

# What's ahead in this ABV release

## FACT SHEET: April 2019

### HIGHLIGHTS

- First public ABV run on new genetic evaluation system
- Residual survival removed from indices
- DataGene recruiting herds to Ginfo

### New genetic evaluation software

This is the first public ABV run using new genetic evaluation software. It replaces a system that was over 20 years old, used outdated technology and could not handle the increasing volumes of data in the genomic era.

Extensive testing by DataGene and key industry users shows the new system is as good as, or better than, the old system at predicting future performance of bulls and cows. There have been a number of changes to the system which will see breeding values increase in accuracy and be more stable over time.

For more information, refer to Tech Note 19

### Residual survival removed from indices

Residual Survival was introduced to capture the economic value of traits that influence survival that we don't measure, such as lameness and metabolic disorders; while avoiding double counting those traits already included in the indices.

However Residual Survival has proven challenging to implement and has caused some instability from run to run. This has led to larger than expected movements of bulls between runs.

From April, residual survival has been removed from the three indices: BPI, HWI and TWI. Selecting for these indices will continue to breed for survival, as the seven trait groups in the indices are those that influence profit and longevity in the herd: Production (ASI), Fertility, Cell Count, Feed Saved, Type and Workability. Survival will continue to improve through breeding for the BPI.

The decision to remove residual survival out of the indices was made by industry through the Genetic Evaluation Standing Committee.

For more information, refer to Tech Note 4.

### Animal movements

Some animals have moved due to refinements made to the system. Most animals have not moved significantly.

The most noticeable movements are the result of the removal of residual survival from the BPI.

Some individual animals have been affected by refinements to specific traits, such as fertility, where additional data is now used in the calculations. Fertility is a significant contributor to the BPI, so some bull rankings changed due to changes in their Fertility ABV.

DataGene has explored the largest movements and is comfortable that they are consistent with model and data changes. We are confident the new breeding values provide a better prediction of future performance.

### DataVat

The web portal that allows for customised, secure access to various reports, tools and resources that draw upon data in the centralised data repository (CDR) and information from GESNP.

Publicly available information will be accessible from April. Login access to personalised information and reports will be staggered. Bull companies will have access to their testing results from the April ABV release. Access for farmers and service providers will be progressively rolled out over the coming months.

### Herd 19 highlights

Herd 19, held at Bendigo in March, attracted its largest contingent ever, with more than 230 people attending. Some of the highlights included Dr Penry offering four options for mastitis management using less antibiotics, Dr Ben Hayes offering insights into new genetic technologies on the horizons and Brian Albertoni commenting on the role of genetics in addressing global challenges.

### Herd 19 proceedings

[Listen to Dairy Australia's podcast of key speakers](#)

## Ginfo update

In March, DataGene held a forum for herds that participate in Ginfo, Australia's national reference database for genetic information.

Participants were updated about ways their data is used and received previews of new tools and services that will come on line with DataVat.

DataGene is recruiting more herds with excellent records to join the Ginfo project. Participating herds have their 2-year old heifers genotyped and classified for free, and a year's free subscription to HerdData.

To be eligible, herds need to be regularly herd testing and recording the following in software such as HerdData, Mistro, EasyDairy or at the herd test centre: calvings, matings, sires and dams, pregnancy test results, clinical cases of mastitis, health events.

For more information, refer to the Ginfo fact sheet or contact the Ginfo co-ordinator, Erika Oakes, [eoakes@datagene.com.au](mailto:eoakes@datagene.com.au) or 0427 995 248.

## Review of National Breeding Objective

The dairy industry's review of National Breeding Objective (NBO) is due to kick off in 2019. The

Genetic Evaluation Standing Committee indicated there is widespread industry use of Balanced Performance Index (BPI) which was introduced in 2015. The 2019 review will provide a formal mechanism for farmers and industry to give feedback which will be used to refine the BPI, Health Weighted Index (HWI) and Type Weighted Index (HWI). It will also be an opportunity to identify emerging needs to be addressed in future.

## More information

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## Communication resources

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