

Sire selection made easy

SELECTING bulls to breed better dairy herds is set to become easier than ever, with the release of the *Good Bulls Guide* by the Australian Dairy Herd Improvement Scheme (ADHIS) this August.

Produced twice a year, the *Good Bulls Guide* lists bulls by popular breeding objectives such as type, longevity, mastitis resistance, production and profit.

Pick the table that reflects the needs of your herd with confidence that you will be improving the genetic potential of your herd.

Holstein Australia Chief Executive Officer Matthew Shaffer said the *Guide* was designed to dramatically simplify the selection process, while still giving farmers a wide range of choice so they can use bulls which meet their herd's specific breeding objective.

"I'm confident the *Guide* will be a valuable tool for many Holstein Australia

members. Our members have a range of breeding objectives and we have supported ADHIS in developing the *Good Bulls Guide* to meet these needs," he said.

"At the end of the day, it's about members building their own productive, healthy herds. The *Guide* will make this job simpler."

All the bulls listed in the guide are good bulls. Their inclusion in the guide is an independent assessment by ADHIS, using ABVs based on world-leading science. This means dairy farmers can make selections from it with confidence.

The *Good Bulls Guide* includes bulls from every company and from both Australia and overseas.

Bulls are grouped according to popular breeding objectives such as type, production, longevity and mastitis resistance.



Each bull is listed with its relevant breeding values and reliability.

Those farmers who wish to make more detailed comparisons of bulls can continue to use Selectabull and detailed bull pages available on the ADHIS website.

The *Good Bulls Guide* will be published twice a year in line with the April and August releases of Australian Breeding Values (ABVs). The first issue will be delivered to you shortly after the ABV release which comes out on August 23, 2010.

ADHIS is an initiative of Australian Dairy Farmers, with most of its funding coming from Dairy Australia through the Dairy Services Levy.

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In the *Good Bulls Guide*, you will be able to look up Holstein tables for:

- Type
- Longevity
- Mastitis Resistance
- Production
- Profit
- Reliability

The *Good Bulls Guide* features

- Bulls proven in Australia and overseas
- Bulls from all companies
- Bulls that have semen available and are greater than 1 Standard Deviation for Profit

Kiwi sheep numbers drop, dairy cows increase

A DROP in the number of sheep in New Zealand has been sheeted home to increased dairy cow numbers, thedairysite.com reports. Citing Statistics New Zealand figures, the report said a 140,000 head growth in dairy cow numbers (3.1 per cent) was responsible for a 480,000 head (2.2pc) decline in breeding ewe numbers.

As a result, lamb and mutton export production for 2009-10 had been reduced.

"Almost 70 per cent of the decrease in breeding ewe numbers and almost all (96 per cent) of the dairy cow increase occurred in the South Island," Beef+Lamb New Zealand's Economic Service Executive Director, Rob Davison said.

"The flow-on effect of this and other factors has been the 5.5 per cent [1 million head] drop in export lambs slaughtered to mid June 2010."

There has also been a reduction in the high slaughter rates of cull dairy cows since milk prices improved.

Meanwhile, in other Kiwi news, Fonterra shareholders have voted overwhelmingly to allow share trading between farmers. The move would see dairymen able to buy and sell shares through a third party market rather than the co-operative from 2011-12.

"This will stop money washing in and out of Fonterra's balance sheet from season to season and provide permanent capital to grow returns Fonterra Chairman, Sir Henry van der Heyden said.