Comparative Efficiency of Sire Evaluation Procedures in Murrah Buffaloes

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Abstract

The present investigation was conducted on records of 2959 buffaloes, progeny of 219 sires over a period of 24 years (1992-2015) maintained at Buffalo research centre (BRC), LUVAS, Hisar and Animal farm ICAR-CIRB, Hisar. Four sire evaluation procedures such as ordinary least squares (OLS), regressed least squares (RLS), Derivative free restricted estimated maximum likelihood (DFREML) and best linear unbiased prediction (BLUP) based on estimated breeding value of performance traits such as first lactation milk yield (FLY), first lactation peak yield (FPY), first lactation milk yield per day of first lactation length (MLL = FLY/FLL); first lactation milk yield per day of first calving interval (MCI = FLY/FCI) and first lactation milk yield per day of age at second calving (MSC = FLY/AFC+FCI) were compared. The results indicated that sire number 63 had the highest merit computed by OLS, RLS and sire number 27 had the highest merit for MCI computed by either of the four methods. In addition, sire number 63 had the highest merit for MSC computed by all the methods except OLS where it stood fourth in ranking. Product-moment correlations were comparatively lower than those of rank correlations barring a few exceptions. When comparison was made on the basis of coefficient of skewness, OLS was found superior for estimation of breeding value for FLY, MLL and MSC whereas RLS for FPY and BLUP for MCI. When comparison was made on the basis of coefficient of kurtosis, DFREML was better for FLY and FPY; OLS for MCI; and BLUP for MLL and MSC whereas RLS was found inferior when comparison was made on the basis of coefficient of kurtosis. When standard error of the estimate was considered, RLS was found to be more accurate in case of FLY, MLL, MCI and MLL. It is recommended to use BLUP where correct ratio of residual variance to sire variances is known.

Keywords
Breeding values, Correlations, Murrah, Phase traits, Satiability traits

Introduction

Buffaloes have spread over almost all parts of country with varying population density, the majority (72%) being concentrated in North and Western states. The local defined breeds are stable as well; these can survive the varieties of feed/fodder/ shortage, extreme of temperature and/or prevalence of diseases. Preference for buffaloes has continued to increase due to higher fat and SNF content of milk. India is fortunate in terms of largest buffalo population, buffalo germplasm diversity (13 recognized plus 17 distinct population groups) and the world renowned buffalo breeds: Murrah, Nili-Ravi, Banni, Jaffrabadi and Mehsana. Presently India possesses about 108.70 million buffaloes (BAHS, 2013). The aim of animal breeder is to select the
genetically superior bull to bring out genetic improvement in the productive as well as reproductive performance of the herd. Therefore, suitable selection criterion which gives best discrimination among sires should be formulated to evaluate sires on the basis of performance of their daughters considering both production and reproduction performance traits.

To improve the efficiency and accuracy of sire evaluation programmes many sire indices has been developed such as by using the procedures of Least-squares (LS), Regressed Least-Squares (RLS), Best Linear Unbiased Prediction (BLUP) and Derivative Free Restricted Maximum Likelihood Method (DFREML). The literature is dotted with conflicting reports (Pundir et al., 2004; Dhaka et al., 2004; Banik and Gandhi, 2006; Raja, 2010; Kamaldeep et al., 2015) on comparative evaluation of various sire evaluation techniques in dairy animals. Therefore, an effort has been made to estimate breeding values for various performance traits by different procedures and comparison of these procedures to find out the most suitable for evaluation of Murrah sires.

Materials and Methods

The data for present investigation was collected from history cum pedigree sheets maintained at Buffalo Research Centre (BRC), Lala Lajpat Rai University of Veterinary and Animal Sciences and Central Institute for Research on Murrah Buffaloes (CIRB) Hisar over a period of 24 years from 1992 to 2015. Assuming that there is not much variation in adjacent years, entire period of twenty four years will be divided into 6 periods 1992-1995 (period 1); 1996-1999 (period 2); 2000-2003 (period 3); 2004-2007 (period 4); 2008-2011 (period 5); 2012-2015 (period 6). Each year will be divided into four seasons; summer, rainy, autumn and winter. The performance traits considered were: first lactation milk yield (FLY); first lactation peak yield (FPY); first lactation milk yield per day of first lactation length (MLL = FLY/FLL); first lactation milk yield per day of first calving interval (MCI = FLY/FCI) and first lactation milk yield per day of age at second calving (MSC = FLY/AFC+FCI). Breeding value of sires for different performance traits (FLY, FPY, MLL, MCI and MSC) were computed separately by using different sire evaluation procedures: DFREML (derivative free restricted estimated maximum likelihood), Ordinary Least Squares (OLS), Regressed Least Squares (RLS) and Best Linear Unbiased Predictor (BLUP). In order to overcome non-orthogonality of the data, least squares and maximum likelihood computer programme of Harvey (1987) using Henderson method III (1953) was used to estimate the effect of various tangible factors on different performance traits under study. The following mathematical model was deduced to explain the underlying biology of the traits included in the study:

