# **Multiple Trait Selection**

GENE422/522 Topic 14

# **Issues with MT selection**

- We have to spread our selection efforts over several traits,
- Not all traits are equally important economically
- Not all traits are equally heritable
- There are correlations between traits
  - Selection for one trait gives also a correlated response for other traits

How to weight optimally the different traits

# **Multiple Trait Selection**

- Defining MT Selection Weights
- Prediction MT Selection Response
- Manipulating MT Selection Response



Selection Index (multiple regression)

 $EBV = Index = b_1X_1 + b_2X_2 + b_3X_3 + \dots + b_nX_n$ 

# Selecting for multiple traits in an index

Using phenotypic measurements on traits

Index =  $b_1P_1 + b_2P_2 + ... + b_nP_n$ 

**Using EBVs** 

 $Index = v_1 EBV_1 + v_2 EBV_2 + \dots + v_n EBV_n$ 

weights (v<sub>i</sub>) are equal to economic values!





Index =  $0.195.W_{own} + 0.056.W_{sire} + 0.164.W_{HS} - 0.916.FI_{sire}$ 



Index =  $1.W_{EBV} - 10.FI_{EBV}$ 

# Multi Trait Selection Index

### Need to combine

- the relative economic weights
- genetic parameters (heritabilities, correlations)

to determine the weights we put on the observed phenotypes

Index =  $b_1P_1 + b_2P_2 + ... + b_nP_n$ 

Selection index with more information sources (multiple regression)

p = vector with phenotypes (criteria)
g = breeding objective (single trait BV here)

 $var(p) = P = matrix = \begin{bmatrix} var(p_1) & cov(p_1, p_2) \\ cov(p_2, p_1) & var(p_2) \end{bmatrix}$  $cov(p,g) = G = vector = \begin{bmatrix} cov(p_1, g) \\ cov(p_2, g) \end{bmatrix}$ 

weights:  $b = P^{-1}G$ 

Selection index with more information sources and with more objective traits (multiple regression)

*p* = vector with phenotypes (criteria) H = breeding objective (multiple traits here)  $= v_1 g_1 + v_2 g_2$  $var(p) = P = matrix = \begin{bmatrix} var(p_1) & cov(p_1, p_2) \\ cov(p_2, p_1) & var(p_2) \end{bmatrix}$  $\operatorname{cov}(p, A) = G = \operatorname{matrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \operatorname{cov}(p_1, g_1) & \operatorname{cov}(p_1, g_2) \\ \operatorname{cov}(p_2, g_1) & \operatorname{cov}(p_2, g_2) \end{bmatrix}$ weights:  $b = P^{-1}Gv$ 



Heritabilities same and no correlation;

Weights are proportional to rel. economic weight



More weight for traits with higher heritability



In general, weights on phenotypic information sources are not easy to 'recognize'

#### **Selection index for Single Trait**

 $\operatorname{var}(p) = \mathbf{P} = \operatorname{matrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \operatorname{var}(p_1) & \operatorname{cov}(p_1, p_2) \\ \operatorname{cov}(p_2, p_1) & \operatorname{var}(p_2) \end{bmatrix}$  $\operatorname{cov}(p, g) = \mathbf{G} = \operatorname{vector} = \begin{bmatrix} \operatorname{cov}(p_1, g) \\ \operatorname{cov}(p_2, g) \end{bmatrix}$ 

weights:  $b = P^{-1}G$  gives weight for all sources about one EBV

Selection index for multiple traits H = breeding objective =  $v_1g_1 + v_2g_2$  $var(p) = P = matrix = \begin{bmatrix} var(p_1) & cov(p_1, p_2) \\ cov(p_2, p_1) & var(p_2) \end{bmatrix}$  $cov(p,g) = G = matrix = \begin{bmatrix} cov(p_1, g_1) & cov(p_1, g_2) \\ cov(p_2, g_1) & cov(p_2, g_2) \end{bmatrix}$ weights:  $b = P^{-1}Gv = [b_{11} \ b_{12}] \begin{bmatrix} v_1 \\ v_2 \end{bmatrix}$ b<sub>i</sub> is a subset of weights for i<sup>th</sup> trait to give EBV<sub>i</sub> Overall weights are weighting each subset with its economic weight



