

THE NxGEN[®] IMPACT



Spring 2022

The goal of NxGEN[®] is to provide genetic advantages to dairy producers who are looking for next-level genetic gains. Members have earlier access to Select Sires' most elite genetics at a reasonable price, and the ability to capture breed-leading genetic trends like never before. See how these herds take advantage of NxGEN to create superior results.



Carl Carlson – Carlson Dairy LLP
Pennock, MN



Greg Sabolik – Bred & Butter Dairy LLC
Kensington, MN



Dean Smith – D&D Dairy LLP
Rushford, MN

WHY DID YOU DECIDE TO SIGN UP ON OUR NXGEN PROGRAM?

To get the best genetics as soon as they are available.

-Carl Carlson

We felt the NxGEN program would help us rapidly increase our genetic potential in our herd. With what the industry is learning about genomics and all the data being collected, we thought the program was the next logical step for our herd.

-Greg Sabolik

WHAT ARE SOME OF THE BENEFITS TO THE PROGRAM?

A benefit of the program would be getting the latest and greatest bulls to use at a fair price. Trying to improve the genetics and profitability in our herd is the best path we can go on.

-Dean Smith

Having the bulls available. Other stud companies have high genetic bulls; however, they aren't readily available to use immediately.

-Carl Carlson

HOW DO YOU DECIDE WHAT ANIMALS SHOULD BE BRED WITH NXGEN SEMEN?

We genomic test all heifer calves. The highest NM\$ heifers get bred to the NxGEN bulls and the lower heifers get bred to beef.

-Carl Carlson

Our farm utilizes genomic testing, DHIA data, and Select Sires' OGP program to create the optimal number of heifers from the highest potential dams.

-Greg Sabolik

HOW DO YOU SELECT WHAT NXGEN BULLS TO USE?

I utilize Select Sires' expertise to help me determine the correct sires for my herd. They take into account my farms goals and select the sires that will best help me achieve them.

-Greg Sabolik

Kim Defrang, our genetic specialist, has been the one selecting bulls to use. I just give her some criteria to go off and she bring a list of bulls we could use. Kim is an INCREDIBLE asset to have and is excellent at what she does. Brandon Thesing, Kevin Johnson and everyone else are awesome to have on our team as well.

-Dean Smith

WHY DO YOU USE NXGEN AND SELECT SIRES AS YOUR AI PROVIDER?

I decided to go 100 percent with Minnesota/Select Sires about 3 1/2 years ago. The thing that attracted me was the emphasis on TEAM. Minnesota/Select Sires bring a great team to our team at D&D Dairy. We put a lot of emphasis on the strength of the team we have in place and adding the MNSS group to ours was a big help.

-Dean Smith

I feel Minnesota/Select Sires and the NxGEN program provide a competitive edge. It will allow my farm to have the correct amount of replacements from the highest potential animals. Minnesota/Select Sires has always been a true partner to my farm and always puts my success first.

-Greg Sabolik



Julie Ainsworth
Dairy Records & Consulting Coordinator
julie.ainsworth@mycentralstar.com

EENY, MEENY, MINY, MOE

HOW UNDERSTANDING INDEXES CAN TAKE THE GUESSWORK OUT OF GENETIC SELECTION

Aside from the obvious goal of generating a pregnancy, what else do you want from the genetics you buy? Are you looking to increase milk production, improve solids, reduce mastitis, better calving ease or fertility, make smaller cows, etc?

Since you seldom select genetics to accomplish a single

goal, using a genetic index can be a great option. But even indexes can be a bit confusing as the number available continues to grow, as well as what they focus on.

So, where should you start to determine the best index to improve the long-term profitability of your herd? I'd suggest starting with a key question: What causes cows to leave your herd?

While the answer will likely vary from herd to herd, in most cases it boils down to reproductive failure, mastitis, low production, and lameness. Realize that low production is often caused by one of the other reasons or a different health challenge.

For which reasons do animals most often leave your herd? Once you know that, it's easier to understand which index is best for your herd. Keep in mind, though, that for genetics to reach their full potential, a good environment for cows and calves to thrive on is mandatory.

