



# Selective Breeding under a Hierarchical Mating Using Osborne Index Web App

M. P. Raj <sup>a\*</sup>, F. P. Savaliya <sup>b</sup> and A. B. Patel <sup>b</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Department of Agricultural Statistics, BACA, AAU, Anand, India.

<sup>b</sup> Poultry Research Station, Kamdhenu University, Anand, India.

## Authors' contributions

*This work was carried out in collaboration among all authors. All authors read and approved the final manuscript.*

## Article Information

DOI: 10.9734/AJRCOS/2023/v16i4365

## Open Peer Review History:

This journal follows the Advanced Open Peer Review policy. Identity of the Reviewers, Editor(s) and additional Reviewers, peer review comments, different versions of the manuscript, comments of the editors, etc are available here: <https://www.sdiarticle5.com/review-history/105559>

**Method Article**

**Received: 02/07/2023**

**Accepted: 06/09/2023**

**Published: 13/09/2023**

## ABSTRACT

The poultry industry has targets to meet consumption trends and thus to produce genetically superior birds with high productivity of egg. Better egg production techniques are recommended, to satisfy in-house and export demand. The correlation of egg production with various parameters is considered by various breeders. With the efforts of breeders to satisfy demand, poultry breeding has introduced individual feed conversion testing, Osborne index, pedigreeing, hybridization, selection index, artificial insemination, and mass selection etc. The most reliable and proven Osborne index states that the maximum efficiency of egg production can be obtained by selection on the basis of a combination of family average and individual record. Technological advances have fostered the poultry sector in the last few decades. ICT led transmutation of processes and practices is apparent in almost all aspects of human activities. Knowledge about a particular breeding technique is required for its perfect implementation. These techniques require a kind of data mining and statistical analysis for mating sires and dams. In the era of 5G, Web Apps can provide better options for providing timely, precise analyzed information to poultry owners or breeders. This paper proposes a device responsive web app for Osborne Index for hierarchical mating using selective breeding.

\*Corresponding author: E-mail: [mraj@aau.in](mailto:mraj@aau.in);

*Keywords: Selective breeding; hierarchical mating; osborne index; web app; poultry.*

## 1. INTRODUCTION

India is one of the leading producers of poultry meat in the world. The increase in the average income and the urban population has led to a tremendous increase in poultry demand and a steady increase in consumption over the years. In 2022, the consumption of poultry meat in India was found to be over four million metric tons. To meet the growing demand, the poultry population in the country has grown at a rapid pace. In 2003, the poultry and livestock population in India were almost the same but the poultry sector has grown a lot more comparatively ever since. In 2019, the population of poultry in India was over 800 million. This was a 16 percent increase over the last five years [1].

Poultry is one of the fastest-growing segments of the agricultural sector in India today. While the production of crops has been rising at a rate of 1.5 to 2.0 percent per annum, that of eggs and broilers has been rising at a rate of 8.0 to 10.0 percent per annum. As a result, India is now the world's third egg producer in the world (Egg, hen in shell, Source: FAO). The potential in the sector is due to a combination of factors - growth in per capita income, a growing urban population and falling real poultry prices [2].

Lush and Lerner discussed the relative merits of individual selection and family selection in breeding for traits with low heritability. It is well known fact that for traits of low heritability, selection of complete families of full or half-sibs with regard to individual performance is more efficient as compared to selection on the basis of individual phenotypes. For traits with higher heritability, the situation may be reversed, but in all cases, maximum efficiency can be obtained by selection based on combination of family average and individual record. In poultry and other animal populations the family classification is a hierarchical one, consisting of several sires each mated to several dams and each mating producing several offspring [3].

As the size of sire family is quite large as compared to dam family, the selection of progenies on the basis of sire family is easier than the dam family. The pullets should be housed in individual California cages for obtaining individual production records. Combined selection is based on the information of both i.e., the individual phenotype and family averages. The gain expected from combined

selection is always higher than those obtained from either mass selection or family selection alone, particularly for low heritable traits like egg production in poultry. The Osborne index selection is type of the combined selection which includes the individual production, dam family average and sire family average for single trait. Hence, it is also called single trait multi source index [3,4].

