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DAIRY-BEEF



Photo (from left): B+LNZ Genetics General Manager Graham Alder, Massey University Associate Professor Rebecca Hickson, Landcorp Wairakei Business Analyst Cleo Te Kiri and Renown Farm Manager Damien Watson.

Dairy-Beef Progeny Test on the move...

B+LNZ Genetics is establishing a new Dairy Beef Progeny Test (DBPT) site at Landcorp's Renown Wairakei Farm. The site at Limestone Downs is in the progress of significantly reducing the size of its dairy herd, making it not feasible to continue there. The 2016 and 2017 born calves will be recorded through to slaughter as originally planned.

The objectives at the new Wairakei site are to:

1. Identify and prove bulls suitable for use in the dairy industry (via AB) based on:
 - Short gestation
 - Easy calving
 - Growth rates
 - Intramuscular fat (IMF) and
 - Eye muscle area (EMA).
2. Provide a central herd for bulls of various breeds to be progeny tested and benchmarked.
3. Compare finishing performance of dairy-beef versus traditional beef via use of common link sires shared with the B+LNZ Genetics Beef Progeny Test.

This year the multi-breed progeny test was opened up to all breeds. Sires selected in 2017 include Angus, Hereford, Simmental, Shorthorn, Murray Grey, Stabiliser and Limousin, and involve leading studs supplying genetics to beef and/or dairy farmers. Bulls were selected

with strong percentile EBVs across gestation length, birth weight, calving ease (direct and daughters), 400-day weight, 600-day weight, eye muscle area (EMA) and intramuscular fat percentage (IMF).

[Link to results from first Dairy-Beef Progeny test](#)



About Renown dairy farm:

- Situated at Wairakei, near Taupo
- Milks 1600 crossbred cows once-daily
- All cows are available for the progeny test
- Cows are lower-merit cows, typical of those mated to beef bulls in the NZ dairy industry
- AB for 5-6 weeks, with mating beginning 10 October 2017
- Calves will be reared at Wairakei and finished on associated dairy support blocks
- Calves will be finished at 18-28 months.

BEEF



Beef Progeny Test Sire Performance report

A report detailing sire performance from the first round of mating (2014) is available online. The report comprises:

1) Breedplan sire listings

This includes Breedplan EBVs and Indexes from the latest monthly analysis (September 2017) for the 52 AI sires used in 2014 that produced progeny. (Note: The BPT data is not yet incorporated into the Breedplan database.)

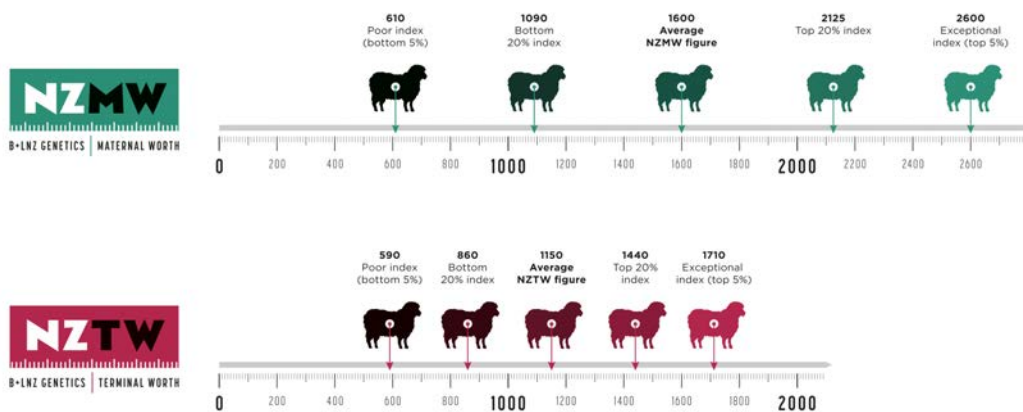
2) Progeny performance listings

This includes progeny average values and rankings by sire for a range of traits recorded within the BPT, providing an indication of how the sires performed within the BPT. The report is intended to be similar to Australian Sire Benchmarking project reports.

NB: BPT sire contributors have been provided with preliminary access to the report.

[View report](#)

SHEEP



Standard indexes

B+LNZ Genetics has been rolling out messages to commercial farmers about NZGE and the two standard indexes, New Zealand Maternal Worth and New Zealand Terminal Worth.

Interest from breeders and farmers has been high, with many positive comments about the industry's readiness for information that's comparable across breeds and flocks.

More details at www.ramindex.co.nz



B+LNZ Genetics Next Generation Terminal Progeny Test field day.

With support from our partners at Progressive Meats Ltd, Horizon Farming and FMG we will be hosting a field day at the Maraetotara Next Generation Progeny Test site. Information collected on progeny includes growth and meat quality. Yield and marbling which was inspected and collected at Progressive Meats' Hastings plant will also be presented.

**Where: Horizon Farming's Maraetotara Farm,
When: 1pm-4:30pm, Tuesday 21 November**

More details to follow in our next Good Acid. If you would like to attend, please [Register here](#)



New SIL website launched

The site is now modern and intuitive. The Technical pages have been re-organised, making it easier for breeders and farmers to access information.

[Visit website](#) | [Visit Technical pages](#)

PEOPLE



Sharl Liebergreen joins AbacusBio

Sharl Liebergreen has resigned from B+LNZ Genetics to join AbacusBio as a consultant. In light of Sharl's departure, B+LNZ Genetics will shortly be announcing a new organisational structure that aligns with our long-term strategy, which has been recently approved by our parent organisation Beef + Lamb New Zealand.

We wish Sharl all the best in his new role and will no doubt continue to work with him on specific projects.



The team (from left): General Manager Graham Alder, IT Programme Manager David Campbell, Lead Scientist Dr Michael Lee, Science Manager Eleanor Linscott, Genetic Evaluation Technical Manager Sharon McIntyre, Extension Officer Dr Annie O'Connell, Extension Officer Max Tweedie and Office Administrator Pam Schofield.

[More information about team](#)



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