

Questions & Answers

PregCheck is an evaluation of an individual sire's frozen semen conception rate. The model and data collection process is a first of its kind in the beef industry. PregCheck is not an evaluation of future fertility in a sire's offspring.

What is the validity of PregCheck as a selection tool?

The statistical analysis for PregCheck was developed by CRI geneticists, who also assisted Genex in being the first to the marketplace with a dairy sire fertility evaluation. Genex dairy sire fertility research has led to industry-wide fertility domination for the past decade. The beef PregCheck model is identical to what is used to evaluate fertility in dairy sires, except it is set to a beef base. This means all beef sires in the database are compared only against other beef sires, not dairy bulls.

What does the PregCheck number mean? The PregCheck evaluation, available only through Genex, shows the expected difference in a sire's conception rate. PregCheck uses a 100 base system, meaning a value of 100 is average, similar to a ratio. Every one point difference is equivalent to a one percent difference in conception rate. For example, if Sire A has a PregCheck of 102 and Sire B has a PregCheck of 98, sire A is predicted to average a four percent higher conception rate compared to sire B, when bred to females with similar reproductive ability.

Where does the data for PregCheck come from and is it reliable? PregCheck evaluations are the result of real breedings which have shown real differences between sires. Each bull's PregCheck value comes with an associated reliability value. As the reliability value increases, the amount of change in the PregCheck value will decrease when additional pregnancy data are included in future analyses. For a reliable evaluation, which is about 70%, a sire must have approximately 400 breedings in the database.

What is the advantage to Genex members and customers who use PregCheck as a sire selection tool?

Genex staff feels that the true advantage in using PregCheck is the ability to eliminate inferior fertility sires from your breeding program. Genex members and customers can expect increased conception rates when breeding females to higher PregCheck sires. An increase in conception rate adds up to more A.I. pregnancies and pounds of calf per year, as demonstrated below.

Number of Pregnancies and Pounds of Calf on a 500 Head Breeding Project

Assume initial Conception Rate (CR) of 55%	95 PregCheck Sire (50% CR)	100 PregCheck Sire (55% CR)	103 PregCheck Sire (58% CR)
No. of A.I. Pregnant Females	250	275	290
Extra Pounds of Calf (Based on 21 day cycle and 2 lbs. of gain/day)	-1050 lbs.	-----	630 lbs.
Additional Income from A.I. Calves (Assume \$2.40/lb)	-\$2520	-----	\$1,512

This is an example, results will vary based on your herd's average conception rate.

Where can I find PregCheck sire rankings? Genex is proud to be the first A.I. organization to quantify individual beef sire fertility. December 15, 2014 will mark the first PregCheck evaluations being published to the Genex website. Members and customers will see PregCheck rankings published in the 2015 Beef Genetic Management Guide. As new bulls achieve 70% reliability with their PregCheck ranking the information will be updated on the Genex website, and available in future print publications.

While all Genex sires are procured with producer profitability in mind, PregCheck now offers members and customers another selection option to improve their bottom lines. If you have any questions about PregCheck, please contact your local Genex representative. Your representative, is equipped with the expertise to help you put PregCheck to work in your herd!



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Genex Cooperative, Inc.

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888.333.1783 www.crinet.com