As per AICRP report 2020-21, selection of both the sexes will be based on 64 weeks hen housed egg production and 28 weeks egg weight. The egg weight will be used as independent culling level selection. Along with individual egg production count, hen housed family average is considered for computation of Osborne index values [5].

Kabir et al. showed that genetic correlation between Osborne Selection index and most semen characteristic were positive, so selection of male or sire will not affect egg production. Also, negative correlation between Osborne index and abnormal male proved importance of Osborne Selection index [6].

Bécot et al. showed that for selection of hens' nest-related parameters can be used without degrading overall egg quality. The eggshell strength trait must be carefully monitored. These findings need to be checked for other populations and big datasets [7].

Roy et al. conducted study to compare performance of five single traits Osborne indices derived using EN-1, EN-2, MOT40, MOI40 and ACL as primary trait and multi-trait selection index derived using all possible combinations of 6-layer traits. Osborne indices showed greater efficiency. Among multi-trait indices, IB17 was found to be the best index [8].

Nwagu et al. (2022) considered body weight average and egg weight average traits for computation of genetic correlation for selection. This selection continued for 280 days on the basis of Osborne index. A positive correlation concluded that use of continuous selection should be practiced for increase egg production in SHIKABROWN® parent chickens [9].

### 1.1 Web Apps

In the last few years ICT has flourished and assisted Agricultural domain in each and every

stage of crop life cycle [10–12]. Even poultry farming is also benefited by ICT and has been a boon for poultry breeders and owners [13–16]. Web App or Web application is a software that runs on web server and can be accessed via internet in a web browser. It has additive benefits like accessible on various platforms, multi-user access and no installation required on a device. Also, responsive web apps can be accessed on any device without any amendment.

The poultry farmers are not acquainted with data mining or statistical analysis and to provide information on few clicks for poultry breeders, a tool is required to generate Osborne index for progenies selection. This paper proposes a web application for generating Osborne index for selection of progenies based on sire family to house pullets in individual California cages.

## 2. METHODOLOGY

A responsive web-based tool is preferred for the generation of Osborne index, so that poultry breeders can easily generate index. This web application is divided into three layers viz. presentation layer, business layer and data access layer. User interface or presentation layer was developed using Angular, for business layer or server-side code was developed using C Sharp and deployed on IIS server. For data access layer excel file were preferred. The users interact via presentation layer and provide sire's egg collection details in an excel file. For conveniency, poultry breeders can maintain data regarding egg collection in an excel file. Calculation of Osborne Index is divided into three stages.

In the first stage of Osborne index generation mean is calculated for sire wise egg details in sheet 1 and in sheet 2 parental relation between sire and dam family. The poultry breeders are supposed provide excel file containing sire wise egg details. Users can select trait from excel file and provide missing values. The system will generate frequency table as per class interval and start range provided for the selected trait. Users can omit unwanted classes and calculate standard Mean for it. Along with standard mean, user also get overall all idea about how data is distributed by Number of observations, Standard Error, Coefficient of variation, Standard Deviation, Min value, and Max value.

The Standard Mean is used as input for generating ANOVA and estimating heritability in

the second stage. Heritability is an important genetic parameter used in the fields of breeding that estimates the degree of variation in a trait that is due to genetic variation. Heritability can be calculated by paternal half sib correlation method using the following procedure and is used as one of the important inputs in calculation of Osborne index.

Correction term:  $(Y_{..})^2 / n$ .

