Changing Definition of Productive Life in US Holsteins: Effect on Genetic Correlations. By Tsuruta et al., page 1156. This study compared several definitions of longevity for dairy cattle when predicting productive life indirectly from correlated traits. Currently, most lactations last longer than the standard 305 d. Restricting the definition of productive life to a maximum of 305 DIM per lactation could lose some relationship with other economically important traits. Estimated genetic correlations of productive life with other traits indicate that a definition with a longer limit of lactation length (500 d or longer) has more desirable properties than productive life with a 305-d limit.