

What's ahead in this ABV release

April 2026 ABV Release Update

HIGHLIGHTS

- Stillbirth ABVs released
- Jersey composite type traits

Note animal rankings are not official until 1 pm Monday 13 April

Stillbirth ABVs

Two Stillbirth ABVs are being implemented for all breeds in April: Sire Stillbirth and Maternal Stillbirth.

The Sire Stillbirth ABV predicts the percentage of the sire's progeny that are born dead or die within a few hours of birth.

The Maternal Stillbirth ABV predicts the percentage of calvings that result in a calf that is born dead or dies shortly after birth.

Stillbirth is the leading cause of death (higher than scours and respiratory disease) in Australian dairy calves.

To breed for fewer stillbirths, select animals with Stillbirth ABVs less than zero.

Learn more

[Watch our webinar](#)

[Fact sheet \(a quick read\)](#)

[Technote \(more detail\)](#)

Jersey composite type traits

The method for calculating composite type traits for Jerseys has been updated, in line with classification changes implemented by Jersey Australia.

Jersey cows and bulls now receive composite breeding values for Feet & Legs, Dairy Strength and Rump. The Overall Type and Mammary System ABVs have also been updated to reflect the new Jersey classification system.

Read more

[Fact Sheet: Jersey composite type ABVs: improvements implemented April 2026](#)

2026 ABV Release Schedule

	Release	Bull rankings
April 2026	Wed 8	Mon 13
August 2026	Tue 11	Mon 17
December 2026	Tue 1	Mon 7
Full details: 2026 release schedule		

New CEO

April marks the first ABV release for DataGene's new CEO, Emily Piper, but she is no stranger to genetic evaluation, returning to Australia after 10 years in the US with Zoetis. [Read more](#)

Herd Improvement Report

Australia's dairy cows are staying in the herd for more than four lactations and genetics research is enabling longer productive lives.

This is one of the findings reported in the 2025 Herd Improvement Report.

[Read more about the latest trends](#)

Jennie joins JDS 100-club

Congratulations to Professor Jennie Pryce, Agriculture Victoria, on joining the *Journal of Dairy Science* 100-Club. This recognises authors who have published 100 or more papers in the Journal. This milestone reflects her influential contribution to dairy genetics research and its global impact on herd improvement.

Connecting data pipelines

Dairy businesses with GEA and DeLaval on farm software are invited to join the [DataConnect](#) project which will link their data with DataGene's Central Data Repository.

Connected businesses can access more accurate meaningful herd and animal reports on DataVat. Some data will also be used in the industry's genetic evaluation system, so the connection will contribute to more accurate (and potentially new) Australian

Breeding Values and indices. For more information contact Peter Thurn or complete the [expression of interest form](#).

Recent journal articles

M.M. Axford, M. Khansefid, I.M. MacLeod, T.V. Nguyen, I. van den Berg, M. Haile-Mariam, M.E. Goddard, A.J. Chamberlain, J.E. Pryce, Genomic regions affecting perinatal and early life survival in dairy calves, *Journal of Dairy Science*, Volume 109, Issue 2, 2026, Pages 1665-1679

More information

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