\[
Y_{ijkl} = \mu + s_i + h_j + c_k + b_1(X_{ijkl} - \bar{X}) + b_2(X_{ijkl} - \bar{X})^2 + e_{ijkl}
\]  

Where

- \(Y_{ijkl}\) = \(l^{th}\) observation on the progeny of the \(i^{th}\) sire in \(j^{th}\) period and \(k^{th}\) season of calving
- \(\mu\) = overall population mean
- \(s_i\) = random effect of \(i^{th}\) sire
- \(h_j\) = fixed effect of \(j^{th}\) period of calving
- \(c_k\) = fixed effect of \(k^{th}\) season of calving
- \(b_1\) & \(b_2\) = partial regression coefficient of age at first calving, linear and quadratic, respectively on the traits

\(X_{ijkl}\) = age at first calving comparing to \(Y_{ijkl}\) observations

\(\bar{X}\) = mean for age at first calving

\(e_{ijkl}\) = random error associated with each and every observation assumed to be normally and independently distributed with mean zero and variance \(\sigma_e^2\) NID (0, \(\sigma_e^2\)).

Comparative evaluation of different methods

Spearman rank correlation among ranks and simple product moment correlation coefficient among estimates of sire merit
(Steel and Torrie, 1981) were used to judge the relative efficiency of different methods. The criteria used to judge accuracy of different sire evaluation procedures were the coefficient of skewness, the coefficient of kurtosis and standard error of an estimate. The coefficient of skewness close to zero and coefficient of kurtosis close to 3 was considered as estimate perfect indicating that the population follows a normal distribution, whereas low standard error of the estimates was an indicator of the better accuracy of method.

**Results and Discussion**

The breeding values of sires were computed using the Simple Daughter Average (DFREML), Ordinary Least Square (OLS), Regressed Least Square (RLS) and Best Linear Unbiased Prediction (BLUP) procedures for different production efficiency traits. The above mentioned procedures were compared to assess accuracy utilizing standard error of the estimates, the coefficient of skewers and kurtosis. The estimated breeding values by DFREML, OLS, RLS and BLUP ranged from 1237.8 to 1973.82, -329.64 to 325.0, -120.29 to 119.63 and -150.33 to 169.01 for FLY; 6.38 to 10.33, -1.63 to 2.33, -0.89 to 1.03 and -0.64 to 1.04 for FPY; 4.24 to 6.72, -0.95 to 0.84, -0.38 to 0.56 and -0.38 to 0.61 for MLL; 2.59 to 4.09, -0.51 to 0.7, -0.21 to 0.23 and -0.26 to 0.32 for MCI and 0.92 to 1.55, -0.22 to 0.24, -0.08 to 0.1 and -0.14 to 0.19 for MSC (Table 1 and 2).

The results for FLY presented in (Table 1) revealed that sire number 63 had the highest merit computed by DFREML (1937.82) and RLS (119.63) while the same sire ranked fifth by OLS (239.39) and third by BLUP (145.39) method. Five sires out of top ten shared their ranks being in top ten when breeding value was calculated by either of four methods included in the study. The contents of Table 1 for MLL revealed that sire number 64 has the highest merit computed by DFREML (6.72), RLS (0.56) and BLUP (0.61) methods and the same sire ranked second when B.V. was calculated by OLS (0.83) method. Five sires out of top ten shared their ranks by being in bottom ten irrespective of methods of computation of breeding value of sires. The perusal of Table 1 revealed that sire number 59 was found to be of lowest in merit by RLS (-120.29), second lowest by BLUP (-140.32) and third lowest by OLS (-222.2) and was unable to found place in bottom ten sires when breeding value was calculated by DFREML method. Four sires out of bottom ten share their ranks being in bottom ten when breeding value was calculated by either of four methods included in the study. The results for FPY depicted in (Table 1) indicated that sire number 27 had the highest merit computed by DFREML (10.33), OLS (2.33) and RLS (1.03) methods whereas the same sire ranked second by BLUP (0.79) procedure. Only two sires out of top ten shared their ranks by being in top ten when breeding value was calculated by either of four methods. Sire number 61 was found to be of the lowest merit when B.V. was estimated by RLS (-0.89) and BLUP (-0.64) method but third lowest by OLS (-1.5), however, the same sire was unable to find place in bottom ten sires when breeding value was calculated using DFREML method. Two sires (sire no 20 and 29) out of lowest ten shared their ranks by being in bottom ten irrespective of methods of computation of breeding value of sires. The perusal of Table 1 revealed that sire number 27 has the highest merit for MCI.
computed by either of the four methods. Five sires out of top ten shared their ranks by being in top ten when breeding value was calculated by either of four methods included in the study. However, sire number 68 was found to be lowest in merit by OLS (-0.51), third lowest by BLUP (-0.23) and fourth lowest by RLS (-0.17) but was unable to find place in bottom ten sires by DFREML method. In addition to this, two sires out of bottom ten shared their ranks by being in bottom ten when breeding value was calculated by any of the four methods.

