

80th PERCENTILE LIST FOR NET MERIT DOLLARS (NM\$)

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The guidelines for Phase 1 cost share dollars for the Dairy Genetic Improvement Program specify that dairy sires must be in the 80th percentile for Net Merit Dollars (NM\$). The NM\$ values for each dairy breed for the January 2008, April 2008, August 2008 and January 2009 USDA Dairy Sire Summaries are listed below. To be in the 80th percentile (top 20 percent), a dairy sire must have a NM\$ value equal to or greater than the number listed. The latest genetic evaluations provide the most up-to-date information for making a decision regarding the genetic quality of an AI sire for which semen can be purchased. The genetic evaluations, beginning in May 2007, have been calculated on an all-breed model which includes all breeds and crossbreds. Moving to an all-breeds base from a within-breed base caused a drop in PTA's of bulls in all breeds, particularly the breeds other than Holstein. The genetic evaluations for January 2009 include predicted transmitting abilities (PTA's) which used genomic data derived from DNA of some bulls and cows evaluated. The inclusion of genomic data increased the reliabilities of evaluations, especially young bulls and heifers. Directions for looking up sire and cow genetic evaluation information on the web are also provided below. A list of the individual sires that qualify can be obtained as well.

List of NM\$ Values to Qualify for the 80th Percentile

<u>Breed</u>	Date of USDA Dairy Sire Summary			
	January 2008	April 2008	August 2008	January 2009
Ayrshire	216	212	219	268
Brown Swiss	332	323	324	324
Guernsey	226	246	235	242
Holstein	366	366	384	404
Jersey	367	366	373	375

To access information on the current sire summary via the web, follow the directions listed below.

To Access Percentile Values for Net Merit Dollars:

1. The web site is <http://aipl.arsusda.gov>
2. Hit "Genetic Evaluations"
3. Hit "Summary Data Tables and Lists"
4. Hit "Percentile Tables"

To Access a List of Sires Ranked on Net Merit Dollars:

1. The web site is <http://aipl.arsusda.gov>
2. Hit "Genetic Evaluations"
3. Hit "Summary Data Tables and Lists"
4. Under "Bull Lists" Hit "Top sires and available sire lists"
5. Select "NM\$" for the breed you want under "Available in US"

Note: Active AI bulls in the 80th percentile or above are included for Holstein. For breeds other than Holstein, the lists extend past the 80th percentile to include the top 30 bulls.

Sorted Lists from Previous Evaluations are also available

To Access the Previous Evaluation of a Bull

1. The website is <http://aipl.arsusda.gov>
2. Hit "Genetic Evaluations"
3. Hit "Publicly Available Queries" under "Internet Animal Queries"
4. Hit "Get Bull History by ID" and key in the Bull's ID