

## NTM will be affected by new indices for longevity and udder health

By this run new indices are introduced for longevity and udder health. These changes results in changes in NTM, however it is important to distinguish between changes that affect all bulls and changes to an individual bull.

### New base has effect on NTM

A base consisting of cows that are 3-5 year old are introduced at this genetic run instead of the previous base for longevity and udder health. The previous base was a sire base that should mimic the actual cow base. However as described in the papers on the new indices for longevity and udder health also published in this number of Viking Magazine this was not actually the case. Results show, that the cow base is genetically better than the previous base – see table 1.

Table 1. Change in longevity, udder health and NTM from previous to current genetic evaluation

	Longevity	Udder health	NTM
RDC	-2.0	-1.8	-0,7
Holstein	-6.5	-5.8	-2.7
Jersey	-5.7	-4,3	-2.8

The impact of this is that indices for udder health and longevity for both cows and bulls will drop from the previous run to the current run. This will also result in a drop in NTM in the magnitude of 0.7-2.8 index units.

Besides this effect, which is special for this genetic run, there is a general effect of genetic progress for all traits. This effect results in a small drop in NTM from one genetic run to the next.

### Some bulls change even more

Besides the general drop in NTM for cows and bulls in the current run compared to the previous, NTM can also change of other reasons.

Both cows and bulls get more information all the time. This is true for all traits, and is not particular at this genetic run, but will happen at all consecutive runs. This course a change in NTM which can be positive or negative depending on the performance included.

The new models for longevity and udder health will create more changes at this particular run. Some bulls might drop or rise more than others of different reasons described elsewhere.

In table 2 are shown total changes in NTM when effect of base change are removed.

Table 2. Change in NTM from previous to current genetic evaluation for bulls born from 2000-2004

	RDC	Holstein	Jersey
More than 5 NTM units	1	17	6
Between 3 to 5 NTM units	98	382	86
Less than 3 NTM units	1.104	1.603	208