

What's ahead in this ABV release

August 2021 ABV Release Update

HIGHLIGHTS

- No early-release week.
- Genomics for red breeds.
- Upcoming heifer genomics campaign.

No early-release week

August 2021 will be the first public ABV release with no early-release reports to bull owners the week prior. With the introduction of weekly evaluation runs and the ability of bull owners to update NASIS information through the CDR at any time, the need for the pre-release is diminished. The key dates are:

- **Wednesday 4 August, 12 noon:** cut off for NASIS details (new additions and change of ownership).
- **Tuesday 10 August, 4 pm:** public ABV release (bull rankings won't be official until Tuesday 16 August)
- **Thursday 12 August, 12 pm:** cut off for change of NASIS active status.
- **Monday 16 August, 1 pm:** official release of Good Bulls Guide, App (and bull rankings).

Genomics for red breeds

August 2021 is the first public ABV release to include genomics for red breed animals.

Genomic ABVs available for genotyped animals where the breed of analysis is Aussie Red (U), Ayrshire (A), Illawarra (I), D (Dairy Shorthorn) or for cross bred animals sired by a bull from the U, A, I or D breeds.

The traits to receive ABV(g)s in red breeds are:

- Milk (L)
- Fat (kg)
- Protein (kg)
- Cell Count.

These traits have the greatest amount of data because they are collected with every herd test activity. The indices, Balanced Performance Index (BPI), Health Weighted Index (HWI), Australian Selection Index (ASI), Fat % and Protein % also include genomics as

Milk, Fat, Protein and Cell Count ABVs contribute to the indices. [Read more](#)

Parentage verification

A DataGene analysis has found that 20% of samples received for genomics had an inconsistent sire and 10% had an inconsistent dam. The analysis was completed on samples received between July and December 2019.

Parentage verification is a standard inclusion with Australian genomic reports. From 2021, most herds have parentage errors automatically corrected as part of the genomic testing process.

Correcting parentage errors increases the reliability of Australian Breeding Values (ABVs). At the herd level, it adds value to surplus stock, improves culling and selective breeding decisions and helps manage inbreeding. [Read more](#)

Female genomics promo campaign

During September, Dairy Australia and DataGene will be running a campaign to raise awareness about genomic testing of heifers.

Data update cycles

Recent enhancements to DataGene's IT systems means more frequent data transfers. Here is a summary of routine data updates.

DataVat

- Female ABVs: updated weekly (Tuesdays) based on latest genomic and herd test results.
- Genetic Progress Reports & Genetic Futures Reports: updated on public ABV releases.
- Bull ABVs: updated in April, August and December with public ABV releases.

Herd Test Centre

- Herd Test results: updated as soon as herd test centre supplies.
- Parent average ABVs: updated with each herd test (no ABV reliability is estimated and left blank.)
- Female ABVs: updated to the Herd Test Centre software in April, August and December with each public ABV release.

Progeny tracking

DataGene has recently added a progeny tracking module to DataVat. It gives bull owners and managers access to a series of tools to manage their bulls for conformation (LTE), workability and daughter progress reporting. Bull companies can create teams of bulls within the module and nominate them for services. The new Daughter Progress reporting function allows you to create Daughter Progress reports for any bull or bulls, at any time, and provides that data in an excel spreadsheet allowing you to search and filter with ease.

Access the PT Module via: www.datavat.com.au and go to the "DataGene Services" dropdown menu. This module requires login and is only available to specific DataGene customers. [User manual](#)

For more information, contact Peter Thurn
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Next Public ABV Release

Tuesday 7 December 21

DataGene AGM

DataGene's annual general meeting will be held on Thursday 18 November.

Watch our webinars

If you missed any of DataGene's webinars over recent months, you can watch them online from our [website](#). There over a dozen to choose from with topics ranging from Heat Tolerance to Feet and Leg Composite.

Acknowledgement

DataGene is an initiative of Dairy Australia and the herd improvement industry. DairyBio provides the research pipeline to develop and maintain Australian Breeding Values.

More information

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Look it up on DataVat

You can use DataVat to look up the latest ABV release. The release details will be available from 4pm Tuesday 10 August. Here are some quick links:

[Animal search - bulls \(replaces Display-a-bull\)](#)

[Animal search - cows](#)

[Bull ABVs report \(requires log in\)](#)

[Cow ABVs report \(requires log in\)](#)

[Genoinconsistency report \(requires login\)](#)

[Pedigree changes report \(requires log in\)](#)