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Update for Stakeholders

Re-release of August 2012 ABVs and ABV(g)s

What has happened?

The ADHIS Board have taken the decision to re-release the August ABV and ABV(g)s for the Holstein and Jersey breeds after it was discovered that the ABV/ABV(g)s of genomically tested bulls and cows were under-estimated.

Updated files are now available.

Why has this happened?

The August ABVs were released on 20 August 2012. A review following the release identified that genotyped cows utilised in this release were effectively on a different 'base' as the remaining cows with conventional ABVs. The sex effect used in the cow evaluation meant genomically tested cows were underestimated. As these cows were used in the calculation of bull ABV(g)s, genotyped bulls were also under-estimated, though to a lesser extent.

What is the impact?

As animals were under-estimated you will see that the re-released breeding values have increased. Survival (longevity) was the main trait that was impacted followed by ASI with some impact on type whilst there has been little to no movement for other traits. As survival and ASI are important in the calculation of APR, the APR for these animals will also increase as a result.

The following table outlines the impact by breed for all genotyped animals.

	Number of animals	Average change	Standard Deviation	Correlation (relationship)
Holstein bulls	4224	+3	3	1.000
Jersey bulls	1066	+13	12	0.997

As seen from this table the impact on Holstein bulls is very small (average change of +3 APR) whilst Jersey bulls move to larger degree. High ranking Jersey bulls do move the range of +20-30 APR. Cows for both breeds do move significantly and it was for this reason that ADHIS took the decision to re-release both breeds.

As seen by the very high correlations (1 for Holstein, 0.997 for Jersey) the level of re-ranking among genotyped animals is very low. Ie the top bulls remain the top bulls.

There has been no impact on traditional breeding values for Holstein and Jersey (ie animals without a genotype) or for other breeds.

Genotyped animals improve in ranking compared to animals with conventional ABVs.

What is ADHIS doing to address the issue?

The computer programming which resulted in the underestimate of ABVs/ABV(g)s of genotyped cows has been identified and the issue resolved. ABV(g)s were recalculated and checked for changes in overall trends and movements of individual animals. The re-release of data has been made as soon as possible to support the upcoming spring breeding decisions.

Jersey cow ABV(g)s were released on Friday 24th August. Updated ABV/ABV(g)s for remaining Holstein and Jerseys files including updates to the Good Bulls Guide and Displayabull will be made available by Tuesday 28 August.

ADHIS understands the importance of ABVs to farmers and bull companies when making breeding decisions. Although not resulting in significant re-ranking the re-release of Holstein and Jersey ABVs and ABV(g)s was considered necessary to fulfil our commitment to provide the industry with information that we have absolute confidence in.

If you have any questions regarding this update please feel free to contact Daniel Abernethy, 03 8621 4240 or email dabernethy@adhis.com.au.