

AN EPIPHANY

WOW!!! At last an “EPIPHANY” and I see the light. After weeks of trying to make sense out of the latest USDA index computations and the resulting carnage to the elite female population it finally dawned on me. It is quite simple. Breeders and dairymen simply do NOT matter! It doesn't seem to matter that they drastically miscalculated the female population, using imputation, extrapolation, misguided calculation and now the latest resealing of cow PTA. It doesn't seem to even be on the collective radar and insight of those making the decisions that the effects on individual breeders and the individual cows or for that matter that the collective female population of the breed is damaged. Their sole goal seems to be to prove they were not wrong in the past or at least it's not their fault!

A little more than a year ago when the first genomic proven bulls were released, we were told, “you are seeing the future, this is a giant step forward and the reason we saw these unreasonable and overly optimistic proofs was because we had leapt forward 12 or more index runs in one giant leap forward. OOPS!!! Now they say well maybe we miscalculated a bit (this is what most people told them at the time). So it's not their inability to write a decent computer program or to calculate and interpret genomic results. It must be the dairymen's fault, the ones who are actually milking the cows!! And by the way, had nothing to do with the genomic results USDA released as reliable facts!

So now let's see, we do not want to admit we were wrong or that we made a huge mistake so let's go and change the information on a SMALL group of cows (no one will mind) and then we weren't really wrong after all. Yes, yes, the data is different but better, just close your eyes, listen to the music and believe, just ‘goose’ step along, don't worry about the ashes falling from the sky, we are on the path to the final solution so just follow along and all will become clear! We were right before we were wrong and we weren't really wrong, you just misunderstood that we weren't right!! But just so you understand we are more right now. And don't worry that to be right after we were wrong we had to screw up several thousand cows and that now the entire female population is now miscalculated, but now we are 3% more likely not to be wrong. But then right or wrong are such definitive words let's use something else like rescaling, projections, extrapolations because that way we can not be pinned down to anything that people can rely on or calculate.

Just to be clear these people doing the calculations truly believe that the maximum the female population of 9 MILLION cows can contribute to future genetics growth of the Holstein breed is 5% of future genetic progress. They are therefore taking (in advance) the credit for the other 95% by manipulation of numbers if we will only follow along. Remember they were right before they were wrong and now we are 3% more sure they are right. I feel much more at ease now that I have let go of old notions of facts and reality and have become a believer. It doesn't seem to bother me that my fellow dairymen and breeders and I are not important. The ashes from the carnage falling from the sky all around me doesn't deter me from the glowing light and the final solution I've been promised!!

In conclusion, if ignorance is bliss, a far greater danger is misused and misguided knowledge. Oh, by the way, Tom Lawlor told me it would be OK if I attached a disclaimer to pedigrees to say that the only accurate and actual data on the pedigree was the classification and the milk production. The rest of the information were calculations by the AIPL and the Holstein Associations and can change at anytime without reason and therefore, I am not responsible for these changes.