



Goal trait group registration and blank DPOs

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Background

Late in 2008 the goal trait registration (GTReg) system was enabled on the SIL system. GTReg currently applies to three goal trait groups:

- Resistance to Internal Parasites (WormFec)
- Resilience to Internal Parasites
- Tolerance to Facial Eczema (RamGuard)

Note that these are all Health traits!

Flocks must be registered to a specific 3rd party service provider for data collection and genetic evaluation of these goal trait groups. This is usually because strict conditions must be met for data collection and data analysis. Only if a flock is registered will SIL accept data onto the SIL database and report on results of genetic evaluations. AgResearch is the service provider for each of these three goal trait groups which provide a special focus in the Health area. SIL licenses the genetic evaluation method for these traits from the 3rd party service provider.

Why?

The reason registration has been implemented is so that SIL can produce robust genetic valuations for these traits where it is critical to follow strict measurement protocols. Often these involve specific quality control steps in the processing of samples collected on farm or close supervision of the testing environment. Data collected by non-accredited methods can bias SIL genetic evaluations.

Where a flock is not registered for one of these Goal Trait Groups, in some situations BVs for the group, and indexes based on them, may be blank on SIL reports.

In summary

- Flocks must be registered with a 3rd party service provider for SIL to perform genetic evaluations of specific goal trait groups.
- For within flock reports, BVs and indexes will not be reported for traits a flock is not registered for. Indexes containing registered BVs will be blank for non-registered flocks.
- For across-flock reports, this restriction is relaxed in some situations where animals from unregistered flocks have relatives in registered flocks.
- SIL recommends modifying reports by using Production indexes instead of Overall indexes (e.g. DPP vs. DPO) and adding sub-indexes for the registered traits in situations where some flocks are registered for these traits but others are not.

Need more information?

If you have any queries about the ideas and terms in this document, please send them by email to silhelp@sheepimprovement.co.nz or telephone 0800-silhelp (0800-745-435)

About Sheep Improvement Ltd (SIL)

NB: Sheep Improvement Ltd (SIL) is the national performance recording and genetic evaluation system, and is part of Meat & Wool New Zealand. It is funded by fees from breeder's using the system and from levy money.