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BEEF



Beef Breeder Forum: Save the dates – 29-30 August

Each year for the past three years, B+LNZ Genetics has hosted a Beef Breeder Forum alongside Beef Expo in Fielding. This year, we want to expand the number of people who can “attend” the forum. So, we’re hosting a virtual conference from over the evenings of 29 and 30 August 2018.

What is a “virtual conference”?

It’s an “event” that you log into, online – i.e. without leaving your office or home. You watch speakers via a livestream or pre-recorded video (pre-recorded, in our case). During sessions, you can ask questions using on-line chat and good old-fashions text.

Forum programme: “2028: What’s for dinner?”

Wednesday 29 August

- **7pm Welcome** – Graham Alder, B+LNZ Genetics General Manager
- **7.05pm Crossbred bulls: Are they the future?** – Bill Cornell, James Smallwood and Fletch Kelly, ABS Global
- **8pm Genomics is here: Get with the programme?** – Bull breeders Bryan Bendall & Jono Reed
- **8.30pm So what will be for dinner in 2028?** – Melissa Sowden, Silver Fern Farms

Thursday 30 August

- **7pm Beef Progeny Test: A frank conversation with the men at the coalface –** Beef Progeny Test managers' panel
- **8pm Ireland's beef genomics programme: A most un-Muldoon approach –** Andrew Cromie, Irish Cattle Breeders Federation

There are also another 12 on-demand presentations, which will all be available to view from 6.30pm on Wednesday 29 August.

How to register – four easy steps

1. Go to www.whatsfordinner2028.co.nz and click the "Register" tab in the top right of the web page. Simply fill in your name, email and nominate a password of your choice.
2. You then receive a confirmation email that includes the conference link.
3. Use this link to log in on the night - you'll need your password, so keep it handy.
4. Settle in with a cup of tea and watch via your computer or tablet.

Visit www.whatsfordinner2028.co.nz for more details, including presentation summaries and speaker bios.



Dairy-farmer friendly beef bulls

The B+LNZ Genetics Dairy-Beef Progeny Test has drilled down into the Angus and Hereford bulls that will deliver dairy-friendly results for birth weight, gestation length and weaning age.

The progeny test involved 65 bulls over two years of AI mating.

[Download list of top five bulls for each breed on birth weight, gestation length and weaning age](#)

There are other beef bulls out there that will also deliver great dairy-farmer friendly results. Here's what to look for*:

If you're after an **Angus** bull, look for one with:

Birthweight EBV no more than +3.5 kg
Gestation length EBV no more than +0.5 days

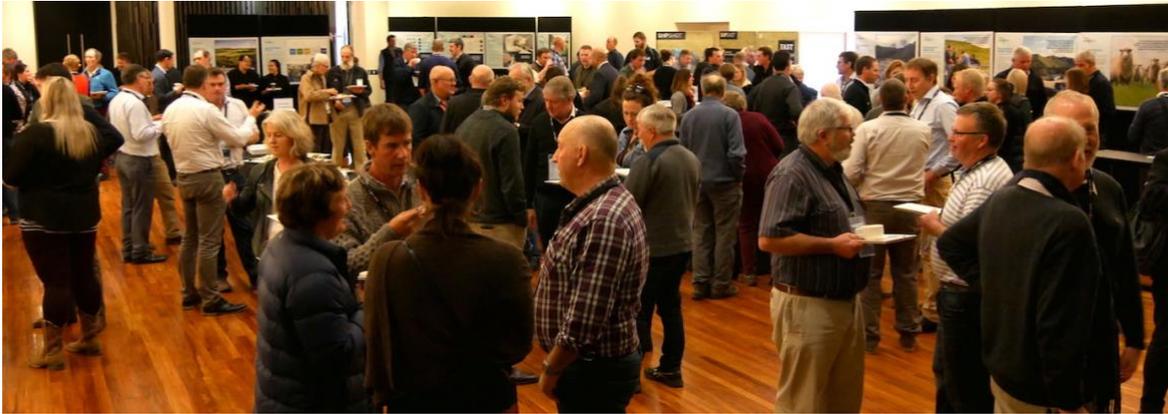
If you're after a **Hereford** bull, look for one with:

Birthweight EBV no more than +1.2 kg
Gestation length EBV no more than -2.6 days

* These EBVs are for cow matings, not first-calving heifers.

