

Genetic indexes provide us with information on how a particular animal's genetic merit compares to the average animal milking at the time. This average 'base' animal has a PTA (Predicted Transmitting Ability) of zero for every trait. But, each year, as the national herd makes genetic progress, this average also goes up. It is for this reason that we have base changes. The genetic base for all breeds is reset each April to the average genetic merit of cows born over a four-year window to mimic the breed average. In 2023, the base is the average of cows born 2016 to 2019, and the changes compared to the previous base are given in the table below.

Trait	HOL	AYR	BSW	FRI	GUE	JER	SHO	MON
Milk	-27	12	-38	7	-19	-25	-28	-7
Fat	-1.8	0.4	-1.1	-0.7	-1.0	-1.1	-0.8	-0.6
Prot	-1.5	0.6	-1.0	-0.4	-0.4	-1.1	-0.8	-0.5
Fat%	-0.01	0.00	0.01	-0.01	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00
Prot%	-0.01	0.00	0.00	-0.01	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00
SCC	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	-1
F.I.	-0.9	0.3	0.1	0.8	1.1	0.1	0.6	0.1
Lifespan	-9	-1	-3	-4	-9	-2	-4	6
Maint.	-1	0	0	-2	0	-1	0	0
£PLI	-40	9	-16	-7	-4	-19	-7	-5
TM	-0.11	0.12	0.10	-0.16	0.05	0.25	0.04	
Udder	-0.19	0.12	0.34	-0.20	0.04	0.09	-0.01	
Feet&legs	-0.04	0.14	-0.10	-0.07	0.05	0.03	0.09	
ST	-0.02	-0.05	0.13	-0.20	-0.04	0.28	-0.01	
CW	-0.02	-0.03	0.06	0.02	0.02	-0.34	0.03	
BD	0.08	0.04	-0.05	0.02	-0.02	-0.09	0.00	
ANG	0.02	0.21	0.08	-0.11	-0.01	0.23	-0.02	
RA	0.03	0.08	-0.27	0.25	-0.01	0.07	0.09	
RW	-0.03	-0.02	0.27	-0.18	0.06	0.10	-0.03	
RLS	0.02	0.00	-0.20	0.11	0.02	-0.06	-0.03	
FA	-0.02	0.09	0.13	-0.08	-0.02	-0.06	0.05	
FUA	-0.17	-0.10	0.08	-0.09	-0.04	-0.08	0.04	
RUH	-0.11	0.04	0.11	-0.20	0.05	0.21	0.04	
CL	-0.11	0.00	0.03	-0.20	0.10	0.22	0.00	
UD	-0.18	-0.22	-0.08	-0.17	0.00	-0.05	-0.03	
FTP	-0.11	0.01	0.02	-0.08	0.12	0.10	-0.03	
RTP	-0.08			-0.22				
TPS	-0.06	0.07	0.03	-0.09	0.03	0.05	0.08	
TL	0.09	-0.01	-0.03	-0.06	0.02	0.04	0.06	
Temp	-0.04	-0.02	0.05	-0.28	0.03	0.03		
EOM	-0.04	0.06	-0.12	-0.02	0.07	0.12		
Loco	-0.06			-0.02	0.01	0.14		
BCS	-0.08			0.15				

Further information

For more information on AHDB Dairy breeding and genetics, visit dairy.ahdb.org.uk/breeding or email breeding.evaluations@ahdb.org.uk

UK genetic evaluations are undertaken and published by AHDB Dairy three times a year: April, August and December.