The critical review of Table 1 indicated that sire number 63 has the highest merit for MSC computed by all the methods except for OLS (0.21) where it stood fourth in ranking. Five sires out of top ten shared their ranks by being in top ten when breeding value was calculated by any of the four methods. The results of Table 2 further revealed that sire no 81 was found to be of lowest merit by RLS (-0.08), second lowest by OLS (-0.19) and BLUP (-0.11) but was unable to find slot in bottom ten sires by DFREML method. Also only two sires out of lowest ten shared their ranks by being in bottom ten irrespective of methods of calculation of breeding value.

**Rank and Product- Moment correlations**

The rank and product-moment correlations among merit of sires for production efficiency traits by various sire evaluation methods are presented in Table 3 and 4, respectively.

The rank correlations calculated through different methods were very high and it ranged from 0.488 to 0.990 for DFREML X BLUP and OLS X RLS for MLL (Table 3). All the product moment correlations between estimated sire merit calculated by different methods were also very high and ranged from 0.485(DFREML X BLUP) to 0.988(OLS X RLS) for MLL (Table 4). Similar findings were also reported by various researchers: Gaur *et al.*, (2001), Dhaka *et al.*, (2004), Banik and Gandhi (2006), Bajetha (2006), Mukherjee *et al.*, (2007), Kumar *et al.*, (2008), Moges *et al.*, (2009) and Kamaldeep *et al.*, (2015). Rank and product moment correlations among sire merit calculated by various sire evaluation procedures for different performance traits revealed that product moment correlations were comparatively higher than those of rank correlations barring few exceptions.

**Comparison of different sire evaluation methods**

The accuracy of four methods used in the study for the estimated breeding value of sires was judged through the coefficient of skewness, coefficient of kurtosis and standard error of an estimate. The content of Table 5 revealed that on the basis of the standard error of the estimates, RLS method was found to be most efficient accurate in case of FLY (58.47), MLL (0.19), MCI (0.10) and MSC (0.04) whereas BLUP was adjudged as superior for FPY (0.37). When comparison was made on the basis of coefficient of skewness, OLS was found superior for estimation of breeding value for the traits like FLY (0.254), MLL (0.135) and MSC (0.376). Whereas RLS for FPY (0.065) and BLUP for MCI (0.123). When comparison was made on the basis of coefficient of kurtosis, DFREML was better for FLY (-0.003) and FPY (0.066); OLS for MCI (0.216); and BLUP for MLL (0.336) and MSC (1.355) whereas RLS was found inferior when comparison was made on the basis of coefficient of kurtosis. Harvey (1990) also pointed that BLUP was more accurate (1-7%) than RLS when the usual assumptions were met and even when moderate amount of heterogeneous error variance exit. Choice among methods also to a greater extent depends upon computational difficulty and relative accuracy.
Table 1: Ranking of top ten sires for various performance traits using different procedures