In presenting these results, it is accepted that not all available beef bulls have been progeny tested and therefore there will likely be other meritorious beef bulls available. Dairy farmers using beef bulls are encouraged to use high breeding value bulls and these are most likely to be available via AI.

SHEEP



Sheep Forum: a recap

At this month's B+LNZ Genetics Sheep Breeder Forum two presentations created significant discussion: Dr Steve Miller talking about Single Step and Professor Dorian Garrick's overview of gene editing.

All of the sheep forum presentations are now on line

[View now](#) | [View photos from the forum](#)



Single Step insights

Steve – formerly of AgResearch and now Director of genetic research at Angus Genetics in the States – spoke about US Angus' adoption of Single Step. The message that grabbed people's attention was the accuracy genomics brings in relation to the influence of grandparents. While parents contribute 50% each to an offspring's genetics, grandparents do not generally contribute 25%, as you would expect. Quarter is the average, but genomics reveals the actual genetic contribution of grandparents. This is a powerful insight and tool for breeders. Steve also reinforced the convenience that Single Step brings to the practicalities of breeding, in that it means evaluations are always current, consolidating all the available information at that point in time.

[Watch presentation](#)



Gene editing – it's coming

Dorian spoke about gene editing – particularly the advantages and the challenges that lie ahead, no matter which path New Zealand takes. Conclusions: Gene editing can fast track primary production in terms of health, welfare, productivity and environmental stewardship. It's not detectable, so impossible to prevent (unless international trade in germ plasm is banned). It will be adopted in competing agricultural countries and New Zealand will be disadvantaged until it can at least research gene editing.

[Watch presentation](#)



SIL Meat Module – nearly here

Another presentation that drew good interest was Dr Neville Jopson's "SIL Meat Module Mk II: Goodbye 12kg carcass". Neville (AbacusBio) has been updating the SIL Meat Module. It was last calculated in 1990, when a 12-13kg carcass was the norm. He explained what we can expect to see in August, when the new module is launched.

[Watch presentation](#)



Sheep Industry Awards update

The B+LNZ Sheep Industry Awards are taking a one-year break while B+LNZ reviews the awards and looks to build upon their success.

B+LNZ's CEO Sam McIvor says that, since their inception in 2012, the awards are the one occasion that brings stakeholders together to recognise the people and genetics that make the sheep industry world leading. "To ensure the awards stay relevant and reflect the changing nature of the sheep industry, the organisation has chosen to take a one-year break to re-evaluate and, where necessary, re-purpose the awards.

"We're committed to drawing on the collective experience of those who have been involved to help develop a great event for the future."



DNA Parentage: recording LAMBGP and lamb data at tailing/docking

- Record ewes in each lambing group. This determines the eligible ewes for dam/lamb matching
- Tag lambs with tag / EID, take TSU samples and record: sample barcode (SAMPLEBC), SEX, Faults and LAMBGP. Send this information to your DNA parentage provider who will format the data for bureaus to load to SIL (discuss this with your DNA parentage provider).
- Parentage turnaround is about 4 weeks from the time TSU samples arrive at a lab and ALL FILES are LOADED onto SIL – i.e. MATEGP (ewes & rams), PREGSC, FAGE, LAMBGP (ewes & lambs) + lamb SEX & SAMPLEBC.

[View Best Practice Guide](#)



Best practice DNA recording: Tips and tricks

This workshop presented by ram breeder Hamish Bibby (Kelso) and Neville Amyes of Research was another popular session at the Sheep Breeder Forum. Here are the documents they referred to during their workshops.

[Download the DNA trait collection calendar](#)

[Download the Docking fact sheet for DNA parentage](#)

[Download Yearly trait collection and reports](#)

[Watch full presentation](#)



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, Sheep Genetics Manager Dr Annie O'Connell, Beef Genetics Manager Max Tweedie and Office Administrator Pam Schofield.

[More information about team](#)



The future's in the genes



For more information visit
www.blzgenetics.com

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