

What's ahead in this ABV release

FACT SHEET: August 2019

HIGHLIGHTS

- Enhancements to the new genetic evaluation system are providing more detailed information services.
- Ginfo has welcomed 50 new herds with excellent records.

New genetic evaluation system

The new genetic evaluation system has been in use since the April ABV release. Further enhancements to the system are underway. Recent enhancements include:

- Streamlining reporting services to clients.
- New statistical summary that shows more detailed ABV distribution data.

The changeover to GESNP has seen numerous improvements delivered with each monthly release between April and August. These include:

- Updates to Calving Ease.
- Improved extraction of information for conformation traits.
- Improved data flows for pedigree data.

DataVat

DataVat is a web portal that allows for customised, secure access to various reports, tools and resources that draw upon data in the Central Data Repository (CDR) and information from the genetic evaluation system. It is currently a beta testing site, with further functionality still in development.

DataVat provides a searchable database of bulls and cows that can be filtered, sorted, printed and exported. Hundreds of thousands of animals are available to the public. Several million are available to users with secure access.

New releases to DataVat occur weekly. Recent enhancements include:

- Faster searches
- Better performance on Safari.
- Inclusion of updated Genetic Progress Reports in DataVat
- Improvements to search functions; including new filter options

Australia's seat at the table

Australia now plays a larger role in international genetic evaluation, with the election of Dr Matt Shaffer, as Chairman of the Interbull Steering Committee.

Australia has had a strong association with Interbull for more than twenty years. By exchanging evaluation information with Interbull, DataGene is able to provide predictions of genetic merit for overseas sires based on daughter performance in 35 different countries which is most helpful to provide a common ABV platform upon which to compare animals - regardless of country or company.

An Interbull participant for the past 20 years, Australia exchanges evaluation information allowing predictions of genetic merit for overseas sires based on daughter performance in 35 different countries to be converted to Australian Breeding Values (ABVs) and Indices (BPI, HWI, TPI).

Ginfo update

Over the past six months, DataGene has welcomed about 50 new herds with excellent records to the Ginfo project, with the total now at 150 herds with excellent records. We plan to add a further 50 herds over the coming year. We are particularly looking for Jersey and crossbred herds. Ginfo needs a diverse mix of breeds to enable the DataGene to publish reliable genomic ABVs for minor breeds and crossbreds.

For more information, refer to the Ginfo fact sheet or contact the Ginfo project officer, ph 0428 453 619 email icalder@datagene.com.au

Industry Herd Improvement Strategy

An updated Herd Improvement Strategy has been published. The original strategy was launched in June 2014 under the auspices of the Herd Improvement Industry Strategic Steering Group (HISSG). It led to the formation of DataGene and funding support for DairyBio. Given the significant changes in the industry and operating environment since then, the industry

agreed to review progress to date and update the strategy.

Read more: [Quick overview](#) [Full document](#)

DataGene 5-year Business Plan

Because DataGene's strategy is aligned with the industry's Herd Improvement Strategy, it made sense to revise our 5-Year Business Plan. DataGene's vision and mission remain unchanged, however the strategic priorities have been aligned to better reflect

DataGene's roles in the industry:

- Improved decision making from data
- Increased animal performance through herd improvement
- Improved animal performance from R&D
- Improved and diversified services.

Read more [Quick overview](#) [Full document](#)

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