

*SIL Across Flock Report Manager*  
**Appointment Criteria**  
*August 2006*

## **1.0 Background**

- 1.1 SIL is contracting out responsibility for running across flock genetic evaluation and reporting. For each breeder group conducting regular across flock genetic evaluations, an Across Flock Report Manager (AFRM) will be appointed.
- 1.2 The AFRM will be chosen by the breeder group and, subject to meeting specified criteria, appointed by SIL to take responsibility for conducting the genetic evaluations and producing reports.
- 1.3 The AFRM will be responsible for meeting performance criteria laid down by SIL in a document titled "**SIL AFRM – Specification of Responsibilities & Duties**", and subsequent versions of it.
- 1.4 The AFRM is expected to meet the following criteria before appointment.

## **2.0 Affiliation to SIL Bureau**

- 2.1 The AFRM is expected to be affiliated to an existing SIL bureau.
- 2.2 Across flock responsibilities will take precedence over within bureau activity.
- 2.3 The SIL bureau will take responsibility for the actions of the AFRM.
- 2.4 All billing from SIL will be to the bureau.

## **3.0 Knowledge of SIL**

- 3.1 The AFRM is expected to be conversant with:
  - 3.1.1 The SIL system
  - 3.1.2 Standard SIL operation procedures
  - 3.1.3 SIL report writing software, and able to demonstrate skill in production of custom formatted reports.
  - 3.1.4 Production of Across Flock Genetic Linkage graphs
  - 3.1.5 Production of within flock data audit reports

## **4.0 Knowledge of relevant animal breeding principles & procedures**

- 4.1 The AFRM is expected to be familiar with
  - 4.1.1 Principles of the SIL method for estimating of genetic merit, including correction for known non-genetic effects, and adjustment for performance in other traits and by relatives.
  - 4.1.2 Across-flock linkage concepts
  - 4.1.3 Within flock linkage concepts
  - 4.1.4 SIL standards for best practice in the conducting of across-flock evaluations
  - 4.1.5 SIL standards for best practice in the collection of data for the different goal trait groups that SIL can evaluate

## **5.0 Skills in interpretation**

- 5.1 It is expected that the AFRM will be able to
  - 5.1.1 Interpret across flock linkage graphs and provide appropriate feedback to breeder group members
  - 5.1.2 Interpret within flock data audits to assess whether data meet standards defined for across flock evaluations

## **6.0 Professional**

- 6.1 It is expected that the AFRM has a record of delivering services to industry in a professional manner. These could include:
  - 6.1.1 Clear communication of information
  - 6.1.2 Reasonable work turnaround times
  - 6.1.3 Prompt problem solving
  - 6.1.4 Acceptably low rates of errors in data handling
- 6.2 It is expected that the AFRM will demonstrate a commitment to quality assurance principles in the service provided.

**7.0 Within bureau, Across Flock evaluations**

- 7.1 Sometimes, across flock evaluations may be conducted for a group of breeders, all of which are clients of one SIL bureau.
- 7.2 The specification listed here need not apply in that situation. However, the breeder group may require that the person conducting their evaluations be appointed by SIL using the criteria specified in this document.
- 7.3 SIL recommends that it be used as a guide for best practice in the provision of service to the breeder group concerned.
- 7.4 SIL takes no responsibility for Across Flock evaluation and reporting conducted by people who are not Across Flock Report Managers appointed by SIL.

## Appendix 1

### Definitions

- **SIL:** Sheep Improvement Limited is a subsidiary of Meat & Wool New Zealand.
- **Across Flock Report Manager (AFRM):** Bureau or individual person authorized by members of breeder group or linked breeding scheme to conduct across-flock analyses, and produce across-flock reports on their behalf.
- **Breeder Group/ Linked breeding scheme:** Any group of breeders who have agreed to combine data for the purpose of across-flock genetic evaluations and who have individually signed consent forms allowing their data on the SIL database to be used for this purpose. Often these will comprise breeders that are clients of two or more SIL bureaus.
- **Scheme Representative:** Nominated person from the breeder group who is the recognised spokesperson for the group. They must be an active SIL breeder.
- **Critical analysis:** Across-flock evaluation to provide group reports for animals from multiple flocks. All contributing flocks should have data up to date and quality audited. Setting, and meeting, deadlines for this requirement will be the collective responsibility of the breeding group.
- **Optional analysis:** Where agreed to for a breeding group. Across-flock evaluation conducted for the provision of within flock reports only. Data entry from flocks is optional.
- **Group report:** Report containing animal data for multiple flocks and available to all members of the breeder group. These reports are created by the AFRM.
- **Within flock reports:** Report containing animal data for only one flock (or owner) and solely available for the flock owner. These reports are created by the bureau that has the flock as a client.
- **Linkage:** The degree to which flocks have common genetic links that allow valid comparisons to be made across flock for genetic merit.