A number of enhancements have been made to the BREEDPLAN software used to calculate EBVs for Simmental animals. They will first be applied in the Spring 2012 Trans-Tasman Simmental GROUP BREEDPLAN analysis, then to all subsequent analyses.

The enhancements include:

- **Upgrade to BREEDPLAN Version 6.2** – This latest version of the BREEDPLAN software has several enhancements including a revised method for the calculation of accuracies for Days-to-Calving (DTC) EBVs. This will generally result in an increase in accuracies of DTC EBVs, particularly for animals (i.e. dams, sires with daughters) that have multiple natural joining records in subsequent joining years.

- **Revised method for handling different groups of “base” animals** – animals without complete pedigree in the BREEDPLAN analysis are referred to as “base” animals and the analysis must determine how to allocate a “solution” for the contribution from the unknown parent/s. In the Simmental analysis, base animals represent different periods (historic vs current), countries (Australia and New Zealand, as well as imported genetics from Europe, North America and South Africa) and breeds (as used to create cross-bred Simmental genetics, e.g. Simbrah, Sim-Angus). A revised method for handling these different “genetic groups” of base animals has been implemented in the upgrade to BREEDPLAN v6.2. Animals within each group are assigned a starting value equivalent to the average EBVs of the group. As additional information becomes available for an individual animal (e.g. progeny performance, outside EPD or EBVs) the EBVs will change to reflect this information, including an increase in EBV accuracy.

This revised method for handling different groups of “base” animals has resulted in an increased number of genetic groups. For example, the revised method has several groups split on a temporal basis for Angus base animals (i.e. different genetic groups for “modern” Angus Genetics compared to “old” Angus genetics).

**Please Note: The above enhancements will result in EBVs and Selection Indexes changing. In some cases, the rankings of animals may also change.**

If you have any questions regarding the enhancements to Simmental GROUP BREEDPLAN or changes in EBVs resulting from the enhancements please contact Christian Duff, Simmental SBTS Technical Officer (P: 02 6773 2472, E: christian@shts.une.edu.au) or Simmental BREEDPLAN (P: 02 6773 3555, E: simmental@breedplan.une.edu.au)