Index =  $0.195.W_{own} + 0.056.W_{sire} + 0.164.W_{HS} - 0.916.FI_{sire}$ 



Index =  $1.W_{EBV} - 10.FI_{EBV}$ 

# Using EBV's rather than own phenotypes as selection criteria

 $Index = v_1 EBV_1 + v_2 EBV_{2+} \dots + v_n EBV_n$ 

weights are equal to economic values! as genetic parameters are already accounted for in MT-BLUP generation of EBV's

Index selection is more efficient than single trait selection!

Predicting genetic change to multiple trait selection

- Single trait selection response
- Correlated response to selection
- Response to index selection

 How can multiple trait response be manipulated by varying index weights

– Can we go anywhere we want?

# **Predicting Selection Response**

Total Response to selection (in \$\$)

 $R = i.r_{IH}.\sigma_A = i.\sigma_T$  in \$\$

Response for each trait (in trait units)

 $\delta g_i = b_{gi,I} R = i.b'G_i/\sigma_I$ Regression of g<sub>i</sub> on Index

See also mtindex.xls

# Example

body weight $h^2 = 0.40$  $\sigma_P = 17$  kgfeed intake $h^2 = 0.25$  $\sigma_P = 2.0$  kg

$$r_g = .50$$
  $r_p = 0.20$ 



Index =  $EBV = 0.4P_W$ 

Response = 6.80 kg Weight

Correl. Resp. = **0.32** kg Feed Intake





Index =  $BV = 0.38P_{W+} 0.69P_{FI}$  R<sub>W</sub> = **6.93** kg R<sub>FI</sub> = **0.40** kg

# Combining information on two traits

breeding objective: H = g1 weight selection index  $I = b_1X_1 + b_2X_2$ 

$$P = \operatorname{var}\begin{pmatrix} X_1 \\ X_2 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \operatorname{var}(X_1) & \operatorname{cov}(X_1, X_2) \\ \operatorname{cov}(X_2, X_1) & \operatorname{var}(X_2) \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \sigma_{p_1}^2 & r_p \sigma_{p_1} \sigma_{p_2} \\ r_p \sigma_{p_1} \sigma_{p_2} & \sigma_{p_2}^2 \end{pmatrix}$$
$$G = \operatorname{cov}\begin{pmatrix} X_1 \\ X_2, A_1 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \operatorname{cov}(X_1, g_1) \\ \operatorname{cov}(X_2, g_1) \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \sigma_{A_1}^2 \\ r_g \sigma_{A_1} \sigma_{A_2} \end{pmatrix}$$

$$b = P^{-1}G = \begin{pmatrix} 289 & 6.8 \\ 6.8 & 4 \end{pmatrix}^{-1} \begin{pmatrix} 115.6 \\ 0.692 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0.384 \\ 0.692 \end{pmatrix}$$

Index weights





Index =  $BV = -0.013P_W - 0.23P_{FI}$ R<sub>W</sub> = -5.04 kg R<sub>FI</sub> = -0.55 kg

K<sub>FI</sub> – 0.00



### Multiple Trait breeding goal

weight feed intake breeding objective:  $H = v_1g_1 + v_2g_2$ 

*assume first:*  $v_1 = 1$ ;  $v_2 = -0.5$ 

selection index  $I = b_1 X_1 + b_2 X_2$ 

# Multiple Trait breeding goal

- breeding objective:  $H = v_1g_1 + v_2g_2$
- selection index  $I = b_1 X_1 + b_2 X_2$

$$G = \operatorname{cov}\begin{pmatrix} X_1 \\ X_2 \end{pmatrix}, (g_1 \quad g_2) = \begin{pmatrix} \operatorname{cov}(X_1, g_1) & \operatorname{cov}(X_1, g_2) \\ \operatorname{cov}(X_2, g_1) & \operatorname{cov}(X_2, g_2) \end{pmatrix}$$

$$= \begin{pmatrix} \sigma_{g_1}^2 & r_g \sigma_{A_1} \sigma_{A_2} \\ r_g \sigma_{A_1} \sigma_{A_2} & \sigma_{A2}^2 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 5.75 & 2.74 \\ 2.74 & 14.5 \end{pmatrix}$$