| Rank | Methods | FLY | FPY | MLL | MCI | MSC |
|------|---------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| 1    | DFREML  | 1937.82(63) | 10.33(27) | 6.72(64) | 4.09(27) | 1.55(63) |
|      | OLS     | 325.01(27)  | 2.33(27)  | 0.84(37) | 0.7(27)  | 0.24(27)  |
|      | RLS     | 119.63(63)  | 1.03(27)  | 0.56(64) | 0.23(27) | 0.1(63)   |
|      | BLUP    | 169.01(32)  | 1.04(63)  | 0.61(64) | 0.32(27) | 0.19(63)  |
| 2    | DFREML  | 1957.58(58) | 10.27(63) | 6.58(66) | 3.94(64) | 1.49(80)  |
|      | OLS     | 310.45(32)  | 1.41(71)  | 0.83(64) | 0.47(71) | 0.22(80)  |
|      | RLS     | 114.62(27)  | 0.86(90)  | 0.4(37)  | 0.19(64) | 0.09(85)  |
|      | BLUP    | 159.52(27)  | 0.79(27)  | 0.36(66) | 0.23(64) | 0.13(80)  |
| 3    | DFREML  | 1955.27(27) | 9.92(66)  | 6.44(27) | 3.87(63) | 1.47(27)  |
|      | OLS     | 263.22(71)  | 1.37(90)  | 0.73(27) | 0.43(88) | 0.22(32)  |
|      | RLS     | 110.75(71)  | 0.79(63)  | 0.3(27)  | 0.18(71) | 0.08(27)  |
|      | BLUP    | 145.39(63)  | 0.77(32)  | 0.34(37) | 0.23(71) | 0.1(85)   |
| 4    | DFREML  | 1889.38(71) | 9.48(90)  | 6.33(28) | 3.83(66) | 1.46(67)  |
|      | OLS     | 248.81(80)  | 1.34(63)  | 0.68(86) | 0.39(73) | 0.21(63)  |
|      | RLS     | 106.33(85)  | 0.72(71)  | 0.29(85) | 0.17(85) | 0.07(80)  |
|      | BLUP    | 139.97(71)  | 0.61(38)  | 0.33(27) | 0.2(63)  | 0.09(27)  |
| 5    | DFREML  | 1887.66(67) | 9.45(71)  | 6.21(63) | 3.8(71)  | 1.42(71)  |
|      | OLS     | 239.39(63)  | 1.16(38)  | 0.63(66) | 0.38(32) | 0.17(71)  |
|      | RLS     | 102.92(92)  | 0.79(32)  | 0.28(86) | 0.16(93) | 0.07(92)  |
|      | BLUP    | 124.44(52)  | 0.56(53)  | 0.29(52) | 0.2(32)  | 0.09(30)  |
| 6    | DFREML  | 1839.83(32) | 9.4(32)   | 6.15(74) | 3.79(67) | 1.41(85)  |
|      | OLS     | 196.4(85)   | 1.06(73)  | 0.53(41) | 0.36(37) | 0.17(85)  |
|      | RLS     | 96.94(32)   | 0.68(8)   | 0.28(66) | 0.15(63) | 0.07(92)  |
|      | BLUP    | 117.25(85)  | 0.51(66)  | 0.27(28) | 0.18(52) | 0.08(71)  |
| 7    | DFREML  | 1800.24(36) | 9.2(58)   | 6.1(85)  | 3.76(58) | 1.39(74)  |
|      | OLS     | 189.32(88)  | 1.04(73)  | 0.51(88) | 0.33(85) | 0.15(92)  |
|      | RLS     | 87.75(80)   | 0.65(89)  | 0.24(63) | 0.15(92) | 0.06(32)  |
|      | BLUP    | 114.9(92)   | 0.5(92)   | 0.26(85) | 0.17(85) | 0.06(32)  |
| 8    | DFREML  | 1790.28(85) | 9.14(7)   | 6.05(73) | 3.75(73) | 1.34(64)  |
|      | OLS     | 183.14(26)  | 1.89(73)  | 0.49(85) | 0.32(64) | 0.12(92)  |
|      | RLS     | 86.65(52)   | 0.62(85)  | 0.19(41) | 0.14(37) | 0.06(52)  |
|      | BLUP    | 101.53(58)  | 0.48(57)  | 0.25(63) | 0.15(73) | 0.06(26)  |
| 9    | DFREML  | 1789.14(66)| 9.14(89)  | 5.86(90) | 3.67(62) | 1.34(73)  |
|      | OLS     | 171.87(58)  | 0.99(83)  | 0.47(32) | 0.32(63) | 0.12(26)  |
|      | RLS     | 71.17(26)   | 0.56(38)  | 0.19(74) | 0.13(73) | 0.04(88)  |
|      | BLUP    | 99.41(26)   | 0.47(52)  | 0.24(41) | 0.15(6)  | 0.06(64)  |
| 10   | DFREML  | 1766.56(62)| 9.73(73)  | 5.85(71) | 3.64(74) | 1.33(65)  |
|      | OLS     | 162.58(92)  | 0.98(85)  | 0.43(63) | 0.25(92) | 0.11(58)  |
|      | RLS     | 59.11(88)   | 0.51(83)  | 0.18(88) | 0.12(88) | 0.04(26)  |
|      | BLUP    | 91.72(80)   | 0.44(58)  | 0.24(32) | 0.14(37) | 0.06(65)  |

