News - NAV evaluation
3 November 2026

Dairy cattle
The latest NAV official evaluation for yield, fertility, conformation, udder health, general health, calving traits, milkability, temperament, growth, longevity, youngstock survival, claw health, saved feed, methane and NTM took place as scheduled. NAV carried out three evaluations per trait group:

Holstein evaluation, including data from: Danish Holstein, Swedish Holstein, Norwegian Holstein, Finnish Holstein, Finnish Ayrshire and Finncattle.

Red Dairy Cattle evaluation, including data from: Danish Red, Swedish Red, Finnish Ayrshire, and Finncattle.

Jersey evaluation, including data from: Danish Jersey, Swedish Jersey, Finnish Jersey, Norwegian Jersey and French Jersey.

Dates for extraction of data from national databases for the latest official evaluations are given in Table 1.

Table 1. Dates for extraction of data from the national databases

Trait	Denmark	Finland	Sweden
Yield	21.9.2026	21.9.2026	11.9.2026
Type, milkability and temperament	21.9.2026	21.9.2026	11.9.2026
Fertility	21.9.2026	21.9.2026	12.9.2026
Udder health and other disease	21.9.2026	21.9.2026	12.9.2026
Calving[1)]	21.9.2026	21.9.2026	12.9.2026
Longevity	21.9.2026	21.9.2026	12.9.2026
Growth[1)]	21.9.2026	21.9.2026	12.9.2026
Claw health	21.9.2026	21.9.2026	12.9.2026
Youngstock survival[1)]	21.9.2026	21.9.2026	12.9.2026
Saved feed	21.9.2026	21.9.2026	11.9.2026
Methane	18.9.2026	No data	No data
Pure beef cattle	10.10.2026	14.10.2026	13.10.2026

[1)]Including data for the evaluation of beef bulls used on dairy

Data used in genomic prediction.
Genotypes were extracted from the joint Nordic SNP data base 7 October 2026. INTERBULL information from August 2026 was included in the genomic prediction.

News in relation to NAV dairy genetic evaluation

Dairy pure
- Adding Swedish and Finnish CFIT data in evaluation of saved feed

DairyxDairy
- Change in publication rules for dams with dairy x dairy offspring

BeefxDairy
- No changes

Beef pure

- Updated handling of incomplete maternal pedigree information

Genetic evaluation of dairy breeds

Adding Swedish and Finnish CFIT data in evaluation of saved feed

Swedish and Finnish CFIT data from commercial herds are now included in the saved feed evaluation. CFIT equipment has been installed in two Finnish herds and two Swedish herds, and with thus we now include CFIT data from 16 commercial Holstein herds, 12 commercial red dairy cattle herds and 9 commercial Jersey herds, besides the data for Holstein and RDC from research herds. The total number of observations increase with 3% when we include the Swedish and Finnish CFIT data from 636 RDC cows and 598 Holstein cows.

The correlation on the dataset with and without data from Sweden and Finland for Nordic AI bulls born after 2010 (both with and without offspring with phenotype) is 0.98 for RDC and 0.99 for Holstein. The high correlations give a low reranking between the animals born in the same year. For RDC, 80% of the bulls without daughters with CFIT registrations, move maximum 2 index units while it is more than 85% for RDC bulls with minimum 15 offspring with CFIT data. For Holstein 95% for the bulls in both groups move maximum 2 indexes units in saved feed based on the extra data from Sweden and Finland.

Change in publication rules for dams with dairy x dairy offspring

As part of the genomic evaluation of dairy crossbreds, animals must satisfy eligibility criteria to be included in the evaluation and receive breeding values. The sire and maternal grandsire must belong to one of the following breeds: Holstein (HOL), Jersey (JER) or Red Dairy Cattle (RDC). The dam must either belong to one of these breeds or be classified as a dairy crossbred (XXX).

During a routine review, it was observed that some dams do not meet the criteria, but the dams nevertheless receive breeding values. This occurs because the dam appears in the pedigree of crossbred animals that do satisfy the eligibility requirements and are therefore retained throughout the evaluation process and got published breeding values.

All animals that do not meet the eligibility criteria are removed from the dataset used for breeding value publication. This reduces the number of dairy crossbred females with published genomic breeding values from 25,649 to 21,947. Animals that have previously received breeding values despite not meeting the eligibility criteria continue having their most recently published breeding values available for farmers. However, these breeding values would no longer be updated in future evaluations.

Publication of NTM for Nordic and foreign bulls

NTM is published if the bull has official EBVs (NAV (G)EBV or international EBV) for Yield, Mastitis and Type. By official means for NAV EBVs that the NAV thresholds are met, and for international EBVs (IB EBVs) that Interbull EBVs for the single bull exist. For traits without a NAV (G)EBV or an IB (G)EBV a NAV pedigree index is calculated.

For bulls with a Nordic herdbook number the pedigree index follows the principles described in the October 2008 routine information. For foreign bulls without a Nordic herd book number the pedigree index is calculated in as ½(EBVsire-100) +1/4(EBVmgs-100) +100. If EBVsire or EBVmgs is not official NAV EBVs then 100 is used.

