Enhancements to be made in the South Devon GROUP BREEDPLAN Analysis, February 2009

A number of enhancements will be implemented to the BREEDPLAN software used for calculating EBVs on South Devon animals within the 2009 South Devon GROUP BREEDPLAN analysis. These enhancements will all result in the calculation of improved BREEDPLAN EBVs and are part of the normal evolution of the BREEDPLAN software.

1. New analytical software

The increasing size of the Breed Society databases and the computational demands of the GROUP BREEDPLAN evaluation have required the development of more efficient analytical processes. The “solver” program is the statistical software behind the BREEDPLAN analysis that calculates the EBVs.

An updated “solver” program has been developed that has quicker processing speed (ie “works faster”) and makes better estimates of the breeding values, particularly for animals with limited performance and pedigree data. The effect of the new program is likely to be greatest when comparing animals across years (ie current vs historic), rather than within a year (ie contemporaries).

2. Updated Genetic Base

The genetic base is an historical group of animals that forms the benchmark within the South Devon BREEDPLAN analysis. The genetic base group currently used within the South Devon GROUP BREEDPLAN analysis is defined as all animals born from 1988 to 1989. The genetic base will be updated to a more recent group of animals which will provide a more effective genetic base, especially in benchmarking more recently generated EBVs such as Carcase EBVs.

Should you have any queries regarding any of the enhancements that will be implemented into the BREEDPLAN software or any resulting changes, please do not hesitate to contact Christian Duff at SBTS on (02) 6773 2472 or Steve Skinner at BREEDPLAN on (02) 6773 3091.