

Some Indications About Jerseys

Excerpts from "Evaluation of Research on Jerseys," R. E. McDowell, North Carolina State University, 1988

Trait	Indication
Economics	Comparative advantages
Milk constituents	
Protein	High to highest in percentage and quality of protein
Fat characteristics	Excellent for most markets
Cheese production	Best for quality cheeses and yield
Reproductive traits	
Age at puberty	Has comparative advantage
Age at first calving	On average has comparative advantage
Gestation length	Among breeds with lowest days
Calving interval	Among best breeds with advantages in certain environments
Calving ease and dystocia	Among best of all breeds
Breeding efficiency	Above average
Semen characteristics	May have comparative advantages in quality, post-thaw motility
Udder characteristics	
Teat size	Smaller than most dairy breeds
Teat placement	Among best breeds
Udder strength	Well above average, overall high quality udders
Nutrition	Excellent user of forages
Lactation characteristics	
Mobilizing body reserves	Capability among highest
Persistency of milk yield	Above average
Temperament	Excellent, one of best breeds
Temperature stress	Highest in tolerance among European dairy breeds
Growth	
Birth weight	Low but good calf vigor
Heifers	Among most rapid breeds
Skeletal dimensions	Good rate of frame development
Postpartum	Weight loss low, rapid return to energy balance and estrous cycle
Rate of maturity	Among fastest breeds
Health	
Mastitis	Low in clinical incidence
Milk fever	Among the high risk breeds
Udder edema	Breed is average
Displaced abomasum	Breed effects negligible
Laminitis	Lower risk than most breeds
Colostrum	Excellent in quality; protein-to-fat ratio could be low for Jersey calves

"A ready conclusion," writes Dr. McDowell of findings from his review of more than 1,000 studies published over two decades (1970-1987), "is that Jersey is an excellent breed for dairying . . ." Research during the past decade continues to document Jersey advantages, in addition to providing updated technical information about the nutritional requirements and other issues in the management of Jerseys.

Investigate the opportunities for improving your bottom line with Jersey genetics. Contact the American Jersey Cattle Association, 6486 E. Main St., Reynoldsburg, Ohio 43068-2362; phone 614/861-3636, fax 614/861-8040, general email info@USJersey.com; or log onto our website at www.USJersey.com.