**Question:** How do I find the AEIs of a mare's foals (which are used to calculate her CI)?

**Answer:** This is a quick response that probably could be improved.  I use the American Produce Records (a similar product, "Mare Produce Records," is available from JCIS).  APR calculates a "standard starts index," which is similar to AEI, for each of a mare's foals.  The SSI looks at earnings per start rather than the AEIs’ earnings per year. You can find foal SSIs by going to the page listing the mare’s produce record.  SSIs are listed along with starts, earnings, and more.  You could average the SSIs of the mare's foals to come up with an average SSI, which would be highly correlated with the AEI (and CI) of a mare.

Of course for a mare with no foals of racing age, SSIs and CIs are undefined and cannot be calculated.  Moreover, SSIs and CIs for young mares with runners are highly suspect as true measures of quality because of the small number of observations (no. of runners) on which the statistic would be based.  By the time a mare is 15 or so yrs. of age the calculated SSI or CI is somewhat reliable as a measure of her production ability, although there are all sorts of adjustments you might want to make to arrive at a better measure of "true average SSI" of the foals or the true "CI" of the mare.  For instance, if one or more of her foals was unlucky (beaten by a nose, impeded in a high quality race, or injured in the stretch while leading by daylight), you could argue that the mare's calculated SSI or CI understated her true potential.  You also should make adjustments for the quality of stallions she was bred to -- if she has a 2.0 SSI but has been bred to 1.0 AEI stallions, she's really better than a typical 2.0 SSI mare.

I'd argue that as a breeder what you do is try to figure where your mare fits in the scheme of things based on pedigree, conformation, and racing ability.  If she's above average on these (and perhaps other metrics –heart size for instance), then she potentially has above-average figures for average SSIs, AEI, and CI.  If she has a great pedigree and was a SW, treat her as if the likely AEIs of her foals would be 3 or 4 (or more), and breed her accordingly.

As you see the conformation and racing abilities of her foals, your assessment will usually change for better or worse, and the set of stallions you would consider breeding to her will change as well.