Genetic evaluation MILKING BEHAVIOUR

General

Breeds: Fleckvieh, Brown Swiss

Holstein: see www.vit.de

since 2021 single-step evaluation together with Germany

Implementation: LfL Grub

Data

Survey of milking behaviour of first calving cows in the context of linear conformation scoring (DE, CZ) or recording in the context of routine milk recording (AT)

Countries: Austria, Germany, Czech Republic (Fleckvieh).

Trait:

Milking behaviour: 4-level scale

- very quiet
- quiet
- slightly nervous
- very nervous

Model

univariate BLUP animal model (single-step)

Software MiX99

Effects:

- Classifier-year
- Year-Season
- Herd-year
- Age at first calving
- distance to calving
- Genetic effect of the cow

Genetic parameters

Heritabilities:

Fleckvieh: 5.3%

Brown Swiss: 5.0%

Publication

Breeding value for milking behaviour (MVH) as relative breeding value with mean value 100 and deviation 12

the higher the better (calmer animals)

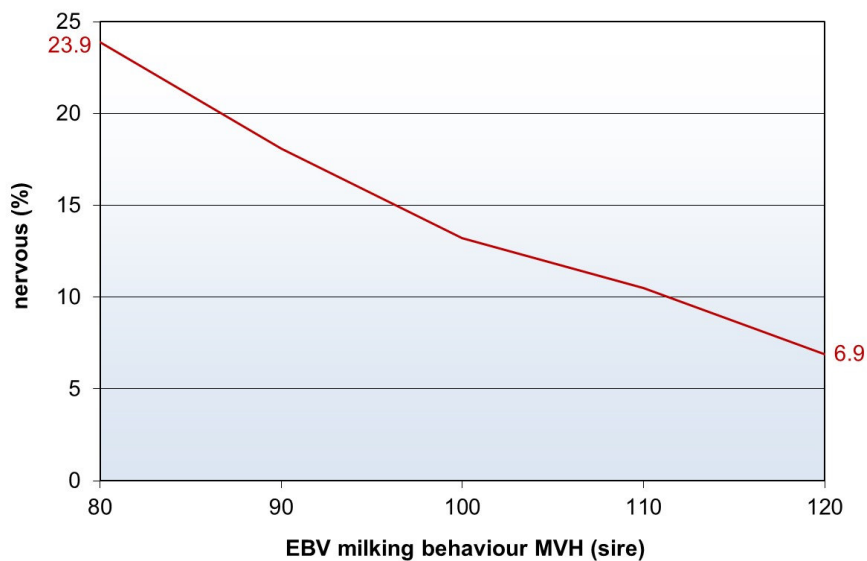## Relationship between breeding value and phenotype

Figure: Proportion of animals that are slightly or very nervous during milking depending on the sire's breeding value for milking behaviour MVH (Fleckvieh, Austria)

Genetic trends
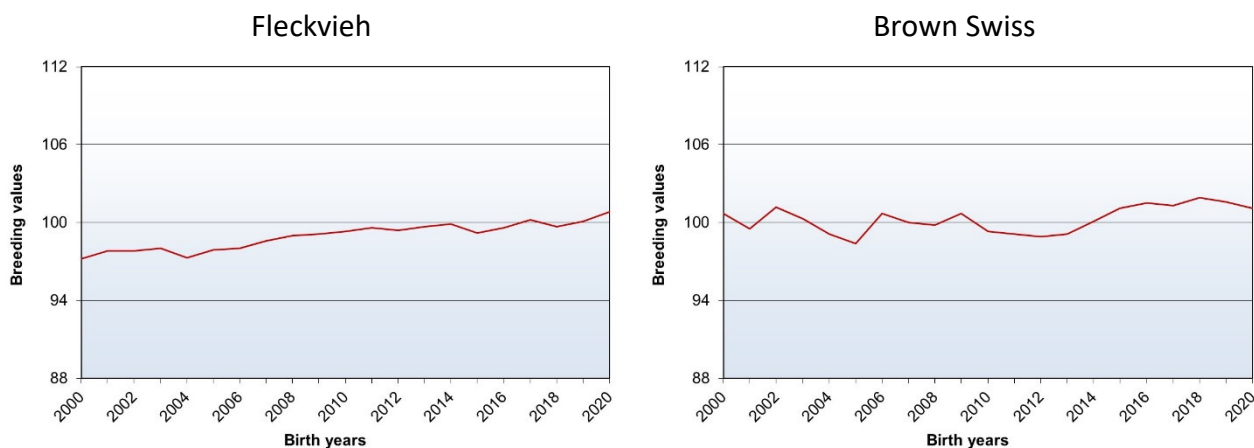
Fleckvieh   Brown Swiss

Fig.: Genetic trends for milking behaviour (MVH) for cows (Austria)