



Jersey Genetic Updates Coming in April

Changes are coming in April for the dairy genetic summaries for males and females. As dairy producers know, every five years in the United States, the genetic base change occurs. In just over a week, new evaluations will be released and you will likely notice the value of Predicted Transmitting Abilities (PTAs) for some traits may have changed significantly for all animals. In preparation for the release date, this article will outline the most significant changes being implemented.

A genetic base is set when the average PTAs of cows born in a specific year are set to zero. In April 2025, the genetic base population will change from cows born in 2015 to cows born in 2020. As previously mentioned the genetic base or reference point is updated every five years to reflect the genetic change that has occurred in that time period. The amount of adjustment shows us how much the breed has moved in the last five years. The table below shows the pounds of 305-day milk, fat, and protein that will be deducted from each animal's PTAs in April.

Trait	Change
Milk	400
Fat	20
Protein	15
CFP (<i>combined fat and protein</i>)	35
ECM (<i>Energy Corrected Milk</i>)	498

When selecting bulls or cows to use in your breeding program, you may need to update the selection criteria that you set for certain traits. For example, if you previously only used bulls that were +100 or more pounds of Combined Fat and Protein (CFP), those same bulls in April will be +65 or more pounds of CFP.

This table at the top of the next column shows the amount that will be deducted from each animal's PTAs for other traits that are in Jersey Performance Index (JPI).

Daughter Pregnancy Rate and Mastitis Resistance are two traits which will have a value added to each animal's PTA because the average PTA of cows born in 2020 for those two traits is lower than the average PTA of cows born in 2015.

Trait	Change
Somatic Cell Score (SCS)	0.00
Productive Life (PL)	1.5
Daughter Pregnancy Rate (DPR)	-0.4
Cow Conception Rate (CCR)	0.0
Mastitis Resistance (MAS)	-1.0
Fore Udder (FU)	0.9
Rear Udder Height (RUH)	0.5
Udder Depth (UD)	0.7

A bull with a current PTA DPR of 0.0 will be changed to a PTA of 0.4 in April.

The final table shows what will be deducted from each animal's PTA in April for type traits.

The Average PTA Udder Depth of cows born in 2020 is 0.7 points higher than the average PTA Udder Depth of cows born in 2015 so 0.7 points will be deducted from the PTA Udder Depth for all animals. A bull with a PTA of 1.0 will have a PTA of 0.3 in April.

The most change you will see is in the individual PTA trait values for animals. You will not see much of a change in JPI and Jersey Udder Index (JUI) values in April because the base change will be adjusted out for those values. JPI and JUI should remain close to current values.

PTA	Change
Final Score	0.6
Stature	0.6
Strength	0.2
Dairy Form	0.5
Rump Angle	-0.4
Thurl Width	0.4
Rear Legs	0.0
Foot Angle	0.2
Fore Udder	0.9
Rear Udder Height	0.5
Rear Udder Width	0.1
Udder Cleft	0.2
Udder Depth	0.7
Front Teat Placement	0.5
Teat Length	0.2
Rear Teat Placement	
Rear View	0.3
Rear Teat Placement	
Side View	-0.1

Genetic summaries will be released the week of April 1.