



The Guernsey Lifetime Performance Index (LPI)

- 13 juin 2025

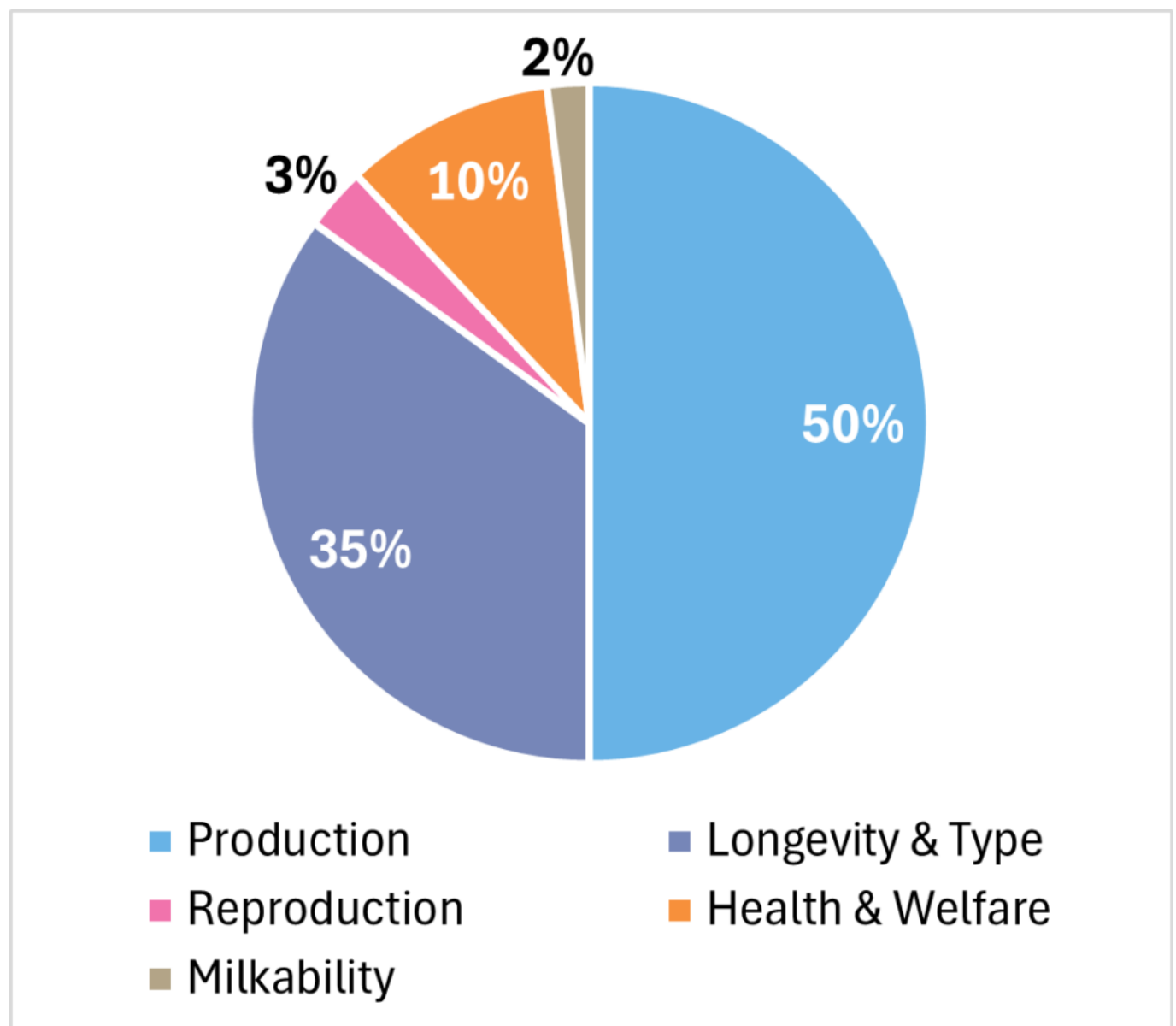
Since its introduction in 1991, the Lifetime Performance Index (LPI) has been a crucial tool for dairy farmers and breeders, guiding informed selection and mating decisions. Over the years, the LPI formula has evolved alongside industry breeding objectives with the inclusion of additional traits. The latest update, in April 2025, marked the launch of a modernized LPI for seven dairy breeds, including Guernsey. Let's delve into these recent changes so you can make the most of your breeding decisions.