Total sum of squares =  $\sum_{i,j} \frac{Y^2_{ij} - (\bar{Y})^2}{n}$

Sum of squares (correlated) =  $\frac{\sum (Y_i)^2}{n_i}$

$\sigma^2_s = MS_s - MS_w / k$

$h^2 = \frac{4\sigma^2_s}{\sigma^2_s + \sigma^2_w}$

Standard error of  $h^2$ :

$$4 \times \sqrt{\frac{2(n-1)(1-t)^2 [1+(k-1)t]^2}{k^2(n-s)(s-1)}}$$

Where:

$\bar{Y}$ =Sum of all observations,  
 $N$ =Number of observations,  
 $\sum \sum Y^2_{ij}$ =Sum of squares of all observations,  
 $i, j$   
 $MS_s$ =Mean square between sire,  
 $MS_w$ =Mean square within sire,  
 $h^2$ =Heritability of sire trait.

### 2.1 Generation of Osborne index

Last or third step is for generation of Osborne index. It takes mean and heritability as input and provides Osborne index for all sires and dams. The Osborne index is used to select the individuals to be the parents for next generation based on egg production using below formulas:

$$I(\text{Female}) = (P - \bar{P}) + W2(Fd - \bar{P}) + W3(Fs - \bar{P})$$

$$I(\text{Male}) = W2(Fd - \bar{P}) + W3(Fs - \bar{P})$$

$$W2 = 2n(1-h^2)/4+(n-2)h^2$$

$$W3 = 4n-d(1-h^2)(2-h^2)/[4+(\bar{n}-2)h^2][4+\{\bar{n}(1+d)-2\}h^2]$$

**Where:**

- P = Individual’s own performance,
- $\bar{P}$  = Flock average,
- Fd= Dam family average.
- Fs= Sire family average,
- n = Number of pullets per dam,
- $\bar{n}$  = Average number of pullets per dam,
- d = Number of dams per sire,
- $h^2$ = Heritability of the trait under selection.
- W2 = Weightage to be given to the dam family averages.
- W3 = Weightage to be given to the sire family averages.

**3. RESULTS**

The three stages or steps required for Osborne index generation are available as menu options in the home page of web application. The user can proceed to each stage after completing the

previous one. In case if mean and heritability is available then they can directly select Osborne option from menu.

In first step as stated in methodology for mean calculation upload excel file containing two sheets. Sheet 1 contains details of sire’s egg collection whereas second sheet contains parental relation of sire and dam family. Here, one must provide class interval, starting point and omit unwanted data by removing classes of garbage data. This process is shown in Fig. 1 and Fig. 2. After adding selected data from appropriate class intervals, the user clicks on calculate button and gets excel file as output. This Excel file contains selected data, frequency distribution, and in the last sheet Selected Trait, Number of observations, Calculated Mean, Standard Error, Coefficient of variation, Standard Deviation, Min value, and Max value as shown in Fig. 3.

**Fig. 1. Select class interval for calculation of mean**

**Fig. 2. Deselect class interval to exclude data from calculation of mean**

**Poultry Research Station,AAU,Anand**

Individual Mean								
Sr No	Trait	Obs	Mean	SE	CV%	SD	Min	Max
1	TEN40	1094	80.872	0.494	0.202	16.329	27	124

**Fig. 3. Selected trait, number of observations, calculated mean, standard error, coefficient of variation, standard deviation, min value, and max value**

Poultry Research Station,AAU,Anand				
ANOVA				
Source	d.f	SS	MS	CAL F
Bet Sire	119	45101.73	379.006	1.49803
Within Sire	976	246931.3	253.003	
Total	1095	292033		

  

Estimate of heritability	
Comp	Value
MSs	379.006
MSw	253.003
h <sup>2</sup> s	0.207
SE	0.081

