



A DETAILED COMPARISON

# ABS HEALTH INDEX AND DAIRY WELLNESS PROFIT INDEX®

How do ABS Health Index (AHI) and Zoetis Dairy Wellness Profit Index® (DWP\$®) stack up against each other?

The short answer is **THEY DON'T**.

While the AHI and DWP\$ have similar components or jobs, they are not the same. Comparing these tools would be like comparing apples to oranges.

To compare apples to apples, we need to look at:

- » ABS Custom Index compared to Dairy Wellness Profit Index (DWP\$)
- » ABS Health Index compared to Wellness Trait Index® (WT\$®) and Calf Wellness Index® (CW\$®)

ABS Custom Index compared to Dairy Wellness Profit Index (DWP\$)		
	ABS CUSTOM INDEX	DWP\$
Are they both a simplified metric to use in genetic selection?	YES	YES
Who designed the index and what is the index based on?	You design your Custom Index based on your specific operation.	Zoetis designs DWP\$ based on U.S. economics and national herd.
Who controls the included traits and their weighting?	You control what traits to include in your Custom Index and their appropriate weightings.	DWP\$ is fixed index with a one-size-fits-all approach, meaning the same traits are included with the same weightings for everyone.
Does this index fit your operational needs by designing the ideal cow for your system?	<b>YES.</b> A Custom Index gives you the ability to create the exact cow that works best in our system because we aren't telling you what type of cow you need to create.	With DWP\$, you are locked into what Zoetis believes is the right cow for your system, limiting customization to your specific wants, needs, and goals.
Can you make genetic progress with this index?	<b>YES.</b> You can accelerate genetic progress within your herd because a Custom Index is customized to your goals.	<b>YES.</b> You can make genetic progress but only within the limits of the U.S. national herd conditions.

Let's be clear. DWP\$ does indeed allow producers to make genetic progress, but it is a fixed weighting, allows for no customization, and is based on U.S. conditions. It does NOT factor in **YOU: your facility, your milk market, or your business style**.

When choosing a selection tool, ask yourself,  
***“Do I want to be told what kind of cow to create,  
OR  
do I want the flexibility to design a cow that works best for my dairy?”***

## ABS Health Index (AHI) compared to Wellness Trait Index (WT\$) and Calf Wellness (CW\$)

	AHI	WT\$ AND CW\$
<b>What does this index do?</b>	<p>AHI analyzes several disease-related traits that predicts the animal's susceptibility into a single simple metric based on overall impact to the dairy.</p> <p>AHI simplifies selecting for health traits in your genetic plan, and Custom Index controls the amount of emphasis you desire for those traits.</p>	<p>WT\$ approximates the potential profit contribution of those wellness traits only and works to reduce the risk of disease in dairy females.</p> <p>CW\$ assesses the differences in expected lifetime profit associated with the risk of calfhoo diseases and early death losses and works to reduce the risk of disease in young replacement females.</p>
<b>Does this simplify disease-related health selection into one metric for both cows and calves?</b>	<b>YES.</b> AHI is an easy-to-use tool that simplifies selecting for cow and calf wellness into one simple metric.	<b>NO</b> because there are two separate simplified metrics to monitor: WT\$ and CW\$.
<b>Which traits are included?</b>	AHI combines eight related and highly correlated health events—mastitis, metritis, heifer survival, ketosis, retained placenta, twinning rate, displaced abomasum, and milk fever.	<p>WT\$ focuses on the value of cow wellness traits—mastitis, lameness, metritis, retained placenta, displaced abomasum, ketosis, and respiratory disease.</p> <p>CW\$ focuses on calf wellness traits like calf livability, respiratory disease, and scours.</p>
<b>What data supports this tool?</b>	AHI is backed by millions of animal records from thousands of commercial herds with an average herd size of 1,500 cows in more than 20 countries and six continents, meaning the database supporting AHI offers more confidence and lower noise than smaller data sets.	No current complete database information is published by Zoetis.

Custom Index and DWP\$ are tools proven to help dairy producers make genetic progress, whereas AHI, WT\$, and CW\$ are tools proven to reduce the number of cows and calves in the sick pen. However, Custom Index and AHI stand out from a simplicity and flexibility standpoint and allow you to zero in on the traits that matter most to you. With these tools, you make your own decisions and aren't told what your herd should look like.

**No herd is average, so why would you use tools based on the national herd average versus what matters to you?**

**Choose the tools—ABS Custom Index and AHI—that allow you to make genetic progress in the areas that matter most to you!**



Profit from Genetic Progress

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