

Tips for recording great data

Fact Sheet: What makes great data for Ginfo and why it matters

Your data matters

The data you record helps build a strong national reference set that underpins the whole genetic evaluation system. When added to all the other herd recording data collected by farmers, DataGene can provide you with reliable breeding values. Here are some tips recording great data so that DataGene can provide you with even better decision-making tools.

- ✓ **Herd test at least six times per year**
- ✓ **Record every calving**
Not just if there were problems and not just if the calf is a heifer. Record details about the calf; its sire, dam, size, gender, fate and, if it's to be kept, its herd ID. Make sure this information gets to your herd test centre.
- ✓ **Record health events in the calf shed**
Knowing which calves had scours or pneumonia is good reference for your own management but also enables future research that might improve calf resistance to disease.
- ✓ **Record all AI matings, natural services** (if you know dates) and **pregnancy test** information. That includes the the maiden heifers as wells as the cows; and don't forget to include if the semen was sexed.
- ✓ **Record health events, treatments** or any reason for singling out a cow
Treatments are really handy for your own management, so record them. But, your diagnosis adds even more value in the health events area of your software. This includes all clinical cases of mastitis, lameness, metabolic disorders, infections, reproductive disorders, etc.
- ✓ **Record workabilities** on all 2-year old heifers within the first couple of months of calving. We all hate slow milkers and temperamental heifers so let's make sure there is a constant stream of workability information flowing through.
- ✓ **Record reasons for cows exiting the herd**
Whether it be to move to a new home, the saleyards or otherwise, record the date and reason for every cow leaving the herd. Currently, only about half of Ginfo cows have culling reason information. If you appreciate the economic benefit of having long-lived cows it's worth recording culling information to help us to work on ways to reduce involuntary culling – so you decide who goes rather than the cows culling themselves.
- ✓ **Use the HerdData app**
It's an easy way to record information on the run, whether you are in the paddock or the dairy. And there's no need to re-enter the data on your PC. For more information 
- ✓ **Give the classifiers a hand when they come to assess the 2-year olds.**
It's important to present *all* the animals that have been nominated for classification to help improve the reliability of type breeding values.
- ✓ **Prepare for genomic sample collection day**
Ensure animals to be tested are clean to minimise contamination of samples. If testing during milking, allow a little extra time for the milking session when hair sampling is scheduled. Double check the animals to be sampled are recorded with your herd test centre.

Ginfo

Ginfo is Australia's national reference herd for genetic information. It is a large-scale genotyping project to provide genetic and performance information to increase the reliability of Australian Breeding Values (ABVs) and indices.

Globally, Ginfo is one of the longest running initiatives to improve genomic reference populations using cows. Ginfo's now includes genotypes from more than 52,000 well-recorded cows.

Information the cows includes their genotypes, classification scores and performance data from herd testing.

Ginfo is a collaboration of DataGene, Dairy Australia, Holstein Australia, Jersey Australia and the Victorian government.

More information

Erika Oakes

Ginfo Project Manager

Ph 0427 995 248

Email: eoakes@datagene.com.au

www.datagene.com.au

November 2017