

Overview

BREEDPLAN is a modern genetic evaluation system for beef cattle breeders. It is based in Australia, with clients worldwide. BREEDPLAN offers bull breeders the potential to accelerate genetic progress in their herds, and to provide objective information on stock they sell to commercial breeders. BREEDPLAN uses the world's most advanced genetic evaluation system (based on Best Linear Unbiased Prediction (BLUP) technology) to produce Estimated Breeding Values (EBVs) of recorded cattle for a range of important production traits (eg. weight, carcass, fertility). Included in the calculation of EBVs are the animal's own performance, the performance of known relatives, the heritability of each trait and the relationship between the different traits ie. a world class genetic evaluation model, combining all traits in one analysis. All breeds of beef cattle in Australia use BREEDPLAN. For most, the BREEDPLAN genetic evaluation system has been integrated with the respective breed association's pedigree system. Substantial genetic improvement for traits of commercial importance have been demonstrated. The BREEDPLAN technology is kept at the leading edge by continuous research. The BREEDPLAN software has been developed by the Animal Genetics & Breeding Unit (AGBU), which is a joint venture of the University of New England (UNE) and NSW Department of Primary Industries (NSW DPI), with support from Meat & Livestock Australia (MLA). The BREEDPLAN technology is marketed by the Agricultural Business Research Institute (ABRI). The BREEDPLAN technology is highly regarded in a number of overseas countries where it is made available under licence. BREEDPLAN has been implemented as the national beef recording scheme in Australia, New Zealand, Namibia, Thailand and the Philippines, and its use is also increasing in the United States, Canada, United Kingdom, Hungary, South America and South Africa. View BREEDPLAN brochures Genetic databases for particular breeds have been merged since the late 1990's to conduct international genetic evaluations. The rationale for this is simple - the larger the population of cattle being evaluated the higher the chance of finding elite genetic material which can then be rapidly disseminated using modern artificial breeding techniques. This will improve the competitiveness of beef production in all co-operating countries. More detailed information on BREEDPLAN is available from the "Technical" section of this website.

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