Figures within parenthesis are sire numbers.
Table 2: Ranking of bottom ten sires for various performance traits using different procedures

| Rank | Methods | FLY       | FPY       | MLL       | MCI       | MSC       |
|------|---------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
|      |         | 1237.8(54)| -329.64(28)| -120.29(59)| -150.33(81)| -0.09(61) |
| 62   | DFREML  | 6.38(54)  | -1.63(40) | -0.89(61) | -0.64(61) | -2.59(54) |
|      | OLS     |           |           |           |           | 0.92(54)  |
|      | RLS     |           |           |           |           | -0.22(28) |
|      | BLUP    |           |           |           |           | -0.08(81) |
| 61   | DFREML  | 1295(57)  | -232.73(68)| -102.93(28)| -140.32(59)| -0.61(87) |
|      | OLS     | 6.83(29)  | -1.54(20) | -0.78(40) | -0.35(61) | 2.76(55)  |
|      | RLS     |           |           |           |           | 0.93(53)  |
|      | BLUP    |           |           |           |           | -0.19(81) |
|      |         | 1297.83(18)| -222.2(59)| -97.6(81) | -131.3(28)| -0.51(1)  |
| 60   | DFREML  | 6.97(18)  | -1.5(61)  | -0.78(45) | -0.51(72) | 2.74(18)  |
|      | OLS     |           |           |           |           | 0.93(18)  |
|      | RLS     |           |           |           |           | -0.16(68) |
|      | BLUP    |           |           |           |           | -0.06(28) |
|      |         | 1342.6(20)| -220.6(20)| -89(31)   | -106.79(18)| 7(26)     |
| 59   | DFREML  | 7(26)     | -1.24(67) | -0.72(29) | -0.3(40)  | 2.78(26)  |
|      | OLS     |           |           |           |           | 1.01(1)   |
|      | RLS     |           |           |           |           | -0.15(1)  |
|      | BLUP    |           |           |           |           | -0.05(68) |
|      |         | 1364.8(64)| -217.0(81)| -82.08(68)| -96.34(68)| -0.46(3)  |
| 58   | DFREML  | 7(19)     | -1.18(29) | -0.66(10) | -0.3(62)  | 2.68(30)  |
|      | OLS     |           |           |           |           | 1.02(57)  |
|      | RLS     |           |           |           |           | -0.15(20) |
|      | BLUP    |           |           |           |           | -0.05(1)  |
|      |         | 1384.3(1) | -197.75(1)| -77.63(10)| -84.48(1) | -0.43(1)  |
| 57   | DFREML  | 7.14(20)  | -1.16(28) | -0.66(3)  | -0.28(94) | 2.81(53)  |
|      | OLS     |           |           |           |           | 1.03(50)  |
|      | RLS     |           |           |           |           | -0.15(59) |
|      | BLUP    |           |           |           |           | -0.05(61) |
|      |         | 1386.8(3) | -155.03(61)| -77.47(61)| -76.22(2) | -0.42(62) |
| 56   | DFREML  | 7.22(55)  | -1.09(45) | -0.65(4)  | -0.23(67) | 2.81(50)  |
|      | OLS     |           |           |           |           | 1.04(29)  |
|      | RLS     |           |           |           |           | -0.11(41) |
|      | BLUP    |           |           |           |           | -0.04(20) |
|      |         | 1395.2(81)| -145.05(18)| -75.63(18)| -75.69(20)| -0.4(20)  |
| 55   | DFREML  | 7.28(30)  | -1.05(54) | -0.61(20) | -0.23(23) | 2.89(57)  |
|      | OLS     |           |           |           |           | 1.04(4)   |
|      | RLS     |           |           |           |           | -0.11(78) |
|      | BLUP    |           |           |           |           | -0.04(78) |
|      |         | 1427(53)  | -143.59(41)| -69.74(1) | -75.47(61)| -0.34(45) |
| 54   | DFREML  | 7.29(4)   | -1.05(26) | -0.55(62) | -0.22(67) | 2.94(19)  |
|      | OLS     |           |           |           |           | 1.06(61)  |
|      | RLS     |           |           |           |           | -0.1(54)  |
|      | BLUP    |           |           |           |           | -0.04(18) |
|      |         | 1429.13(37)| -139.08(54)| -68.88(20)| -72.84(54)| -0.33(29) |
| 53   | DFREML  | 7.33(1)   | -1.02(62) | -0.55(31) | -0.19(59) | 2.95(40)  |
|      | OLS     |           |           |           |           | 1.06(20)  |
|      | RLS     |           |           |           |           | -0.1(61)  |
|      | BLUP    |           |           |           |           | -0.04(10) |