Publication of EBVs/GEBVs
Official EBVs/GEBVs for bulls used for AI in Denmark, Finland or Sweden are published at the NAV Bull Search.

Official NAV GEBVs for foreign AI bulls not used for AI in Denmark, Finland and Sweden are published at NAV homepage. The excel sheets also include GEBVs for bulls used for AI in Denmark, Finland and Sweden. The excel sheets include AI bulls that are 10 months to 5 years old at the date of publication and is mainly useful for foreign AI-companies.

Interbull EBVs/GEBVs are published at the NAV Interbull Search.

Genetic evaluation of beef bulls used in dairy herds

The latest NAV official evaluation for AI beef bulls based on their crossbred offspring from dairy cows for gestation length, birth, youngstock survival and carcass traits took place as scheduled. Extraction date for the data can be found in table 1. Breeding values for AI beef bulls are estimated four times per year, in connection to the NAV routine genetic evaluation for dairy breeds, and EBVs are published at NAV Beef Search.

Genetic base
The genetic base for beef bulls evaluated based on dairy crosses is defined as relative breeding values with a mean of 100 and standard deviation of 10. The genetic base animals for beef bulls evaluated based on dairy crosses constitutes of 2-5 year old crossbreds born after beef breeds which can be used in all 3 countries.

Fee for EBV of beef bulls based on beef × dairy crossbred offspring
Nordic Cattle Genetic Evaluation (NAV) conducts a genetic evaluation of AI beef bulls based on beef × dairy crossbred offspring for young stock survival, gestation length, calving and carcass traits. A fee system was introduced 1.1.2020 for the service. It means a fee must be paid for all bulls getting publishable EBVs for the first time after 1.1.2020. No fee needs to be paid for bulls already having official EBVs before 1.1.2020. To get published EBVs the following criteria should be fulfilled for each bull:

- The EBV should meet the criteria for publication.
- A one-time fee of currently 1,300 euro per bull should be paid.

More information about the genetic evaluation and the publication criteria can be found at NAV homepage.

Genetic evaluation for Purebred Beef animals

NAV published EBVs for calving, growth and carcass traits based on phenotypes from purebred beef Angus, Charolais, Simmental, Hereford, Limousine, Highland Cattle, Blonde d 'Aquitaine, Belgian Blue, Dexter, Galloway, Grauvieh, Piemontese, Salers, Shorthorn cattle. Breeding values for growth, slaughter quality, and milk for the five breeds AAN, CHA, HER, LIM, and SIM are estimated in a genomic SS model. Breeding values for pure beef cattle are estimated four times per year (table 3), and all breeding values are published at NAV Beef Search.

Updated handling of incomplete maternal pedigree information
The handling of incomplete maternal pedigree information was updated in this evaluation. An animal's own performance records will no longer be used if its maternal granddam is registered as

crossbred (international breed code XXX). The animal will still receive a breeding value based on pedigree information from relatives. This change reduces the influence of animals with highly diverse genetic backgrounds and improves the reliability of breeding values for purebred beef cattle.

The change mainly affects Danish and Swedish Simmental animals, particularly breeding values for maternal calving traits. Breeding values for individual animals may change noticeably, but the overall evaluation remains stable, and the observed effects are in line with expectations. The impact in Finland is very small because only a few animals are affected.

Table 2. Number of animals affected by the new pedigree handling by breed and country

Breed	Denmark			Sweden			Finland		
	N total	N affected	% affected	N total	N affected	% affected	N total	N affected	% affected
LIM	240 305	8 093	3.4	45 759	997	1.1	97 223	4	0.0
SIM	110 581	3 842	3.5	87 101	2 089	2.2	58 557	0	0.0
CHA	88 636	2 931	3.3	214 785	2 427	1.3	101 709	0	0.0
Others	350 570	4 111	1.2	184 447	2 330	2.4	307 110	10	0.0
Total	790 092	18,977	2.4	532 092	7 843	1.5	564 599	14	0.0

NAV – frequency and timing of official runs

NAV has 4 large dairy evaluations per year, which include updated phenotypic and genomic data, and additional eight small runs including updated genotypes. In table 3 the NAV and INTERBULL release dates for the next year are shown. The beef evaluation based on beef × dairy crossbreeds take place along with the large NAV dairy runs 4 times a year. The NAV pure beef evaluation has its own time schedule.

Table 3. NAV and INTERBULL release dates in the coming year. EBVs released at NAV dates in bold will be delivered to international genetic evaluation.

Month	Dairy Cattle			Beef Cattle
	NAV Small run[1)]	**NAV Large runs[2)3)]**	**INTER-BULL**	**NAV Pure Beef**
November 2026		**3**		3
December 2026	1		1	
January 2027	5			
February 2027		**2**		
March 2027	2			2
April 2027	6		6	13
May 2027		**4**		
June 2027	1			1
July 2027	6			
August 2027		**10**	10	
September 2027	7			
October 2027	5			
November 2027		**2**		2
December 2027	7		7	
January 2028	4			

[1)] Genotypes updated; [2)] Genotypes and phenotypes updated; 3[)] Beef × dairy evaluation

You can get more information about the joint Nordic evaluation:

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