

What's ahead in this ABV release

April 2024 ABV Release Update

HIGHLIGHTS

- Within Herd Ranking Tool gets a user-friendly interface
- Increased minimum BPI for Holstein Good Bulls
- Mastitis Resistance model updated
- NHD herds can now access MIR Conception Tool

Note animal rankings are not official until 1 pm Monday 8 April

Friendlier Within Herd Ranking Tool

Good news for cross breeders, DataGene has made the Within Herd Ranking Tool friendlier by delivering it as an interactive screen display. Users have an option to export to Excel if needed.

To access:

Go to DataVat > Log in > Report & Tools > Within Herd Ranking > Type in the date and status parameters for your report > click on search.

[Read more](#)

Holstein Good Bulls get better

DataGene has increased the minimum BPI required for Holstein bulls to qualify for Good Bulls status. This is to reflect the ongoing genetic gain in the breed and ensure bulls carrying the Good Bulls icon are a true representation of superior bulls in the breed.



Mastitis Resistance ABV model updated

DataGene has refined the model for the Mastitis Resistance ABV. Bull rankings for this trait will now be more stable and we have more accurately reflected the reliability of the trait. The Mastitis Resistance ABV is a multi-trait ABV that includes 305-day clinical case records, somatic cell count and udder depth.

Read more:

- [Mastitis Resistance ABV fact sheet \(a quick read\)](#)
- [Mastitis Resistance ABV tech note \(more detail\)](#)

National Breeding Objective review

Initial preparation is underway for a review of the National Breeding Objective. The review will occur in

2024/25 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. This process will be overseen by the Genetic Evaluation Standing Committee.

MIR Conception Tool available to more farmers

The MIR Conception Tool helps herd managers determine the most appropriate type of semen (sexed, conventional or beef) for a particular cow. It is designed to use at the time of insemination to optimise the outcome of each mating and to ensure that expensive semen does not get wasted on sub-fertile cows.

Initially the tool was available to herds tested through HICO and Dairy Express. Work has now been completed to predict conception using MIR data from the herd testing machines used by National Herd Development and others. Existing HerdPlatform users can access this tool via the menu item on HerdPlatform. Farmers who don't have access to HerdPlatform and want to access the MIR Conception Tool should contact their herd test centre.

Read more

- [MIR Conception tool fact sheet](#)
- [HerdPlatform fact sheet](#)

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.

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](#).

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
April	Wed 3	Mon 8
August	Tue 13	Mon 19
December	Tue 3	Mon 9
Full details: 2024 release schedule		

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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