**Fig. 4. ANOVA and estimated Heritability**

Upload Excel File For OSB

Choose File fand m.xlsx

WBN   
  SIRE   
  DAM   
  TEN40

Upload

**Fig. 5. Select trait and provide mean and heritability for generation of Osborne index.**

Poultry Research Station,AAU,Anand												
WBN	SIRE	DAM	TEN40	FD	FS	N	AVEN	D	W2	W3	OSBTEN40	
3005	69	273	96	83.5	79.286	2	3.5	4	0.793	2.563	13.147	
3010	69	275	69	87	79.286	3	3.5	4	1.131	2.563	-9.006	
3011	69	275	89	87	79.286	3	3.5	4	1.131	2.563	10.994	
3014	69	275	103	87	79.286	3	3.5	4	1.131	2.563	24.994	
3019	69	276	80	72.75	79.286	8	3.5	4	2.42	2.563	-24.992	
3020	69	276	66	72.75	79.286	8	3.5	4	2.42	2.563	-38.992	
3023	70	278	73	84.5	84.375	4	2	4	1.437	2.011	4.386	
3040	71	283	118	86.4	81.286	5	3.5	2	1.716	1.604	47.278	
3041	71	283	71	86.4	81.286	5	3.5	2	1.716	1.604	0.278	
3042	71	284	70	68.5	81.286	2	3.5	2	0.793	1.604	-20.019	
3048	72	286	72	72	75.5	1	1.5	4	0.418	1.704	-21.734	
3358	99	393	98	89.5	78.5	2	2	2	0.793	1.178	21.176	
3377	101	401	99	88.5	84.125	6	2.667	3	1.971	1.898	39.337	
3379	101	401	81	88.5	84.125	6	2.667	3	1.971	1.898	21.337	
3382	101	401	92	88.5	84.125	6	2.667	3	1.971	1.898	32.337	
3396	103	410	83	87.857	78.267	7	7.5	2	2.205	2.014	12.283	
3421	105	418	100	83.714	80.316	7	4.75	4	2.205	2.782	23.848	
3423	105	418	54	83.714	80.316	7	4.75	4	2.205	2.782	-22.152	
3424	105	419	86	78.5	80.316	2	4.75	4	0.793	2.782	1.7	
3429	105	420	82	73.833	80.316	6	4.75	4	1.971	2.782	-14.293	
3430	105	420	97	73.833	80.316	6	4.75	4	1.971	2.782	0.707	
3454	108	429	66	66	74.222	1	2.25	4	0.418	2.136	-35.293	
3459	108	430	56	75.6	74.222	5	2.25	4	1.716	2.136	-48.123	
3466	109	433	58	80.571	80.625	7	4	2	2.205	1.698	-23.955	
3469	109	433	80	80.571	80.625	7	4	2	2.205	1.698	-1.955	

**Fig. 6. Osborne index for Sire in last column for trait TEN40 OSBTEN40 and for Dam OSBM in second sheet**

SIRE	DAM	MWBN	OSBM
1	1	4004	-4.133
1	3	4010	
2	5	4015	
2	5	4016	
2	8	4022	-5.931
3	9	4029	10.379
4	14	4040	-23.312
6	23	4062	-68.549
9	35	4084	-24.052
11	44	4106	-57.466
13	52	4129	-9.992
14	55	4148	10.865
16	63	4176	10.824
16	63	4177	10.824
16	63	4181	10.824
18	69	4188	-20.442
19	76	4206	-0.673
21	81	4221	-25.106
21	81	4232	-25.106
23	90	4246	9.745
23	90	4249	9.745
23	90	4251	9.745
23	92	4257	21.241
24	94	4260	-2.516
24	94	4261	-2.516
24	94	4264	-2.516
24	96	4273	23.807
25	98	4278	12.262

Fig. 7. Osborne index for Dam OSBM in second sheet

In the second step estimated heritability can be derived. To derive heritability, ANOVA is the generated. Fig. 4 shows output of second step. In the third step the Osborne index is calculated, and Fig. 5 shows that it requires folk average and estimated heritability as input. In Figs. 6 and 7 show Osborne index for sire and dam.

#### 4. CONCLUSION

Developing a web application for Osborne index generation offers significant vantage for poultry and poultry breeders. Firstly, it provides unparalleled accessibility and convenience, allowing generation of Osborne index from anywhere with an internet, intranet or extranet on any device i.e. from desktop pc to smart mobile. This eliminates the need for or investing money for computer, its management and installation of software everywhere.

For poultry breeders this tool is a boon as it performs several operations instantly for deriving Osborne index for selection of progenies on the basis of sire family to house pullets in individual California cages for better egg production.

