

IMPORTANCE OF HAVING A CUSTOM CLIENT INDEX



Build a **Client Index** to choose the right group of sires for your herd.

Use your herds **Client Index** in Elevate® to rank your animals genomic testing to select the best heifers to make your herds next generation.

Use **Client Index** to make the cows your herd wants by using it to drive OptiMate®.

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Often, when setting up a proposal there is a tendency to rely heavily on individual trait thresholds (ex: DPR >1.0) to sort through the sire list. But, if you take the time to set up a client index, the thresholds should not be needed, as the sires selected in the overall sire group already reflect your herd's goals!

Client Index vs. Thresholds

| TRAIT | BULL 1 | BULL 2 | BULL 3 | BULL 4 | BULL 5 | BULL 6 | BULL 7 | BULL 8 | BULL 9 |
|---------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Milk (>1500) | 1636 | 2211 | 1567 | 1719 | 1711 | 1338 | 1524 | 2008 | 1625 |
| Fat (>50) | 80 | 85 | 83 | 67 | 81 | 72 | 51 | 87 | 33 |
| Protein (>50) | 58 | 77 | 55 | 47 | 62 | 55 | 50 | 68 | 41 |
| DPR (>1) | 3.3 | 1.2 | 1.1 | 2.8 | 2.1 | 2.2 | 3.9 | 2.9 | 2.9 |
| UDC (>0.5) | 1.07 | 1.06 | 2.04 | 2.5 | 0.69 | 2.15 | 1.86 | 0.48 | 1.66 |
| FLC (>0.5) | 1.55 | 0.15 | 2.33 | 1.72 | 0.56 | 1.77 | 2.21 | 1 | 2.07 |
| SCE (<2.1) | 1.8 | 2.2 | 2 | 1.8 | 2 | 2.1 | 2 | 1.8 | 1.7 |
| Client Index | 2,720 | 2,713 | 2,654 | 2,691 | 2,672 | 2,683 | 2,613 | 2,706 | 2,677 |

The table above shows a group of nine sires that would have been selected by SemexWorks based on client index. The column on the left shows traits, with a threshold set for each one. Sires with a circle around one or more trait values would be removed from selection, as they do not meet the threshold criteria. This leaves only the sires that meet the thresholds, to be selected.

The table below compares the results of sire selection with and without trait thresholds set.

| TRAIT | CLIENT INDEX | THRESHOLDS |
|---------------|--------------|------------|
| Milk (>1500) | 1756 ✓ | 1609 |
| Fat (>50) | 71 | 74 ✓ |
| Protein (>50) | 58 ✓ | 56 |
| DPR (>1) | 2.6 | 2.6 |
| UDC (>0.5) | 1.5 ✓ | 1.4 |
| FLC (>0.5) | 1.5 | 1.6 ✓ |
| SCE (<8) | 1.9 ✓ | 2 |
| Client Index | 2,698 ✓ | 2,665 |

As you can see with thresholds set, your herd only achieves maximum average genetics in two of seven target traits. Whereas, if your herd had selected from the client index value, it would have achieved higher genetic averages on the sire group for five of the seven traits.

By using a client index instead of thresholds, you also have the power of the entire Semex Solution Suite. The client index developed in SemexWorks is not only used for sire selection, as it is also used for your mating and heifer selection.

When using OptiMate™, the client index you created can drive your mating program. This means not only are you selecting the best sires for your herd, but the mating program is maximizing those sires to create the next generation you want to milk.

And finally, Semex's Elevate® genomic testing service lets you measure the genetic decisions you have made, to select the heifers you want to work with going forward. Client Index made in SemexWorks flows into Elevate, so that you can evaluate your heifers with the same criteria you evaluated the Semex sires. This ensures that you're getting an apples-to-apples comparison of your genetic decisions throughout the entire process and the final product is a cow you truly want milking in your herd.