 $\begin{pmatrix} b_1 \\ b_2 \end{pmatrix} = P^{-1}Gv = \begin{pmatrix} 289 & 6.8 \\ 6.8 & 4 \end{pmatrix}^{-1} \begin{pmatrix} 115.6 & 5.68 \\ 5.68 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1.0 \\ -0.5 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0.37 \\ 0.66 \end{pmatrix}$ weights



Index =  $EBV = 0.38P_W + 0.58$ 

 $R_{W} = 6.93 \text{ kg}$  $R_{FI} = 0.39 \text{ kg}$ 





Index =  $EBV = 0.33P_W - 0.22P_{FI}$ 

 $R_{W} = 6.68 \text{ kg}$  $R_{FI} = 0.28 \text{ kg}$ 





Index =  $EBV = 0.25P_W - 1.58P_{FI}$ 

 $R_{W} = 4.29 \text{ kg}$  $R_{FI} = -0.05 \text{ kg}$ 



#### Summary of some possible responses

Information on	breeding goal		R. weight	R. feed intake	
	<b>a</b> <sub>1</sub>	<b>a</b> <sub>2</sub>			
Weight	1	0	6.80	0.32	
Feed	0	-1	-2.69	-0.50	
Weight + feed	1	0	6.93	0.40	
Weight + feed	0	-1	-5.64	-0.55	
Weight + feed	0	-0.5	-5.93	0.39	
Weight + feed	1	-1	6.92	0.38	
Weight + feed	1	-4	6.68	0.28	
Weight + feed	1	-10	4.29	-0.05	
Weight + feed	1	-20	-0.93	-0.43	

Note: Optimal selection pre-determined economic values, response follows from that.

-otherwise:

desired gains index restricted index







Predicting genetic change to multiple trait selection

 Response to index selection

 How can multiple trait response be manipulated by varying index weights
 Can we go anywhere we want?

# mtindex.xls

Input	Enter data only in								
	light blue cells								
4	Nr of trait	S			Parameters				
			Phenotypic	Herit	Repeat	c2 among	Economic		
trait	Name	Units	Stand. Dev	ability	ability	fulls sibs	value		
1	FW	kg	0.4	0.35	0	0	20		
2	FD	mic	1.2	0.5	0	0	-30		
3	Yield	%	5	0.25	0	0	0		
4	BW	kg	kg 3.5		0	0	0		
	Correlations								
Correlatio	n structure	1	0 1	2 3	4	Phenotypic			
	1	0.25	0.0	3 U 1 O	0.3				
FD Viold	2	0.25	(	ו U ר 1	0.2				
RW/	3	0.4		2 I	0				
	4 Conotio	0.4	0.2	2 0					
U	Genetic								
	D				SD Index	Accuracy of	Index		
Resul	ts Run				19.340	0.7829			
Trait Genetic			Respons	e 🕈	Accura	ю			
		Stand. Dev			Dollar value	MT-EBV	ST-EBV		
1	FW	0.24	-0.01	kg	-0.19	0.699	0.696		
2	FD	0.85	-0.65	mic	19.53	0.778	0.776		
3	Yield	2.50	0.00	%	0.00	0.630	0.630		
4	BW	2.21	-0.20	kg	0.00	0.726	0.725		



#### Selection Index framework allows to study.....



#### Selection Index framework allows to study......



### Selection Index framework allows to study.....



# Are selection indices always linear?

- nonlinear profit function
- optimal traits
- threshold values for profit

# Selection index with 'desired gains'

- Rather than
  - determine econ. values >>>> response
  - We desire a response >>> economic values (implicit)

### When useful?