#### COMPETING INTERESTS

Authors have declared that no competing interests exist.

#### REFERENCES

1. Minhas A. India: Poultry meat consumption 2022 | Statista; 2022.

2. Available: <https://www.statista.com/statistics/826711/india-poultry-meat-consumption/Poultry-Products>. Agricultural & processed food products export development authority (APEDA); 2022. Available: [https://apeda.gov.in/apedawebsite/SubHead\\_Products/Poultry\\_Products.htm](https://apeda.gov.in/apedawebsite/SubHead_Products/Poultry_Products.htm)

3. Osborne R. The use of sire and dam family averages in increasing the efficiency of selective breeding under a hierarchical mating system. *Heredity* (Edinb). 1957; 11(1):93–116. DOI: 10.1038/hdy.1957.7

4. Osborne R. XIX. —Family selection in poultry: The use of sire and dam family averages in choosing male parents. *Proceedings of the Royal Society of Edinburgh, Section B: Biological Sciences*. 1957;66(4):374–393,.

5. Chatterjee RN. ANNUAL REPORT - Project, AICRP on poultry breeding and poultry seed. ICAR - Directorate of Poultry Research, Hyderabad; 2020-21.

6. Kabir M, Oni OO, Akpa GN. Osborne selection index and semen traits interrelationships in Rhode Island Red and White Breeder Cocks. *International Journal of Poultry Science*. 2007;6(12):999-1002.

7. Bécot L, Bédère N, Ferry A, Burlet T, Roy PL. Egg production in nests and nesting behaviour: Genetic correlations with egg quality and body weight for laying hens on the floor. *Animal*. 2023; 100958.

8. Roy BG, Kataria MC, Saxena VK, Roy U. Expected genetic response to selection

- from multi-trait selection Indices incorporating unconventional. IOSR Journal of Agriculture and Veterinary Science. 2020;13(9):01-13.
9. Nwagu B, Olutunmogun A, Adejoh-Ubani E, Umar U. Genetic correlations and expected correlated responses in some egg production traits in shikabrown® parent chickens. Nigerian Journal of Genetics. 2022;36(2):159-164.
  10. Raj MP, Vegad NM. Strengthening agricultural extension with remote sensing and geographical information system information. Guj. J. Ext. Edu. 2017; 28(1):63–67.
  11. Raj MP, Swaminarayan PR. Applications of image processing for grading agriculture products. International Journal on Recent and Innovation Trends in Computing and Communication. 2015;3 (3):1194–1201.
  12. Raj MP, Swaminarayan PR, Saini JR, Parmar DK. Applications of pattern recognition algorithms in agriculture: A review. Int. J. Advanced Networking and Applications. 2015;6:2495–2502.
  13. Neethirajan S. Automated tracking systems for the assessment of farmed poultry. Animals 2022;12(3). DOI:10.3390/ani12030232.
  14. Aguirre-Munizaga M, Romero-Sánchez J, Quinde-Gonzabay J, Samaniego-Cobo T. Automation of poultry production monitoring through web services. in Technologies and Innovation, R Valencia-García M, Bucaram-Leverone J, Del Cioppo-Morstadt N, Vera-Lucio E, Jácome-Murillo Eds. Cham: Springer International Publishing. 2021;188–200.
  15. Wu D, Cui D, Zhou M, Ying Y. Information perception in modern poultry farming: A review. Comput Electron Agric. 2022; 199:107131. Available:https://doi.org/10.1016/j.compag.2022.107131
  16. Fontana I, Tullo E, Butterworth A, Guarino M. An innovative approach to predict the growth in intensive poultry farming. Comput Electron Agric. 2015;119: 178–183. DOI:10.1016/j.compag.2015.10.001

© 2023 Raj et al.; This is an Open Access article distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution License (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0>), which permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original work is properly cited.

*Peer-review history:*

*The peer review history for this paper can be accessed here:*  
<https://www.sdiarticle5.com/review-history/105559>