

Journal of Dairy Science Interpretive Summary
May 2007 (90:2480–2488)

Genetic Evaluation of Stillbirth in United States Holsteins Using a Sire-Maternal Grandsire Threshold Model. *By Cole et al., page 2480.* A routine genetic evaluation for stillbirth in the US has not previously been feasible due to insufficient data. However, 3.5 million stillbirth records were added to the national database in the last decade, suggesting that an evaluation may now be possible. Six million records from Holstein calvings were extracted from the database and used to calculate predicted transmitting abilities (PTA) for 44,290 artificial insemination bulls. Mean PTA were 7.9 and 8.6 for direct and maternal stillbirth, respectively; reliabilities averaged 45%. There was no genetic trend for either trait. Improved recording of stillbirths would increase reliabilities and could allow for evaluations in breeds other than Holstein.