Five Subindexes for Balanced Breeding

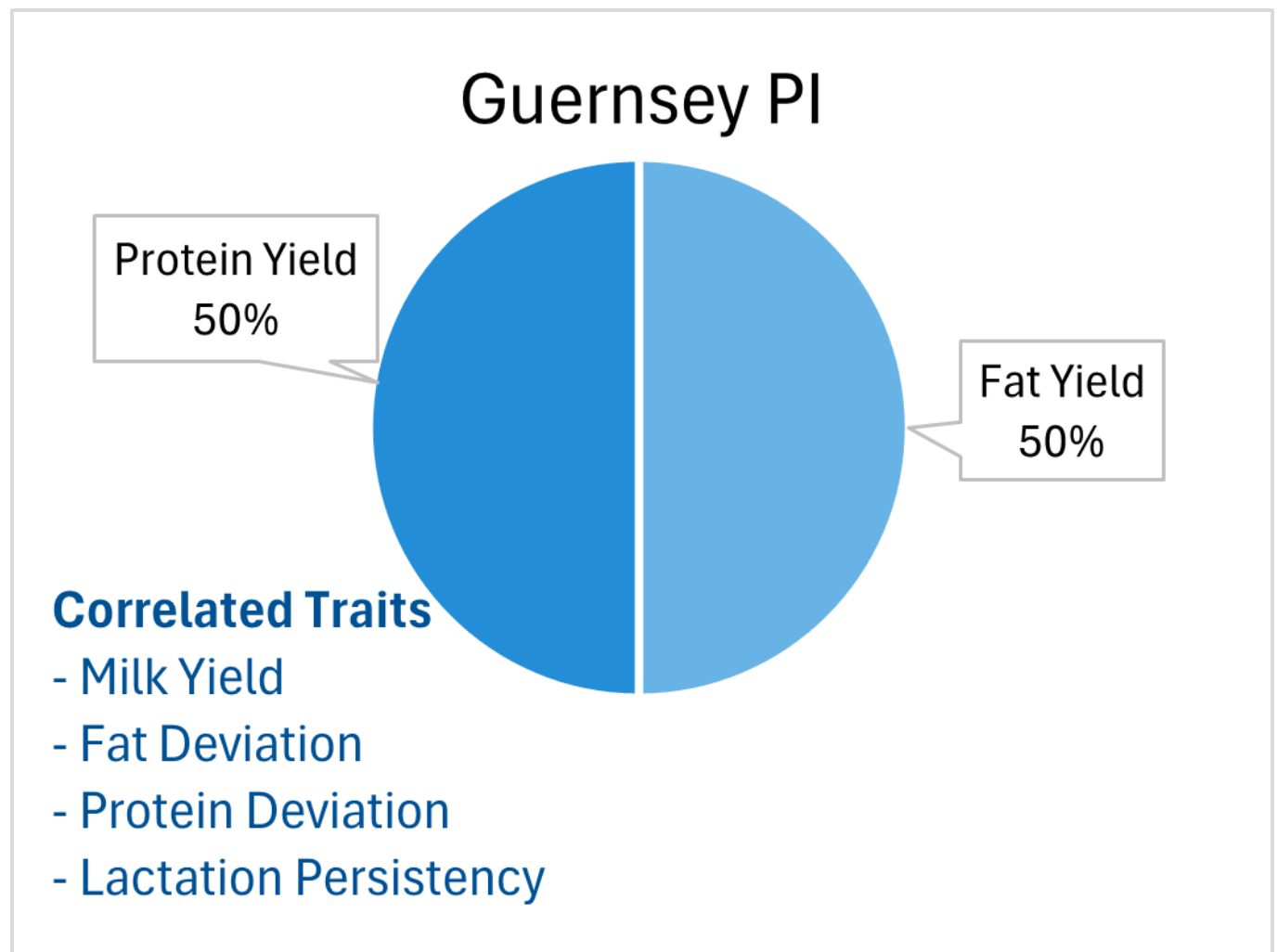
The new formula includes five subindexes for the Guernsey breed, namely Production (PI), Longevity & Type (LTI), Health & Welfare (HWI), Reproduction (RI), and Milkability (MI). Each of these subindexes are published on their own and combined into LPI while maintaining the

previous LPI scale, providing several options when making selection and mating decisions. Figure 1 shows the relative weights of each subindex in the LPI formula for the Guernsey breed. The subindexes were developed in consultation with the breed associations, industry partners, and breeders by identifying the traits to be directly included as well as traits that are favorably correlated with the subindex, even if not directly included. Each subindex is defined in more detail below along with the traits included for the Guernsey breed.

