Breeding Worth (BW) will be scaled-back by $50 as a result of the 2016 Genetic Base Cow update.

**Moving to a 2005 born genetic base cow: The impact on Breeding Worth**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>BW</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>$0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>$50</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The current ‘Genetic Base Cow’ is a group of well recorded 2000 born animals.

From June 2016 the ‘Genetic Base Cow’ will be a group of well recorded 2005 born animals. This will result in a drop of approximately $50 in the BW of all cows and bulls.

**WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW:**

1. The change in BW is identical for all dairy animals and herds.
2. The BW of an average cow will move from $100 to $50
3. Value of dairy animals does not decrease.
4. No re-ranking of cows, bulls or herds.

**What is the genetic base cow**

The genetic base cow is a benchmark or reference point from which genetic merit or BW is measured. It is calculated using a group of well recorded animals from a selected year (e.g. 2000, 2005). If an animal or herd has a BW of 0, this indicates that their genetic merit is very similar to the genetic base cow.

**Changes to the genetic base cow**

Every year we see genetic improvement in the national herd, which leads to each group of heifers coming through having a higher BW than those cows before them.

A genetic base cow update, usually every five years, prevents the gap between the today’s animals and the genetic base becoming too large, keeping the scale of our genetic predictions relevant.

In June 2016 the genetic base cow will become younger as we will move from a 2000 to a 2005 born genetic base cow.

**Impact on Breeding Worth**

BW will be scaled-back by $50, as this is the amount of genetic progress made between the 2000 and 2005 base years.

Farmers should not be concerned about the drop in BW as a result of the base cow change as it demonstrates the amount of genetic progress being made in the national herd. The change is identical for all dairy animals and herds, and as such there is no re-ranking of herds or bulls.