



Holstein Association USA Genetic Advancement Committee Recommendation February 18, 2026

The following recommendation was made at a Genetic Advancement Committee meeting held on February 17, 2026. This item will be considered for approval at the HAUSA Board of Directors meeting on March 26–27, 2026. This information is being shared in accordance with the publication requirements outlined in HAUSA's [Disclosure Policy](#).

This document is intended to inform members and industry stakeholders of committee recommendations that are pending Board action. Additional educational and informational materials will be developed and shared following Board approval of any recommendations.

TPI® Formula Update

The committee recommends updating the weightings for PTA Protein and PTA Fat within the Holstein Association USA Total Performance Index® (TPI®). Specifically, the committee recommends:

- **Increasing** the weighting on PTA Protein from 19 to 24
- **Decreasing** the weighting on PTA Fat from 19 to 14

This update adjusts only the relative emphasis placed on PTA Protein and PTA Fat; no other TPI® trait weightings would be changed.

This adjustment is intended to better align TPI® with current and emerging trends in milk pricing, as many dairy producers are increasingly compensated based on protein yield. The committee believes this market trend is likely to persist into the future, and that TPI® should continue to reflect the economic realities faced by dairy farmers. The proposed update results in a very high correlation (0.9978) between the revised TPI® formula and the current version, indicating that the change represents a refinement, rather than a fundamental shift, in how animals are ranked.

If approved by the HAUSA Board of Directors, this change would be implemented with the April 2026 official genetic evaluation.

Details on the TPI® formula can be found at:

www.holsteinusa.com/genetic_evaluations/ss_tpi_formula.html



Joint Conformation Advisory Committee & Genetic Advancement Committee Recommendation February 17, 2026

The following recommendation was made at a joint meeting of the Conformation Advisory and Genetic Advancement Committee meetings held on February 17, 2026. This item will be considered for approval at the HAUSA Board of Directors meeting on March 26–27, 2026. This information is being shared in accordance with the publication requirements outlined in HAUSA's [Disclosure Policy](#).

This document is intended to inform members and industry stakeholders of committee recommendations that are pending Board action. Additional educational and informational materials will be developed and shared following Board approval of any recommendations.

Holstein Conformation Composite (HCC)

The committee recommends implementing the Holstein Conformation Composite (HCC) as presented by staff. The HCC is a new selection tool, designed to help breeders identify animals with the combination of conformation traits most closely associated with balance, functionality, and long-term durability.

If approved by the HAUSA Board of Directors, the HCC would initially be published as a new trait, alongside PTA Type (PTAT) and the existing Udder Composite (UDC), Foot & Leg Composite (FLC), and Body Weight Composite (BWC) values. If approved, HCC values for active A.I. bulls will be released before July 1, 2026. Incorporation of HCC in TPI® would be evaluated later in 2026.

The committee adopted the following mission statement for the Holstein Conformation Composite:

The Holstein Conformation Composite (HCC) is a selection tool designed to identify animals with the combination of conformation traits most associated with balanced, functionally correct Holstein cattle. The HCC emphasizes intermediate optimum values for key traits that support long-term functionality. It promotes moderate frame size, balanced udders built for longevity and production potential, and sound feet and legs. The HCC identifies cattle that move well, maintain structural soundness, and produce profitably across many lactations — the balanced, durable cow that dairy producers recognize as

their most profitable. Developed through collaboration between experienced breeders and the empirical analysis of Holstein Association USA's comprehensive database of linear conformation and production records, the HCC provides breeders an alternative to Predicted Transmitting Ability for Type (PTAT) by weighting individual conformation traits based on breed priorities, considering the relationships between traits, rather than being based on Final Score alone. The formula is evaluated periodically by Holstein Association USA's Conformation Advisory and Genetic Advancement Committees to ensure it continues to advance the Holstein breed and serve the evolving needs of breeders worldwide.

The HCC incorporates HAUSA linear conformation traits, with each trait evaluated based on its relationship to functional balance and longevity. Trait weightings reflect both how heritable each trait is and how traits correlate to one another genetically. This approach helps explain why certain traits, such as Stature, receive relatively greater emphasis than may be expected. For ease of presentation, several weights shown in the table below are rounded; actual trait weights sum to 100%.

Trait	Weighting	Emphasis
Stature	15%	Favors Lower Values
Strength	9%	Favors Higher Values
Body Depth	3%	Intermediate Optimum
Dairy Form	4%	Favors Higher Values
Rump Angle	6%	Intermediate Optimum
Rump Width	5%	Intermediate Optimum
Rear Legs – Side View	5%	Intermediate Optimum
Rear Legs – Rear View	2%	Favors Higher Values
Foot Angle	8%	Favors Higher Values
Feet & Leg Score	7%	Favors Higher Values
Fore Udder Attachment	6%	Favors Higher Values
Rear Udder Height	3%	Favors Higher Values
Rear Udder Width	5%	Favors Higher Values
Udder Cleft	8%	Favors Higher Values
Udder Depth	5%	Intermediate Optimum
Front Teat Placement	2%	Intermediate Optimum
Rear Teat Placement	4%	Intermediate Optimum
Teat Length	5%	Intermediate Optimum