Figure 1. Relative Weights of Subindexes in the Guernsey Modernized Lifetime Performance Index

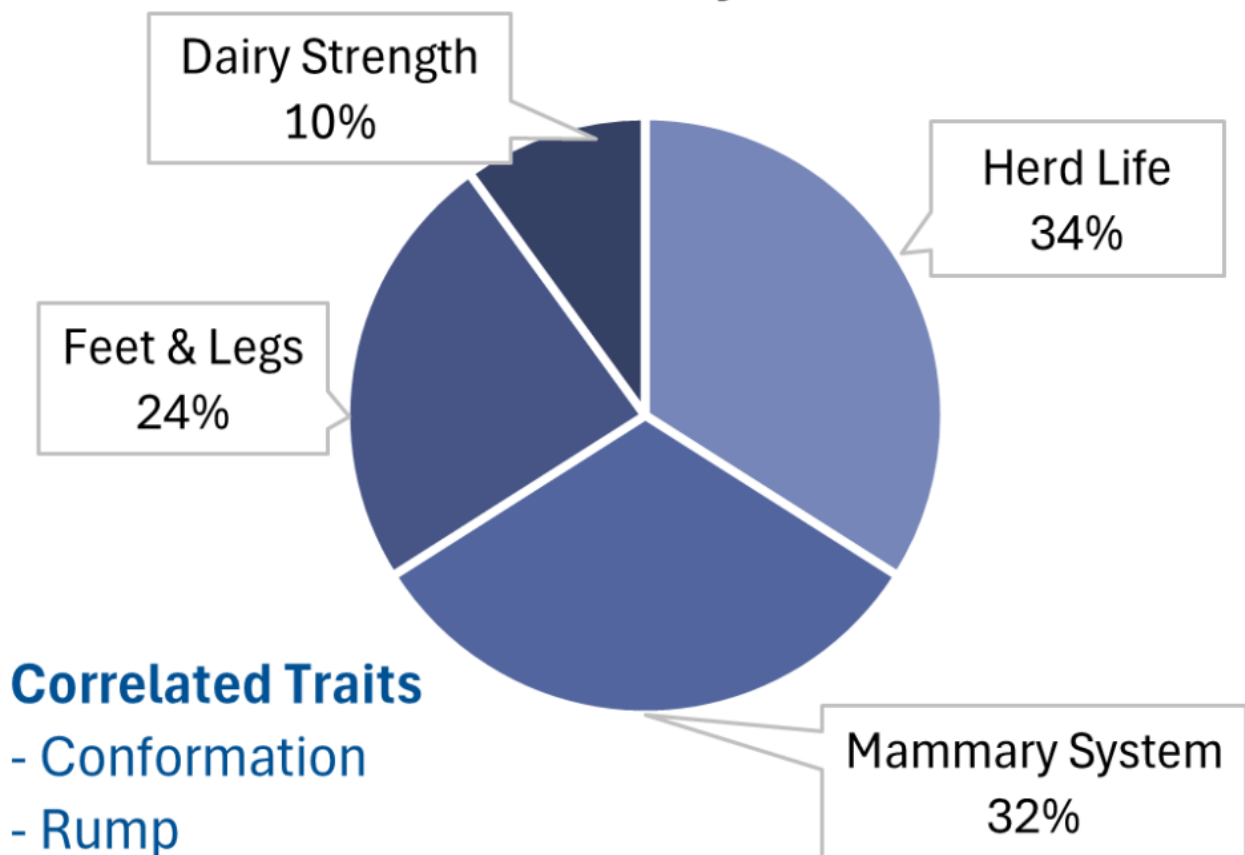


The Production Index (PI) is similar to the previous Production component of the LPI with the aim of maximizing fat and protein yields thereby increasing profitability. This subindex is also positively correlated with Milk Yield, Fat Deviation, Protein Deviation and Lactation Persistency.



