

Selection Indexes



Points:

Genetic selection of dairy bulls can improve overall herd health/welfare

Explanation:

Newly created dairy breeding indices have a greater weighting on welfare-related traits such as lameness, mastitis and longevity. This may halt or reverse the deterioration in these traits.

Relevance

Productivity and Profitability: Use of this type of index when selecting bulls for the breeding of replacements can increase welfare and reduce costs of milk production. Emphasis on high levels of milk production is reduced, but this is outweighed by financial gains associated with increases in longevity and reduction in the costs associated with high levels of lameness and mastitis