

## 1% of Holstein cows have red coat colour

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Holstein cows with red skin among black herd mates has occurred for many years. The vast majority of these red and white Holstein cows are due to mutations causing recessive red in a single gene that determines coat color. Results from genomic tested Nordic Holstein cows shows that 1% have the recessive gene in double form which makes them become red. Results also indicate that there is an increase in frequency of cows carrying the recessive gene in the recent years (see figure 1).

If you want to know if the AI bulls you are using in your herd carry the red colour mutation, you can find the answer on [NAV Bull Search](#) from 3<sup>rd</sup> of May 2022. On the search page, bulls that are double carrier will have the code RDS. Bulls that are single carriers have the code RDC and bulls that do not carry the red gene have the code RDF. Besides the above-mentioned mutation there is an additional mutation affecting the coat colour. It is however very rare.

### How to inherit red coat colour

Red factor is a recessive gene that codes for red coat colour in the Holstein population. An animal must inherit the gene from both the sire and the dam, before it will have red coat colour.

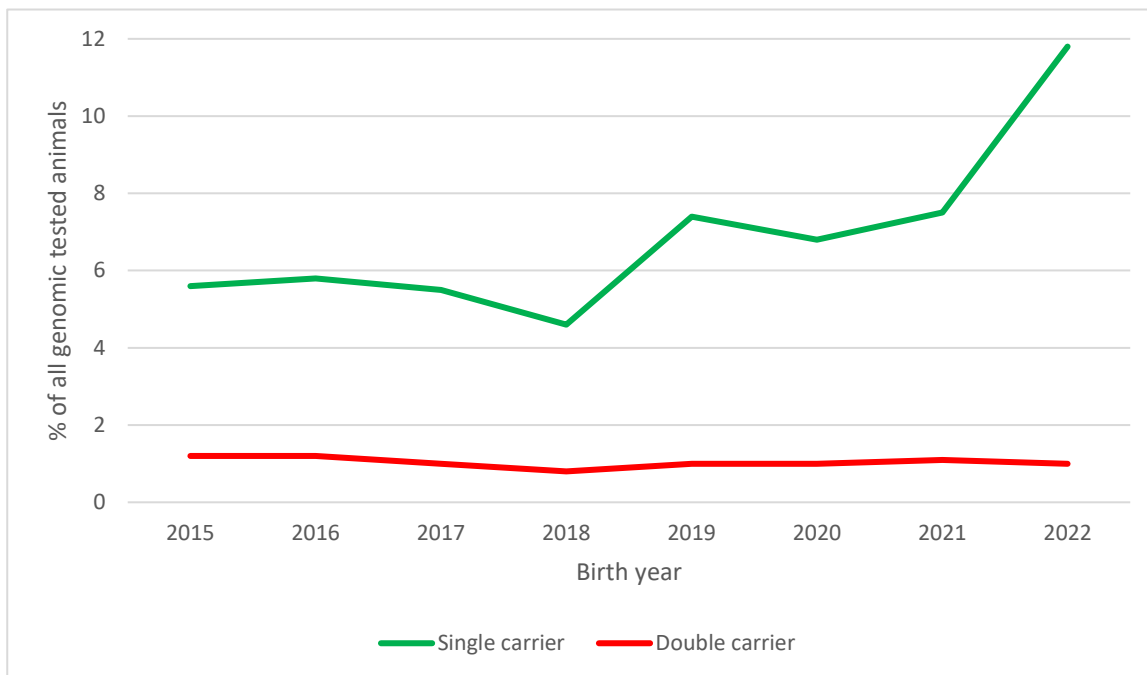


Figure 1 Change in proportion of single carriers (RDC) and double carriers (RDS) from 2015-2021 among all genomic tested Holstein animals