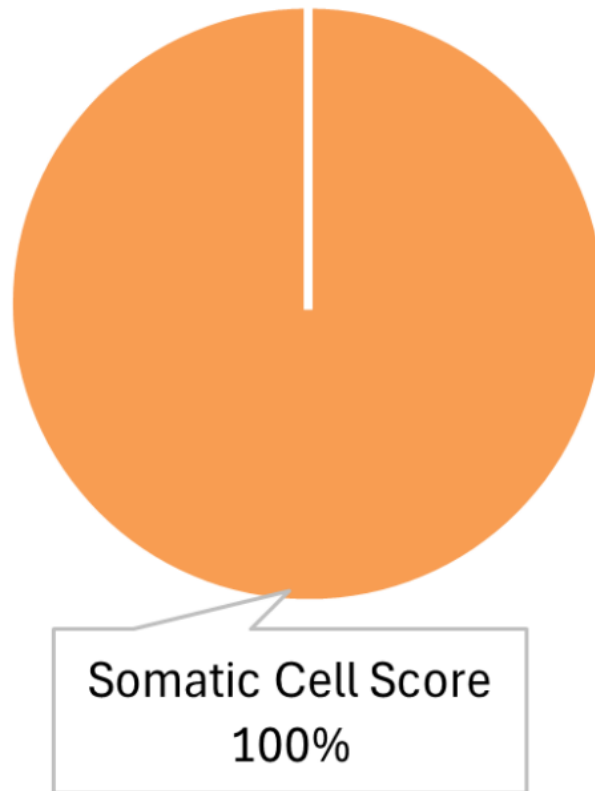
The Longevity & Type Index (LTI) aims to enhance herd longevity favouring functional conformation through selection for Herd Life, Mammary System, Feet & Legs and Dairy Strength.

Guernsey LTI



The Health & Welfare Index (HWI) improves disease resistance with selection for Somatic Cell Score. In combination with superior management, the HWI will lead to healthier, more disease resistant cows thereby decreasing expenses.

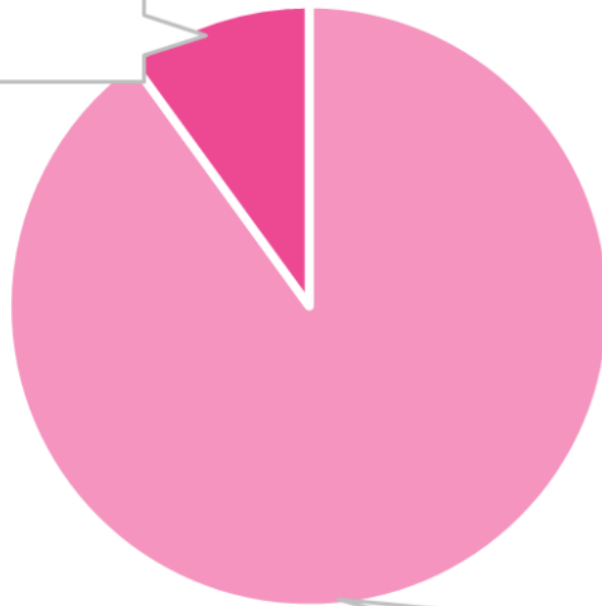
Guernsey HWI



The goal of the Reproduction Index (RI) is to achieve genetic gain for female fertility and calving performance, which is represented by Daughter Calving Ability. Selection for this subindex also yields progress for Calving Ability.

