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BEEF



Love a good steak? New technology to get there faster

This article by Max Tweedie recently appeared in the 2019 Angus Magazine, to positive feedback.

It discusses the potential of CUP (Central Ultrasound Processing System) – software that interprets ultrasound scanning imagery, allowing for a more accurate interpretation of IMF%. CUP is able to detect more variation in IMF and, as a result, we now know that IMF is under more genetic control than previously thought.

[Angus Magazine](#) (pages 37-38)



Beef Progeny Test: Clarification following Rural News article

Many of you will have read the recent Rural News article highlighting the performance of the Simmental breed in the Beef Progeny Test.

B+LNZ Genetics did not see the article prior to print and has fielded many comments from bull breeders in the days since.

Unfortunately, the article's author used quotes from May 2017 and applied them to more recent results.

Simmental New Zealand is a valued supporter of the test and was not responsible for the mis-use of the quotes. This clarification is by way of an explanation in response to feedback received.

BreedObject 6.0

B+LNZ Genetics is working closely with BREEDPLAN and New Zealand breed societies in supplying background data for the soon-to-be-released BreedObject 6.0 \$ indexes.

BreedObject is a tool for formalising breeding objectives and \$ indexes to help breed more profitable cattle.

The newly-released indexes draw on more recent data and up-to-date assumptions around the seasonal weight and condition fluctuations of New Zealand breeding cows in relation to feed costs.

B+LNZ Genetics provided data from both the Beef and Dairy-Beef Progeny Tests, as well as helping access relevant data from B+LNZ's Economic Service.

The new indexes provide a clearer picture of which sires are more profitable and you will see some re-ranking of sires.

Read the [Southern Beef Technology Services summer update](#) for more information on the development of new BREEDPLAN indexes.



Dairy-Beef Progeny Test Cohort 3: Interim report

Nearly 1500 cows were mated to 26 sires by AI to produce the 2018 crop of calves. Max Tweedie: "It is very much a 'liquorice all-sorts' group of calves with eight breeds represented. Now that the calves are older than 200 days of age, they will be monitored for weight gain and growth traits, followed by ultrasound scanning for carcass traits and eating quality at processing at 2+ years of age."

The interim report below focuses on calving ease and early life growth. NB These are adjusted sire means – to make the sires comparable for the given trait.

[Dairy-Beef Interim Report \(pdf\)](#)



Beef Progeny Test Cohort 2 results

Full results from the Beef Progeny Test's Cohort 2 will be included in the next Good Acid. Data is currently being compiled and will be circulated to sire contributors within two weeks, before being distributed further afield.



Beef Progeny Test: Impact of Taratahi liquidation

Liquidation of the Taratahi Agricultural Training Centre has meant a re-shuffle of youngstock involved in the Beef Progeny Test. Rangitaiki Station is taking on Tautane Station's R2 steers for finishing and the 90 remaining R3 steers have been purchased by outside groups, but we are hopeful of using their carcass data.

It is early days but the group poised to take over Tautane is keen to continue being involved with the progeny test.



Beef Progeny Test: New PhD student

Franziska Weik from Germany starts her PhD this month, working between AbacusBio and Massey University on a scholarship. Her thesis taps into beef progeny test data, focusing on the genetics of beef cows in hill country.



Congratulations to Whangara Farms

Whangara Farms – one of our beef progeny test properties – is one of three finalists competing for the prestigious Ahuwhenua Trophy for excellence in Maori farming. The other two finalists are Te Awahohonu Forest Trust and Kiroa Station.

The winner will be announced at an awards dinner on 24 May. Good luck Richard and the team!



Bull buying resources for your commercial clients

With bull buying season just around the corner, don't forget there are some great commercial farmer resources on our website.

- Five steps for finding the best bull for your operation – a popular, easy-to-read guide
- Better beef breeding guide – more in-depth 40-page booklet
- Setting your breeding objective – a how-to-guide to improve your beef performance
- Podcast: buying bulls that perform – what to look for when buying a bull.

[View all B+LNZ Genetics' bull buying resources](#)

SHEEP



Sheep Progeny Test: North Island Hub flock

With the liquidation of Taratahi, a new home has been found for the B+LNZ Sheep Progeny Test North Island Hub flock.

That home is Glenside Station in the Wairarapa. The 7700su property is currently leased to Taratahi but, from 1 May, will be leased and managed by outgoing Taratahi Farms Director Paul Crick. We are delighted at this scenario, as Paul has a long association with the test and was part of the wider team managing the North Island Hub flock up until now.