Consensus on what is most important in selection indexes remains elusive, but they do allow information on many different traits to be combined into one index for genetic ranking. Over the years, much of the emphasis in indexes

has changed from yield traits to fertility, health, and fitness traits. This has been brought about by the change in production economics and a shift to keeping more older cows in the herd, allowing fewer heifers to be raised.

Genetics typically account for only 1 percent of farm expenses, but dramatically influence your herd's future through longevity and production. Using genetic indexes can help you get the most bang for your buck and simplify your genetic-selection process. However, to make it even easier and more effective, ask us for help. Based on your milk market and future plans, Minnesota Consultants can develop mating recommendations to meet inventory needs and achieve your genetic goals.

Which index(s) work best when you say ...

SCC is high, we're treating too many cows for mastitis.

The indexes that emphasize mastitis resistance the most are DWP\$ and Select Sires proprietary HHP\$ index. Along with mastitis resistance, HHP\$ places some selection on udders, specifically udder depth and teat size and rear placement, which should help prevent mastitis.

We lose too many cows from reproductive failure.

TPI, DWP\$, and HHP\$ offer the highest emphasis for fertility. These indexes will allow you to breed for more fertile cows and cutdown the number of cows leaving for reproductive failure in the future.

Our herd has more lame cows than we should.

Lameness would fall under the category of "other cow

health." The hands-down winners on that would be NM\$, CM\$, DWP\$, and HHP\$. Lameness is lumped in with other health traits (also important), so it is more difficult to see the emphasis it receives.

Big cows don't fit well in our facilities.

The indexes that put the greatest negative weight on large cows would be NM\$, CM\$, and DWP\$.

I want more total pounds of fat and protein.

The indexes that put the most emphasis on combined fat and protein would be TPI, NM\$, and CM\$. The most emphasis that any of the indexes put on milk is 1-2 percent. Over the years, less emphasis has been placed on the production of pounds of milk, because across the country, we are sending less fluid and more solids off the farm.

I want cows that calve easily and unassisted.

All indexes put some emphasis on calving ability to the tune of 1-3 percent.

Type is still important to me.

TPI wins the race here.

Calf health is a challenge.

DWP\$ is the only index that places significant emphasis on calf health and would be the go-to index to improve calf immunity.

Industry Index Comparison					
	TPI®	NM\$	CM\$	DWP\$	HHP\$
Milk	0%	1%	-2%	1%	0%
CFP	44%	48%	48%	34%	37%
Mastitis, SCS	5%	3%	4%	13%	19%
Fertility	13%	6%	5%	12%	11%
Other Cow Health	9%	21%	20%	21%	17%
Calving Ability	2%	3%	3%	2%	1%
Calf Health	0%	1%	1%	7%	0%
Conformation	25%	4%	4%	0%	8%
Size/RFI	-2%	-13%	-13%	-10%	-7%

6601 Gregory Park Rd, St. Cloud, MN 56301

800.795.1233 | mnselect@mnss.coop



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FILLING THE CALCIUM GAP WITH THE UNIQUE Ca3 BIOFRESH



from Dr. Roth
Associate Vice President
of Science and Technology
lroth@agrsol.com

The lactating cow's genetic drive to produce milk immediately after freshening and her rapid demand for calcium results in a short-term gap in available calcium, commonly known as milk fever. In fact, over 50% of dairy cows experience subclinical milk fever and are at risk of reduced production, increased health problems and delayed re-breeding. Supplementing the Ca3 BioFresh® Bolus at calving is the easiest, safest and most efficient way to supplement calcium to cows during this critical time.

The Ca3 bolus is set apart from competitive calcium boluses due to a unique combination of three calcium sources: calcium acetate for quick passive absorption in the rumen, calcium sulfate for a slightly more moderate rate of absorption from the rumen and the tricalcium phosphate for a slow rate of dissolving for longer term calcium absorption. The quick, yet sustained calcium availability is complemented by the Ca3 bolus' 50,000 IU of vitamin D3 for proper calcium and phosphorus metabolism and, importantly, to support immune function during the challenging transition period.

Please contact your Minnesota Select Sires representative for more information on the unique Ca3 BioFresh Bolus to fill your cows' demand for calcium at freshening.

