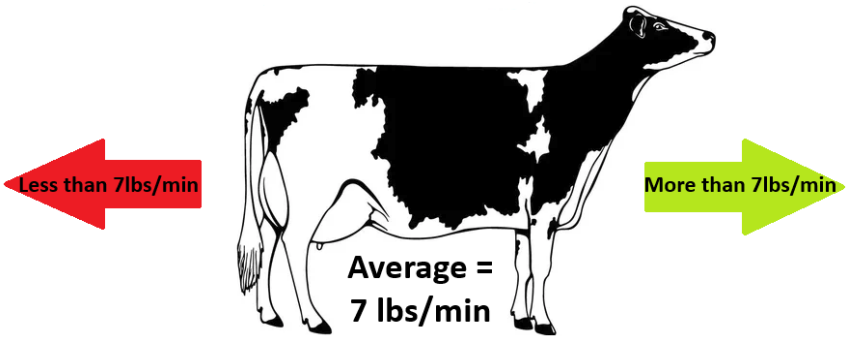
Tip Tuesday!

Your Herd's Data Powers Genetic Progress

A new genetic evaluation for Holsteins called Milking Speed (MSPD) is now available thanks to data collected exclusively from processed dairy herds with DRMS! This trait is particularly remarkable because it was developed using millions of individual milk weights and milking duration times for the entire lactation of cows in commercial herds with in-line sensors versus subjective observations. MSPD is the most heritable trait currently being evaluated, meaning herd progress will be seen faster than any other selected trait. Additionally, it is strongly correlated with somatic cell score (SCS) and mastitis (MAST) with high reliability that will only increase as more data is accumulated.

MSPD predicted transmitting ability (PTA) represents the average pounds of milk per minute expected of an animal's offspring in a herd with average management conditions using a conventional milking system.

This is expressed for Holstein males and females on a phenotypic scale where the average is 7 pounds per minute. Values higher than 7 equate to faster milking times and, conversely, values lower than 7 are slower.



Areas of Application:

- Baseline assessment of current herd, both individually and collectively
- Mating decisions to create offspring with desired milking speed characteristics
- Reaching goals for labor efficiency, parlor throughput, uniformity, and herd health

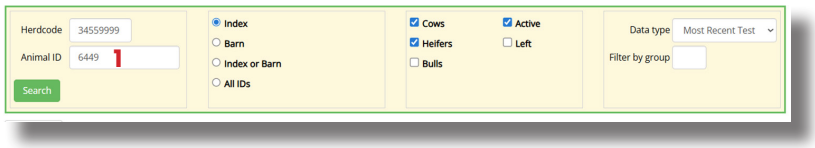
Slower milking cows:

- Can cause disruptions in the milking routine for employees
  - Cows with uniform milking times make it easier to follow SOPs
- Decrease the number of animals milked per hour
  - Cows end up standing in the holding pen or in the parlor longer with more time away from feed, water, and beds
- Are at greater risk for teat end damage with prolonged unit attachment
  - This could lead to somatic cell count and other udder health concerns

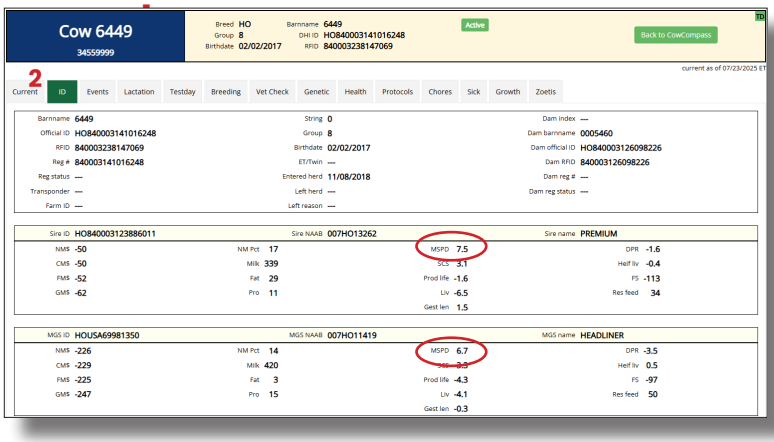
See this exciting new metric on the HerdHQ platform by logging into drms.org and navigating to the HerdHQ menu

View PTA MSPD values on the ID and Genetic tabs within **CowCompass**

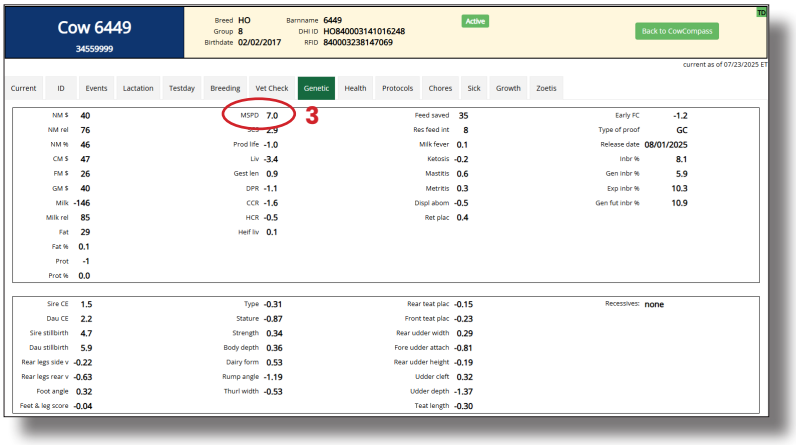
1. Search for desired animal



2. View Sire & Maternal Grandsire MSPD on the **ID** tab



3. View selected Animal MSPD on the **Genetics** tab



Take advantage of new pre-defined reports that include MSPD with DairyDepot

4. Create a new **Dashboard** for Milking Speed or add to an existing one
5. Add charts and graphs from the **Genetics** category
   - Curr Indiv Genetic Info for Cows and Heifers
   - Genetic Summary by Animal Type
   - Udder Traits by Year of Birth
6. Export as CSV for further analysis

