Genetic parameters of disease traits and genetic correlations with traits included in Spanish net merit index

N. Charfeddine\textsuperscript{1} and M. Angeles Pérez-Cabal\textsuperscript{2}

\textsuperscript{1} CONAFE. Spanish Holstein Association. 28340 Valdemoro. Spain
\textsuperscript{2} Department of Animal Productions. Completeness University of Madrid. Spain
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- Heritabilities were ranged between 1 to 8.5% for MFE and CKT, respectively.
- Most health traits showed positive correlation between each others.
- The strongest correlations were found between CKT and DAB, and between MET and RPL.
- Positive correlations between the occurrence of health disorders and milk production traits.

Health Traits | IR | $h^2$
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M. Fever (MFE) | 1.0% | 0.008
D. Abomasum (DAB) | 1.8% | 0.050
C. Ketosis (CKT) | 2.0% | 0.085
Mastitis (MAS) | 12.5% | 0.035
Metritis (MET) | 6.0% | 0.024
R. Placenta (RPL) | 5.0% | 0.028
Lameness (LAM) | 11.0% | 0.027
S. Ketosis (SKT) | 30.7% | 0.066

Conclusion: Health traits should be evaluated and included in the net merit index to balance the likely deterioration in animal health and, thereby, the loss of animal welfare.