

# What's ahead in this ABV release

## FACT SHEET: Dec 2018

### HIGHLIGHTS

- Dairy House open for business
- Genetic evaluation system new platform enters final stages
- Good Bulls App bug fixed
- Intensive data collection under way for MIR for Health project
- ImProving Herds case studies available on the web
- Genetics of stature published in Nature
- 2019 ABV release schedule

### Dairy House

Dairy House is now a reality. Located in the AgriBio building at La Trobe University, it is home to DataGene, Holstein Australia, Jersey Australia and the National Herd Improvement Association of Australia (NHIA). Being located together enables us to share resources and collaborate on projects of mutual interest. Being in the AgriBio building puts us in close proximity to the animal and plant genetic research teams from Agriculture Victoria and DairyBio.

### Genetic evaluation software update

The new genetic evaluation software project is entering the final stages. DataGene recently released a Good Bulls Guide generated by the new system (using August 2018 data) to technical representatives on the Genetic Evaluation Standing Committee. The timing of the next steps will depend partially on their feedback, but the plan is to run the February PBV release on the new system. All going well, the first public release on the new system would be April 2019.

### Bugs fixed in Good Bulls app

DataGene has recently released a new update of the Good Bulls App. Bugs fixed in this update means it should no longer crash on Android and pdfs from custom reports should be complete.

### Jelbart joins DataGene board

Victorian dairy farmer, Tim Jelbart, has been appointed to the board of DataGene, the dairy industry's organisation to drive herd improvement.

He was appointed at DataGene's recent (14 November) annual general meeting at which Simone Jolliffe, dairy farmer from Wagga Wagga and Graeme Gillan, Holstein Australia CEO and NHIA chairman were re-appointed to the board.

Tim is general manager of the 1000-cow dairy operation, Jelbart Dairy, in South Gippsland, which he co-owns with his two brothers. Before returning to the family farm, Tim established a career in agribusiness property valuation which he continues on a part-time basis.

### Herd 19

The popular Herd Conference returns in March 2019 with the theme is *Delivering change in herd improvement*.

Some of the program highlights include:

- The unintended consequences of genomic selection: Dr Sijne Van der Beek, Manager Innovation CRV, Netherlands.
- MIR reveals more from herd test samples: Dr Jennie Pryce, DairyBio
- Mastitis management without blanket dry cow treatment: Dr John Penry, Anexa FVC, animal health and vet services, NZ.

To register, visit

<https://www.ivvy.com.au/event/HERD19/home.html>

or contact Jaydee Events: **P:03 5659 4219**

**M:0419 878 055 E:deanne@jaydee.net.au**

**Herd 19: 19-20 March**

**All Seasons Resort, Bendigo Vic**



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## MIR follow on project

A new R&D project, is following on from MIR for Profit which demonstrated that mid-infrared technology can be used to understand more about a cows' health and nutritional status from herd test milk samples. We are in the middle of an intensive data collection phase which involves blood and milk sampling and lameness scoring of several thousand early lactation cows in 14 commercial herds in Victoria and Tasmania.

The data will be used by the DairyBio team to develop the algorithms to support new health alert tools and breeding values.

[Watch the video report from MIR for Profit](#)

## Recent reports

Click below for links to recent reports.

[DataGene Annual Update 2017/18](#)

## Recent scientific papers

[Genetics of stature in cattle \(Nature genetics\)](#)

## Coming up in 2019

### 2019 public ABV release schedule

ABVs will be publicly released on the following dates in 2019:

- Monday 8 April
- Monday 19 August
- Monday 9 December

## Review of National Breeding Objective

The dairy industry's National Breeding Objective (NBO) is scheduled for review in 2019. The Genetic Evaluation Standing Committee indicated there is widespread industry use of Balanced Performance Index (BPI) which was introduced in 2016. 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.

## Gestation Length and updated Calving Ease ABVs

The Gestation Length and updated Calving Ease ABVs are ready to be released when the new genetic evaluation software is operational.

They will be included in the Provisional Breeding Values supplied to bull companies in the lead up to their public release. This will allow time for feedback to DataGene before these breeding values are included in a public ABV run.

## Join the Ginfo family

DataGene will be recruiting herds with excellent records to join the Ginfo project in 2019. Ginfo is Australia's national reference herd for genetic information. It currently includes detailed genetic and performance information on more than 30,000 cows from 100 herds with excellent records. We are aiming to expand to 150 herds by mid-2019. Previously, Ginfo has been limited to Holstein and Jersey herds but Red Breed herds are now invited to join as well. 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.

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