

A better Breeding Worth for dairy farmers



Time to have your say

Consultation is now open on NZAEL's proposal to improve Breeding Worth for kiwi dairy farmers. Your voice is important – make sure you have your say.

Why is NZAEL looking at improving Breeding Worth?

Improving Breeding Worth is about improving genetic gain – breeding animals that are more resilient, more profitable, and easier to farm. Better herds mean better farm performance and higher profits for farmers.

NZAEL wants Breeding Worth to be the best it can be for kiwi dairy farmers – we believe that collectively we can develop a Breeding Worth system that's accurate, independent and inclusive.

We're lagging behind our international competitors

Internationally, technologies for genetic gain have been advancing quickly, allowing for more rapid improvements in herd performance. In New Zealand, slow uptake of genomic selection and young sires has meant that our herds have lagged behind our international competitors over the last 10 years.

Time for a unified system

NZAEL believes New Zealand needs one independent version of Breeding Worth – to provide a single trustworthy estimate of an animal's breeding potential. However, in the current situation bulls can have two or three different Breeding Worth estimates. This causes confusion for farmers and reduces their ability to compare bulls from different providers.

In our proposal, data quality and access will be improved. At the moment genotypic data are held in at least three different databases, and the quality of phenotypic data is not up to standard. A unified system would ensure quality data for more accurate Breeding Worth estimates.

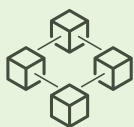
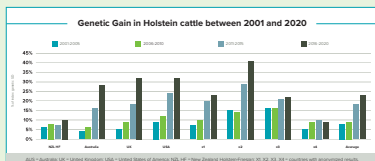
We believe a unified system should also be fair and inclusive, allowing all dairy farmers access to NZAEL's Breeding Worth estimates. The proposed operating model recognises investment by existing participants, allowing fair entry to new participants, and encourages future investment.

NZ's current scenario

- We're not keeping up internationally
- Slow uptake of genomics by farmers



Genetic gain



Animal evaluation System - BW

- CRV, LIC and NZAEL producing different versions of BW
- Genomics not included in NZAEL calculations

NZAEL's Proposal

To have an accurate, independent, and inclusive Breeding Worth system by 2024.

Improve the system to achieve better genetic gain and higher profits for kiwi dairy farmers.

NZ's future scenario

New Zealand's rate of genetic gain is on par with our international competitors.

- One independent source of BW
- Improved BW accuracy from using genomics and better data
- BW available to all NZ dairy farmers to improve their herds

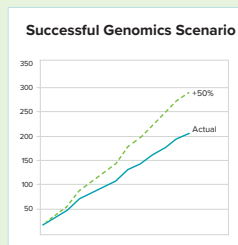
Increased farm and sector profits from:

- Faster and more informed breeding decision-making
- Better performing cows and improved efficiency



Your bottom line

Kiwi dairy farmers have collectively missed out on approximately \$136 million every year – that's about \$36,000 for a farm with 450 cows



Closing the gap – a better Breeding Worth

NZAEL aims to deliver an updated Breeding Worth system with genomics in 2024. We believe this will give kiwi dairy farmers the best chance of achieving internationally competitive genetic gains. The proposed new system would:



Have improved accuracy

by including all relevant New Zealand genomic and phenotypic information.



Be inclusive

giving all dairy farmers the ability to utilise the NZAEL Breeding Worth estimates to improve their herds.



Have one independent source of breeding worth

enabling farmers to better compare bulls across providers, with the knowledge that they are using the same credible data to inform their choices.

Have your say on the proposed operating model

NZAEL has released a Consultation Document describing the current situation, the opportunity, and the proposed operating model.

We welcome feedback on all aspects, but have seven key questions we'd like farmers to focus on:

- Do you think accurate is a key principle for a successful animal evaluation system? If not, why?
- Do you think inclusive is a key principle for a successful animal evaluation system? If not, why?
- Do you think independent is a key principle for a successful evaluation system? If not, why?
- What other principles would be important for you in designing a successful system?
- What is your view on how the fees are structured?
- Is it important to have a transparent, industry good animal evaluation solution for farmers? If so, why is this important to you?
- Is NZAEL best placed to deliver an accurate, inclusive and independent system for Breeding Worth with genomics?

The proposed operating model outlines how all participants would provide genotypes and data, access information, and obtain a NZAEL Breeding Worth with genomics.

Don't miss this opportunity to provide us with your feedback.

Consultation closes 5pm, 27 June 2023.



Find out more about how NZAEL is delivering for dairy farmers at dairynz.co.nz/better-bw