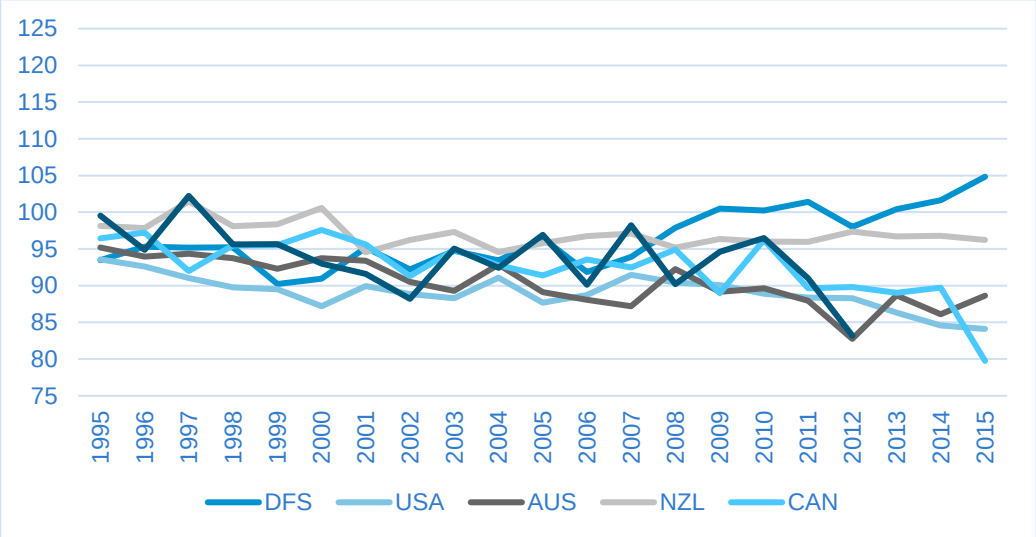
Fertility Campaign
Currently we are running a fertility campaign. In this we are showing genetic trends in leading Jersey populations for fertility traits and for production as well. See below:
The results are based on Interbull information from 13,000 daughter proven bulls with daughter fertility data. The number of new bulls added per year, over the past years are: USA app. 200 bulls, New Zealand app. 150 bulls, Viking countries (DFS) app. 55 bulls, Australia app. 15 bulls and Canada app. 10 bulls.

Figure 1. Genetic trend, Interval from first to last insemination



Results clearly show the importance of including Daughter fertility in a Net Merit index with a weight compensating for more than the negative effects of high progress in milk yield.

In VikingJersey the relative weight on daughter fertility has increased over the past 25 years, enabling the breed to go from a stable situation to actually improving the daughter fertility in the population. None of the other populations have been able to change the negative trends.

High production and good female fertility at the same time
Daughter fertility has traditionally been among the most important traits in NTM, although the genetic level in the VikingJersey breed is high. The main reason for this is the fact that there is a strong negative genetic correlation between milk yield and daughter fertility traits (-20% for Jersey) and milk yield is the highest prioritized trait in the NTM index (35% of total weight). When these traits are combined in NTM it is possible to get genetic progress in both at the same time. The response when selection for NTM is highest in longevity with 0.62, second is udder health with 0.56 and production with 0.55 (55% of max. response). The response for daughter fertility is 0.32.