

Subjective definition of traits and economic values for selection of organic sows in Denmark

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Subjective and objective organic breeding goals differ from a conventional breeding goal



Correlation between breeding goals

	EV	EV+NMV	New
Conv	0.83	0.76	0.72
EV		0.87	0.69
EV+NMV			0.81

Relative weight of a phenotypic standard deviation unit (%)

	Conv ¹	EV ¹	EV+NMV	New
Gain 0-30kg	1.9	1.7	9.8	16.2 ²
Gain 30-100 kg	6.8	12.9	8.5	5.7
Meat%	4.9	6.5	8.1	4.4
Leg strength	5.5	6.2	17.5	0.0
Feed efficiency	14.0	23.6	25.3	19.1
Litter size	41.6	12.5	22.0	29.3 ²
Slaughter loss	4.4	12.9	2.1	0.0
Longevity	21.0	23.7	6.6	0.0
Mortality of liveborn	0.0	0.0	0.0	19.1
Number of functional teats	0.0	0.0	0.0	6.2
Days from weaning to estrus	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.4 ³

¹ Courtesy of DanBred ² Different definition ³ Excluded in further analyses

Main results:

- Objective and subjective breeding goals compare reasonably well
- Subjective considerations pull organic breeding goal further away from the conventional breeding goal
- Organic pic producers put more weight on litter size than warranted by economy
- Maternal ability is highly prioritized in the organic breeding goals
- The new traits are difficult to record on individuals