Revisions to Charolais Selection Indexes, March 2011

Over the past 12 months, the Charolais Society of Australia has collected feedback on the 3 Charolais Selection Indexes (Domestic, Export and Live Export) that were implemented in October 2009. The purpose of this feedback collection was to evaluate whether the Selection Indexes were appropriate for current beef markets and production systems. This is normal industry practice and is essential in order to maintain the relevance of the Selection Indexes.

As a result of this feedback, a new **Northern Terminal** Index has been developed to replace the Live Export Index.

The **Northern Terminal** Index estimates the genetic differences between animals in net profitability per cow joined for an example commercial herd in Northern Australia (i.e. Brahman cows) targeting the production of grass finished steers for the Jap Ox market. Steers are sold direct to slaughter at 630 kg (345 kg HSCW and 5 mm P8 fat depth) at 28 months. All progeny are slaughtered. In response to industry feedback positive emphasis has been placed on finishing ability.

*In contrast, both the Domestic and Export Indexes have remained unchanged.*

The revision will be implemented in the March 2011 Charolais GROUP BREEDPLAN analysis and will be included in herd reports, on the Charolais online search database (i.e. Internet Solutions) and in EBV files for loading into herd recording programs (e.g. HerdMaster).

More detailed information regarding the Charolais Selection Indexes is available in the “Interpreting Australian Charolais Selection Index” tip sheet.

Should you have any queries regarding Charolais Selection Indexes, please contact Christian Duff by phone on (02) 6773 2472 or email christian@sbts.une.edu.au.