Paul's Glenside team will include his partner and current Wairere farm technician Dayanne Almeida, who is completing her master's degree with Massey University (she featured on Country Calendar a couple of weeks ago). The team also includes Andy Hill, who has had a long association with the CPT Hub flock over the past six years.

Glenside will also run progeny from previous cohorts (2016, 2017 and 2018), so we can

continue measuring and reporting on these animals. AI mating for 2019 was completed earlier this month.



Conclusion of Southdown progeny test

The Southdown Next Generation Progeny Test's conclusion follows a review of the overall sheep progeny test programme in light of reduced funding, and the introduction of a new programme to generate a national breeding objective for meat quality.

There is currently no national breeding objective for meat quality but there have been several individual projects (including this progeny test) on the topic. The new programme will draw on information from these projects.

We are also looking at options for terminal sires to be incorporated into a progeny test programme, which includes meat quality alongside existing terminal sire traits.

Southdown Sheep Progeny Test achievements:

1. More connectedness between Southdown breeders.
2. Comparing commercial meat quality traits within the Southdown breed.
3. Linking Southdown rams with the Sheep Progeny Test Hub site for improved benchmarking.
4. Demonstrating the commercial relevance of the Southdown breed to industry.
5. Awareness amongst breeders and commercial farmers around the value of genetics in determining meat quality.

Final results will be reported in coming weeks.

B+LNZ Genetics appreciates the support it has received from the Southdown community in running the progeny test over the last two years.

S.I.L.



SIL update: Recording an adult ewe live weight (LWMATE)

From June 2019, SIL requires flocks to be recording and connected for adult size (DPA), if they are to be connected for NZMW and other Maternal or Dual Purpose standard indexes. As DPA is one of the core sub-indexes in the NZMW and other standard maternal indexes, flocks without adult weights (not connected for DPA) will no longer show up in RamFinder or on SIL Leader Lists.

[Read more](#)

April Sire Leader Lists

Sire Leader List reports are available on the SIL website.

SIL's three-year connectedness and reporting period is adjusted in February to include the previous year's lambing and drop the oldest year. Some breeders may have found that they dropped connectedness for certain traits and indexes, which indicates that their connections were more than three years old, or they may have been connected via another flock that has lost connectedness.

Some of this drop-off in connectedness in February is corrected by April when the new data is loaded. Check out the refreshed leader lists and connectedness tables to see where your flock now sits.

[View April Leader Lists](#)

Check with your bureau or B+LNZ Genetics if you have questions about how you are connected to the main NZGE grouping.

EVENTS



Genetics: The Beef Industry's Ca\$h Cow

Adding money to your beef bottom line

Beef Progeny Test Field Day

Friday 10 May, 1pm - 5pm

Whangara Farms, B5 Woolshed

2072 State Highway 35, Whangara, Gisborne

Topics covered at the field day:

- EBVs work. Use them to make more money – Richard Scholefield, Whangara Farms.
- Silver Fern Farms Beef EQ: Better cattle pay more – Melissa Sowden, Silver Fern Farms.
- Whangara Angus: More Beef, More Bucks. Why breeding for better beef pays off for all – Robbie and Kristin Kirkpatrick, Whangara Angus.
- Benchmarking your performance: Make more \$\$ than your mates – Max Tweedie, B+LNZ Genetics.

[More information](#)

IN OTHER NEWS



B+LNZ's Taste Pure Nature brand launches in marketplace

Late last month, Beef + Lamb New Zealand started the pilot rollout of its Taste Pure Nature country of origin brand campaign.

Officially launched in California on 21 March, there have been more than 160 articles written about Taste Pure Nature and more than 125 million potential media impressions.

B+LNZ's Chairman Andrew Morrison says that, with consumers rightfully taking more of an interest in the way their food is raised or grown, Taste Pure Nature gives the vehicle to leverage New Zealand's competitive advantage.

The primary goal of the campaign is to raise awareness and drive preference for grass-fed beef and lamb from New Zealand. B+LNZ is initially working with The Lamb Company (Silver Fern Farms, ANZCO and Alliance), First Light and Atkins Ranch. Angus Pure and Coastal Spring Lamb also have licences to use the Taste Pure Nature brand resources.

[More on Taste Pure Nature](#)

[Watch Video](#)



The team (from left): General Manager Graham Alder, IT Programme Manager David Campbell, Lead Scientist Dr Michael Lee, Genetic Evaluation Technical Manager Sharon McIntyre, Sheep Genetics Manager Dr Annie O'Connell, Beef Genetics Manager Max Tweedie, Genetic Systems Analyst Jacqui Edwards and Office Administrator Pam Schofield.

[More information about team](#)



The future's in the genes



For more information visit
www.blznzgenetics.com

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