

# What's ahead in this ABV release

## FACT SHEET: December 2019

### HIGHLIGHTS

- Continued enhancements to GESNP and DataVat streamline experience for end users, especially in the automation of reports for the herd improvement industry.
- National Breeding Objective Survey opens.

### Enhancements to GESNP & DataVat

The following recent enhancements to the genetic evaluation system should streamline tasks for users:

- Automated GESNP reports.
- Addition of genomics services module.

DataVat enhancements include:

- Active and non-active bulls are now shown as the default setting so it's easier to find older bulls.
- Improved filters for searching cows.
- Additional data on individual animals has been added.

### Standing Committee nominations

Nominations are open for DataGene's Genetic Evaluation Standing Committee. This committee provides advice and recommendations to the DataGene board on genetic evaluation and related matters. [Information](#) and the [Expression of interest form](#) (pdf format) are available from DataGene's website. Nominations close 15 January 2019.

### Have your say: NBO survey

Have your say about the breeding trait priorities for the Australian dairy industry by taking the [survey](#) for the National Breeding Objective (NBO) review. [Read more](#).

The National Breeding Objective (NBO) describes the collective breeding priorities for Australian dairy herds and is expressed through DataGene's three breeding

indices – Balanced Performance Index (BPI), Health Weighted Index (WHI) and Type Weighted Index (TWI).

Key themes for the review include: Fat:Protein ratio, longevity, fertility, feed efficiency, new traits, multiple indices and updating the base. The [NBO discussion paper](#) provides more details on these.

The NBO is reviewed every five years, so don't miss the opportunity to have your say. The survey closes 31 January 2020.

### Crossbreeding

ABVs (and BPIs) are available for crossbred animals and the Good Bulls Guide includes lists of crossbred bulls. Crossbred animals, sired by a Holstein or Jersey sire can now be genotyped. [Read more](#)

### Our year in review

DataGene's 2018/19 Annual Update was presented to members at its AGM held in November. It's also available on our website. [Read now](#)

### 2020 ABV release schedule

- Tue 14 April
- Mon 19 Aug
- Mon 7 Dec

[Full release schedule 2020](#)

### Anthony Shelly joins DataGene board

Genetics Australia CEO, Anthony Shelly was elected to the DataGene Board to fill a one-year vacancy at DataGene's Annual General Meeting in November. At the same meeting, Gippsland, Victoria dairy farmer Tim Jelbart was re-elected to the board for a full three-year term.

Anthony has a deep understanding of the application of herd improvement at all levels of business having held a wide range of roles in the Australian herd improvement industry over 30 years. He is also a non-executive director of the National Herd Improvement Association of Australia (NHIA).

He fills a vacancy on the board created by the departure of James Smallwood, general manager ABS



Australia, who resigned due to changing responsibilities with the company.

### What's coming in 2020

DataGene's program of work continues with the following developments underway:

- Calving Ease ABV for young genomic bulls.
- New type composites and improvements to overall type and mammary system ABVs.
- Gestation Length ABV.
- Mastitis resistance ABV.
- More frequent evaluations.

### Australia's top animal husbandry researcher

Double congratulations to dairy geneticist, Jennie Pryce, who was recently promoted to Professor with La Trobe University. She has also recently been officially recognised as the best in Australia in her field. [Read more](#)

### Research updates

A short video has been published recently outlining current research by the DairyBio team:

- [La Trobe University: Genetic improvements in dairy cattle](#)

### Like us on Facebook

DataGene has recently established a Facebook page. Find us by searching for DataGene Limited in Facebook, to stay up to date You will find case studies, farmer profiles and release updates on this site. Please share this page if your Facebook friends are as passionate about herd improvement as you are.

### More information

Michelle Axford  
Ph 0427 573 330  
E: [maxford@datagene.com.au](mailto:maxford@datagene.com.au)

### Communication resources

Lee-Ann Monks, DataGene Marketing and Communication  
ph 0419 349 244 [lmonks@datagene.com.au](mailto:lmonks@datagene.com.au)

[www.datagene.com.au](http://www.datagene.com.au).  
December 2019