

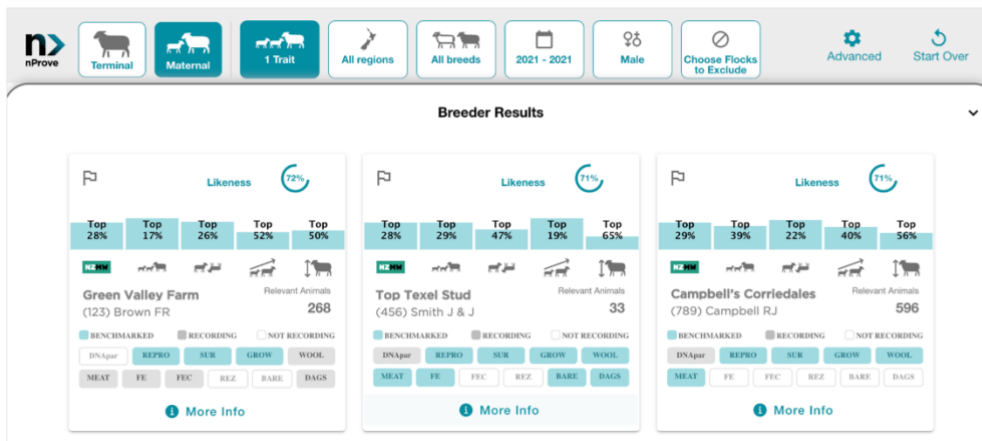
Tools to review your connectedness.

Connectedness is a measure of how well linked two flocks are genetically. It ensures that breeding values, and therefore future performance, are as accurate as possible. The NZGE allows us to assess the performance of animals across different flocks. Non-genetic effects (e.g. environmental) must be separated from genetic effects to allow an accurate estimation of genetic merit. One way to do this is to use link sires to connect different groups of animals.

However, connectedness between flocks, gained from using a common sire, is progressively lost as the years pass, so breeders need to share rams regularly – ideally every year, but at least once every two years.

How to review your connectedness

Look up your flock on nprove.nz. Flocks with connected traits display teal boxes on nProve, indicating that the trait is both recorded and benchmarked, and those that are unconnected appear as a grey or white box.



Connectedness for each trait is considered independently, so a flock may be connected for some, but not all traits. If an animal is from a flock that is not connected for every component trait in an index, the index will be blank.

You can look at the '[Participants and Flock Connectedness table](https://sil.co.nz)' on sil.co.nz.

From the homepage, go to: NZGE > View latest NZGE Reports. NZGE Reports are published monthly and this table shows what each flock is genetically connected for.

You can also request a **Traffic Light Report** from your bureau. This indicates connectedness, the proportion of connecting animals and the age of the connections. The number indicates the proportion of connecting animals (3 = lots of connecting animals, 1 = few, and 0 = none).

Reprodn	Survival	Growth
3	3	3
1	3	3
x	0	0

The picture of the face indicates the age of connections – an unsmiling face means connections are two years old and a red frowning face means connections are three years old and will lapse at year change in February, unless new connections are made.

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