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Beef Progeny Test: Cohort 2 report

Results for Cohort 2 of the B+LNZ Genetics Beef Progeny Test are now out. The calves are the result of nearly 2200 cows being mated to 52 sires via AI. These are adjusted sire means – so all sires are comparable for the given trait. Ongoing maternal measurements will be reported, as the data is collected in coming seasons.

[View Cohort 2 report](#)



Field day: Beef's Ca\$h Cow

A well-attended field day at Whangara Farms this month covered key information from the hot-off-the-press Cohort 2 report. Attendees enjoyed seeing the cattle broken down by sire and breed, including steers for processing and now in-calf cows, who were born into the test. The theme of the day was “There’s more money to be made from beef cows”.

Key messages:

1. \$198/calf – want it?
2. Buy a bull above the breed average and you’re buying a bull that makes you more money
3. \$80/carcase – want it?
4. If you don’t know where you’re at, how do you know where you’re going?

[Read the field day handout](#)



Max practicing what he's preached

National Beef Genetics Manager Max Tweedie finishes on Friday 7 June and will head home to farm the family’s Northern Hawke’s Bay property, Tutira.

Max considers himself privileged to have held the role. “I’ve thoroughly enjoyed working with the big range of systems, breeders, commercial farmers, scientists and industry people that make up the beef genetics industry. I’m sad to go, but excited about the next steps: the cross roads the beef cow finds herself at – and the direction that will decide if she thrives or even survives.”

General Manager Graham Alder says Max’s enthusiasm, depth of knowledge and drive have seen some major beef projects tackled and completed over the past four years. “Since joining us in 2015, Max has been instrumental in setting up and overseeing the Beef and Dairy-Beef Progeny Test programmes and our Trans-Tasman partnerships. He has represented New Zealand on the Breedplan Technical Liaison Group in Australia and recently spoke at the 2019 British Cattle Breeders Conference.

“His passion for beef genetics is right up there – he lives and breathes genetics. It’s been fantastic having him on the team and we wish him the very best for this next phase of his career.”

The intention is to replace Max in coming months. In the interim, direct any B+LNZ Genetics beef programme queries to graham.alder@blnzgenetics.com



Cohort 6 sire nominations

B+LNZ Genetics' Beef Progeny Test heads towards its sixth mating. This game-changing industry project provides a leading genetics research and extension platform – in an industry that, five years ago, was devoid of research and industry development.

This year Beef and Dairy-Beef nominations will be received in the same programme.

Deadline for sire nominations: Friday 9 August

[Download nomination form and conditions](#)



Progeny tests featured

The B+LNZ Genetics Beef and Dairy-Beef Progeny Tests featured in the annual Angus and Hereford magazines.

[Hereford Mag – page 49](#)

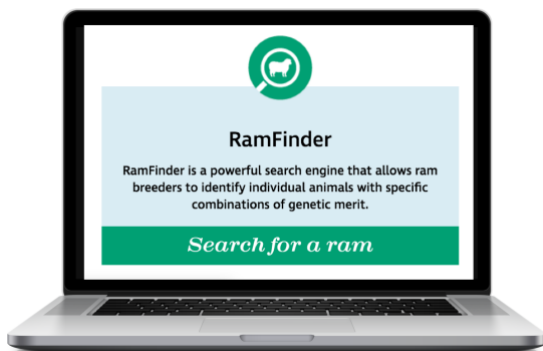
[Angus Mag – page 25 \(BPT\) and page 81 \(DBPT\)](#)

SHEEP



Sheep Progeny Test: HUB annual report

The HUB Annual Report contains results for the 2016-2019 cohorts. Values are sourced from the NZGE Single Step run on 12 April 2019. The report includes core indexes for New Zealand Maternal Worth (NZMW) and Terminal Worth (NZTW).



Ramfinder steps up to monthly reporting

Ramfinder reports are currently generated every two months for most of the year – increasing to monthly during the ram buying season (October – March) at the request of ram breeders. From 2020, under the new nProve system, these will be monthly reports throughout the year. They will use the NZGE run from the Friday closest to the 1st of the month.

[Download Ramfinder reports](#)
[Download Leader lists/Percentile bands](#)



Best Practice: Foetal age recording at pregnancy scanning

Record the age of the foetus (FAGE) in days (e.g. 40 days) and the measurement date (date of pregnancy scanning). Send to your bureau, along with the pregnancy scan number of foetuses, including any dries (preg scan 0). Foetal Age is used to estimate a Birth Date, which is used to correct for effects of age on live weight and other traits.

Data - ewe ID, FAGE in days, pregnancy scan date, PREGSC (0,1,2 etc) and any remarks, status (e.g. if culled), or exit fates (e.g. P1)

Week of Conception (WOC) was historically recorded as early (E), mid (M) and late (L) but this is not recommended, as the spread of values is too broad to estimate a Birth Date as well as Foetal Age.

[Pregnancy Scanning and Foetal Aging](#)
(page 18 in the Best Practice Guide)



Sheep Breeders' Roadshow: Save the Date

Join the B+LNZ Genetics team at one of its five October Sheep Breeders' Roadshow events. The roadshow is a great opportunity to get up to speed on key projects and ask any questions. If there are topics you would like us to focus on, please email info@blnzgenetics, so we can ensure they are covered.

North Island:

- Tuesday 15 October – Copthorne Hotel, Masterton
- Wednesday 16 October – Waipukurau Club, Waipukurau
- Thursday 17 October – Hamilton Airport, Hamilton

South Island:

- Tuesday 22 October – Darfield Community Centre, Darfield
- Wednesday 23 October – Gore RSA, Gore



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](#)