Guernsey RI

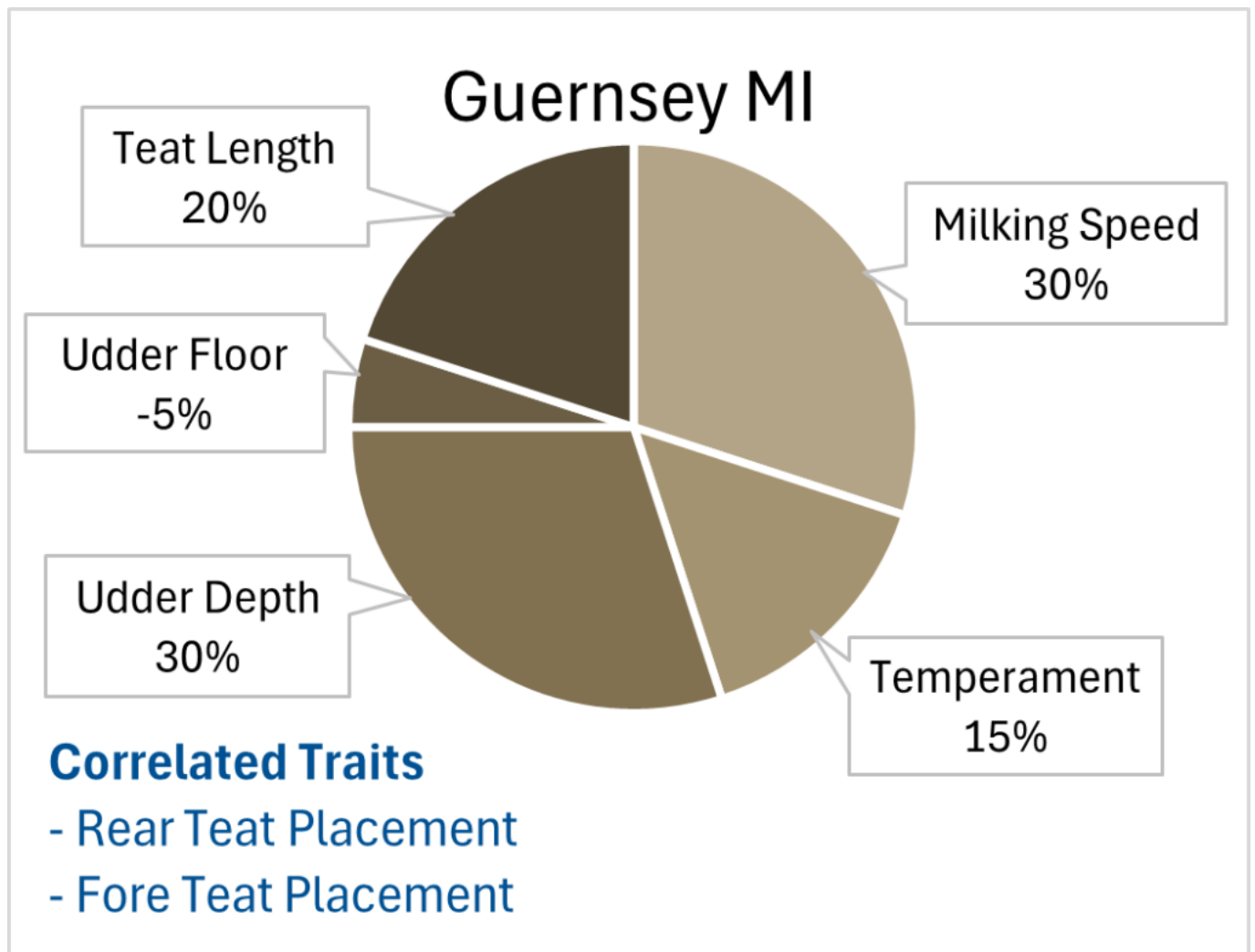
Daughter Calving Ability
10%



Daughter Fertility
90%

Correlated Trait
- Calving Ability

The Milkability Index (MI) is a new component of LPI with an aim to optimize milking efficiency designed to help all dairy farmers regardless of their production system. In addition to moderate weights on Milking Speed and Temperament, this subindex includes mammary traits related to desired udder and teat attributes.



Quickly Identify Animals that Standout for each Subindex

To help you compare subindex values and identify elite sires, each subindex is expressed on a standardized scale. The average proven sire is set to 500 with a standard deviation of 100, which means that two-thirds of proven sires will fall between 400 and 600. Favourable values will reach 700 or more. For each animal, the subindex values are published on the LactanetGen.ca website on their Genetic Evaluation Summary page along with the combined LPI value. This page includes histograms for each subindex that provide a quick reference to see the strengths and weaknesses for an animal.

LPI

1273

Rel: 73% %RK: 99%

Production GEBV 25*APR

		Kg	%RK	%Dev
Herds	6	Milk	430	63%
Daughters/Lactations	16/37	Fat	30	81%
Rel	84	Protein	24	81%
				+0.12

LPI Subindexes

	Rating	%RK		200	300	400	500	600	700	800
Production	685	99								
Longevity & Type	576	72								
Health & Welfare	507	49								
Reproduction	457	31								
Milkability	455	29								

Personalizing Your LPI

If you are looking for a more tailored approach geared toward your individual herd goals, you have the option to create your own personalized LPI (pLPI) by customizing the percentage relative emphasis on each subindex. In just three easy steps you can view your pLPI alongside the official LPI for each animal:

1. Create an account on LactanetGen.ca
2. In your “Preferences” page, select Guernsey as your preferred breed and then modify the subindex weights to create your pLPI.
3. View your pLPI via either the Animal Query or Group Query results.

Summary

The LPI has been updated to reflect a more modern approach to balanced breeding, combining important traits into five subindexes for the Guernsey breed. You may wish to make selection decisions based on this official LPI, individual subindexes values and the histograms, or create a pLPI to prioritize subindexes that are most important to you. With LPI, you can boost genetic progress and select for a herd that is high performing, efficient, and long lasting!

Partager



By Hannah Sweett, Ph. D.

Hannah discovered her passion for agriculture during her undergraduate degree at the University of Guelph and through work experience in the dairy industry. She holds a B.Sc. in Molecular Biology and Genetics and a Ph.D. in Animal Genetics, focusing on the genetic improvement of dairy cattle fertility.

