.

Annually 350,000 cows - approximately 250,000 Holstein - are evaluated by hoof trimmers that classify each individual hoof by eight different disorders where digital dermatitis is one of them. This information comes from hoof trimmers in Sweden, Denmark and Finland to our unique registration system. We have reliable data to calculate and offer a breeding value that prevents not only lameness but also has a high correlation with longevity.

### A solution for the US Dairy Producers

Digital dermatitis - also known as hairy foot wart is one of the health problems causing most hassle in the United States. "It is a painful disease that not only makes cows suffer, but causes a loss in the production and a negative impact on fertility", Sara Wiklert Petersson, Head of Sales at VikingGenetics, states.

Wiklert Petersson emphasizes that at VikingGenetics the dairymen can count with reliable information when breeding for better hoof health. "This is one of the traits we can take into account when breeding healthy cows. We have many bulls that reduce the frequency of hoof diseases by 50%. That is a lot of pain saved there!" Wiklert Petersson says.

One more advantage when selecting for better hoof health is that the Nordic bulls don't show a genetic decline in hoof health despite high production, which means that the dairy producers can increase yield at the same time as they get better hoof health in their herds.

### About VikingGenetics:

*VikingGenetics is an AI-company built by farmers and for farmers. Today it's owned by around 25,000 dairymen from Denmark, Sweden and Finland. The company genomically tests 8,000 bull calves annually, to select 240 for progeny tests (VikingHolstein, VikingRed and VikingJersey). VikingGenetics exports to 50 countries.*

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