Figures within parenthesis are sire numbers.
Table.3 Spearman Rank correlations among estimated sire merits for different performance traits calculated by various sire evaluation methods

| VARIABLE | DFREML X OLS | DFREML X RLS | DFREML X BLUP | OLS X RLS | OLS X BLUP | RLS X BLUP |
|----------|--------------|--------------|---------------|-----------|------------|------------|
| FLY      | 0.655        | 0.599        | 0.670         | 0.943     | 0.918      | 0.877      |
| FPY      | 0.778        | 0.800        | 0.712         | 0.936     | 0.685      | 0.726      |
| MLL      | 0.551        | 0.548        | 0.488         | 0.990     | 0.870      | 0.861      |
| MCI      | 0.527        | 0.500        | 0.523         | 0.966     | 0.862      | 0.868      |
| MSC      | 0.572        | 0.536        | 0.514         | 0.978     | 0.818      | 0.835      |

Table.4 Product-moment correlation among estimated sire merits for different performance traits calculated by various sire evaluation methods

| VARIABLE | DFREML X OLS | DFREML X RLS | DFREML X BLUP | OLS X RLS | OLS X BLUP | RLS X BLUP |
|----------|--------------|--------------|---------------|-----------|------------|------------|
| FLY      | 0.654        | 0.636        | 0.671         | 0.980     | 0.942      | 0.941      |
| FPY      | 0.835        | 0.801        | 0.710         | 0.964     | 0.740      | 0.723      |
| MLL      | 0.547        | 0.543        | 0.485         | 0.988     | 0.861      | 0.852      |
| MCI      | 0.533        | 0.493        | 0.520         | 0.979     | 0.862      | 0.846      |
| MSC      | 0.509        | 0.504        | 0.494         | 0.976     | 0.791      | 0.813      |

Table.5 The standard error, coefficient of skewness and kurtosis for different performance traits calculated by various sire evaluation methods

| VARIABLE | COEFFICIENT OF SKEWNESS | COEFFICIENT OF KURTOSIS | STANDARD ERROR |
|----------|--------------------------|--------------------------|----------------|
|          | SDA          | OLS | RLS | BLUP | SDA | OLS | RLS | BLUP | SDA | OLS | RLS | BLUP |
| FLY      | 0.371 | 0.254 | 0.282 | 0.331 | 0.003 | 0.029 | 0.441 | 0.397 | 165.24 | 139.20 | 58.47 | 75.64 |
| FPY      | 0.328 | 0.122 | 0.065 | 0.670 | 0.066 | 0.887 | 1.180 | 0.034 | 0.83 | 0.91 | 0.50 | 0.37 |
| MLL      | 0.409 | 0.135 | 0.386 | 0.429 | 0.288 | 0.260 | 0.139 | 0.336 | 0.50 | 0.39 | 0.19 | 0.19 |
| MCI      | 0.503 | 0.387 | 0.214 | 0.123 | 0.346 | 0.216 | 0.277 | 0.341 | 0.34 | 0.24 | 0.10 | 0.13 |
| MSC      | 0.554 | 0.376 | 0.526 | 0.422 | 0.314 | 0.122 | 0.057 | 1.355 | 0.14 | 0.10 | 0.04 | 0.06 |

RLS computations are more tedious than BLUP because of the size of the matrix that must be inverted to get to the inverse elements needed for computation of RLS estimates. Contrarily, OLS and BLUP are easy to compute since the least-squares and mixed model equations are well suited to the iterative solution and consequently inversions not required. Moreover, RLS is not a suitable method for evaluation sires as compared to mixed model equation method (Henderson, 1978). On a theoretical basis, the BLUP is the best and has minimum prediction error variance provided that true variance of random effects is known. Therefore, it is suggested use BLUP procedure in a situation where correct ratio of residual variance to sire variances known. Trade-offs between what is computationally ideal and what is practically feasible, are a fact of life in animal breeding.
and hence, use of OLS is suggested in situation where correct ratio of residual variance to sire variance is not known.

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