Enhancements to be made in the
November 2010 Red Angus GROUP BREEDPLAN Analysis

A number of enhancements will be implemented to the BREEDPLAN software used for calculating EBVs on Red Angus animals within the November 2010 Red Angus 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) and for traits that are less well recorded (eg scan traits) than the more widely recorded traits (eg growth traits).

2. Updated Genetic Base

The genetic base is an historical group of animals that forms the benchmark within the Red Angus BREEDPLAN analysis. The genetic base group currently used within the Red Angus GROUP BREEDPLAN analysis is defined as all animals born between 1990 and 1995. The genetic base has been updated to a more recent group of animals, this being all animals born in 2000. This provides a more effective genetic base, by including more recent born animals that are better recorded for traits not widely recorded on earlier born animals (eg scrotal circumference, scan & mature cow weight records).

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 christian@sbts.une.edu.au