

# What's ahead in this ABV release

## December 2023 ABV Release Update

### HIGHLIGHTS

- More frequent red breed evaluations
- Better data synchronisation
- Seeking your views on options for an ABV for calf health
- Swipe left on the Good Bulls App

*Note animal rankings are not official until 1 pm Monday 11 December*

### More frequent red breed evaluations

DataGene has automated genomic evaluations of Red Breeds. They will now be on DataGene's routine schedule, with 40 evaluations per year rather than the current six evaluations.

[2024 release schedule.](#)

### Better data synchronisation

DataGene has automated synchronisation of data between external organisations and the CDR. Data updated on the CDR is now being synchronised back to herd test centres and breed societies. For example, new animals created at any of these will be synchronised, or auto-parentage updates on the CDR will be updated at herd test centres and breed society databases. This will overcome previous issues with new data entered on the CDR being inadvertently overwritten by old data (e.g. pedigrees).

### National Breeding Objective review

Starting in July 2024, DataGene will undertake a review of the National Breeding Objective with implementation of the outcomes to occur in late 2025.

The National Breeding Objective (NBO) describes the collective breeding priorities for Australian dairy herds. Its purpose is to enable farmers to breed herds that meet the future needs of the Australian dairy industry.

The current National Breeding Objective is expressed through the three breeding indices – Balanced Performance Index (BPI), Health Weighted Index (HWI) and Sustainability Index (SI).

The review process involves broad consultation with industry, detailed scientific and economic analysis followed by further discussion on options and recommendations. More details to come in 2024.

### New-look website

DataGene has refreshed its website. You'll find all your favourite resources plus more, in a modern, user-friendly format. [Take a look](#)

### Breeding for healthier calves

Early results from Michelle Axford's PhD studies suggest it is possible to breed for healthier calves.

Find out more about her results by watching this [webinar](#).

Michelle is currently seeking industry views on options for an Australian Breeding Value (ABV) for improved calf health. Please help by filling in her quick [Calf breeding survey](#).

### DataGene's Annual Update

DataGene's Annual General Meeting was held on 16 November. If you missed it, catch up on DataGene's work throughout 2022/23 in the [2023 Annual Update](#).

### New board members

DataGene's AGM on Thursday 16 November saw the re-election of Victorian dairy farmer, Sam Simpson to the board.

[Alex Ball and Jim Bruce](#) were appointed to fill vacancies made by retiring board members Lucinda Corrigan and Anthony Shelly.

[Read more updates from the AGM](#)

### 2023 Herd Improvement trends

The Herd Improvement Report is back! Check out the latest trends in the [2023 edition](#).

For those who want to access the data files, the [National Statistics 2023](#) were recently published on DataGene's website.

### Swipe left

The Good Bulls App is now even better! You can now access the profile of the next bull by swiping left making it easier to compare bulls.

## Genetic Progress Reports

Just a reminder that Genetic Progress Reports are updated after every public ABV release. They are published on DataVat and available for herds that herd test or genotype their animals.

### 2024 ABV Release Schedule

	Release	Bull rankings
<b>April</b>	Wed 3	Mon 8
<b>August</b>	Tue 13	Mon 19
<b>December</b>	Tue 3	Mon 9
Full details: <a href="#">2024 release schedule</a>		

## Tell us what you want

Agriculture Victoria is looking at options for a tool to help dairy farmers make decisions about which cows to cull and to identify candidates to be inseminated with different categories of semen (sexed, high value, beef etc). DataGene is helping with the consultation phase, to provide early input from likely end users.

We are inviting people from the herd improvement industry to attend an online workshop to help shape the development of this tool. Register using the link below.

Online workshop: **12:30 – 1:30 pm AEDT, Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> December 2023.** [Click to register](#)

## Recent resources

- [Calf vitality webinar](#)
- [DataGene Annual Update 2023](#)
- [DataGene National Stats 2023](#)

## 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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