

What's ahead in this ABV release

August 2026 ABV Release Update

HIGHLIGHTS

- Slick gene is now reported on DataVat for animals that have been tested
- Stillbirth ABVs fact sheet and tech note

Note animal rankings are not official until 1 pm Monday 17 August

Fertility ABV

The Council on Dairy Cattle Breeding (CDCB) has recently revised the [evaluation of reproductive performance traits in the USA](#). As a result, the corresponding Interbull breeding values have also been updated, with a flow-on effect on Australian Fertility ABVs. These changes have resulted in a slight uplift in Fertility ABVs for Jerseys. For a number of bulls, the number of US daughters contributing to their Interbull evaluations has also decreased as a result of changes to the data filtering criteria.

Slick gene reporting

The slick gene is now being reported on DataVat for animals that have been tested for it. DataGene doesn't test for the slick gene but reports it where the information has been supplied.

Currently, Slick gene can be tested through ST Genetics or through the University of Florida State. The "slick gene" is a naturally occurring gene that results in cattle with a shorter, sleeker hair coat which is believed to make them more tolerant to hot, humid conditions.

Read more

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

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

Stillbirth ABVs

DataGene has made minor revisions to its Fact Sheet and Tech Note on the Stillbirth ABVs, to aid clarity.

Read more

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

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

Farewell Thuy

The DataGene team is sorry to be farewelling Dr Thuy Nguyen on 17 August. In her role as Stakeholder

Engagement Manager, Thuy has been instrumental in helping DataGene grow into the organisation it is today. Her deep expertise in genetic evaluation, together with her genuine passion for supporting our members and dairy farmers, has made an invaluable contribution to DataGene and the broader industry.

A recruitment process for her replacement will commence shortly. If you need support in the meantime, please contact [Peter Thurn](#).

2026-27 ABV Release Schedule

	Release	Bull rankings
December 2026	Tue 1	Mon 7
April 2027	Tue 6	Mon 12
August 2027	Tue 10	Mon 16
December 2027	Tue 7	Mon 13
Full details: 2026 release schedule 2027 release schedule		

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](#).

More information

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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.