



Jersey Composite type ABVs

Improvements implemented April 2026

Key points

- Jersey Overall Type ABV and Mammary System ABVs were enhanced in April 2026 to better reflect Jersey Australia's current classification system.
- Jerseys now receive three additional composite type ABVs: Feet & Legs, Dairy Strength and Rump.
- The April ABV release saw re-ranking of some animals with very high or low ABVs for Overall Type or Mammary System.



To breed for improved composite type traits, select animals with an ABV greater than 100. Always breed replacements from bulls that meet DataGene's Good Bulls criteria.

Classification system changes

Changes to Jersey Australia's classification system in resulted in additional type data flowing into the genetic evaluation system.

DataGene has updated the two existing Jersey composite type ABVs (Jersey Overall Type and Mammary System) to better reflect Jersey Australia's current classification system.

Jerseys now receive three new composite type ABVs: (Feet & Legs, Dairy Strength and Rump).

Expression

Like all type traits, the ABVs for composite type traits are expressed against the average which is set at 100.

To breed for improved composite type traits, select animals with an ABV greater than 100.

Feet & legs

Sturdy and sound feet and legs are important for Australian dairy cows in grazing systems. The Jersey feet & legs classification score is calculated from individual scores for rear leg rear view (30%), heel depth (24%), rear set (22%), foot angle (12%) and loin (12%). The percentages in brackets refer to the weighting of the individual trait in the composite classification score.

The Feet & Legs ABV is estimated using the feet & leg composite classification scores in a single trait model. In the April 2026 release, the Feet & Leg ABV ranged from 88 to 113.

Re-ranking

The April 2026 ABV release resulted in some re-ranking of high type animals for both Overall Type ABV and Mammary System ABV. Many bulls with very high or low Overall Type or Mammary ABVs moved closer to the population average under the revised system.

The re-ranking is a result from the changes outlined in this fact sheet. Reliabilities of the updated composite type ABVs are similar to those from the previous model. The small direct role that Overall Type and Mammary System play in the BPI means that these upgrades have not impacted substantially on the BPI and BPI rankings.

Dairy strength

The Jersey dairy strength composite classification score is calculated from individual scores for chest width (20%), bone (20%), rib/angularity (20%), body depth (16%), muzzle width (12%), body length (5%), loin (5%) and stature (2%).

The Dairy Strength ABV is estimated using the dairy strength composite classification scores in a single trait model. In the April 2026 release, the Dairy Strength ABV ranged from 75 to 113.

Rump

The Jersey rump composite classification score is calculated from individual scores for loin (32%), pin set (24%), rump length (23%) and pin width (21%).

The Rump ABV is estimated using the rump composite classification scores in a single trait model. In the April 2026 release, Jersey Rump ABVs ranged from 66 to 113.

Mammary system

Jersey Australia added three additional traits to the composite classification score for Jersey mammary system: udder depth, rear teat placement and teat length. Trait weightings in the Jersey mammary system classification score are as follows: fore attachment (16%), udder depth (13%), centre ligament (13%), rear attachment height (12%), rear attachment width (12%), udder texture (11%), rear teat placement (8%), front teat placement (8%) and teat length (8%).

The Mammary System ABV is estimated using the mammary system composite scores in a single trait model. In the April 2026 release, the Jersey Mammary System ABV ranged from 84 to 117. In general, this represented a softening of values, due to 2-year-olds generally scoring lower in the new Jersey classification system.

Overall type

The overall type classification score in Jerseys is calculated from four composite type scores: feet & legs, mammary system, dairy strength and rump. The table shows Jersey Australia's recent changes to classification traits and weightings.

The Overall Type ABV is estimated using the overall type classification score in a single trait model. In the April 2026 release Overall Type ABVs ranged from 87 to 115.

Like the Mammary System ABV, the Jersey Overall Type ABVs generally softened in the April 2026 release, due to 2-year-olds generally score lower in the new Jersey classification system.

Traits contributing to Jersey overall type classification score	
Current classification system	Previous classification system
Dairy strength (40%)	Vessel (35%)
Mammary system (35%)	General appearance (30%)
Rump (15%)	Conformation (20%)
Feet & legs (10%)	Head (15%)
* percentages in brackets refer to the weighting of the individual trait in the composite classification score.	

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