ABRI, AGBU and a number of breed societies have formed a syndicate to undertake commercial trialling of the Total Genetic Resource Management (TGRM) software during 2002. TGRM allows breeders to build on their pedigree, EBV and BreedObject information (left hand side of the diagram) to "design" a mating program that maximises genetic gain while controlling inbreeding and managing various constraints (right hand side).

The TGRM mating list shows which of the candidate bulls and cows should be used, how the cows are to be allocated to the bulls, and the predicted performance of the progeny in terms of trait EBVs, $ index value and inbreeding level. The strength of TGRM is the varying levels of complexity at which it can operate, providing the breeder with a wide range of alternative scenarios to consider, depending on their specific requirements. TGRM can also be used to benchmark the likely outcome of a pre-planned mating program, to evaluate the benefits/costs of the decisions made and options for improvement.

The Syndicate invites breeders to register their interest for use of TGRM. We have two Armidale-based TGRM-accredited consultants in Wayne Upton, myself and Richard Apps. is being accredited to service herds in Northern Australia (See contact details below).

Initial discussions with the TGRM consultant will help you decide if a TGRM run is feasible, based on available data and your expectations. The scope of the initial TGRM run can then be defined. Further refining of the TGRM run arises from on-going interaction between you and the consultant, to give a final mating list that best caters for your needs.

The standard fee for TGRM services through the Syndicate include a $100 setup fee, $3.00 per cow in the final mating list and a TGRM consultancy fee. In 2002, this consultancy fee will be offered at a discounted rate of $450 per day. Most TGRM runs will require ¼ to 1½ days to complete (spread over a period of up to 1 month), depending on the level of complexity at which the breeder wishes to operate. You need to have Email access to receive the various reports. Indicative fees per cow for a range of example TGRM scenarios are given above (actual fee per cow will depend on the scope of the TGRM run and the amount of consulting time you use): See diagram below.

For more information on TGRM, please contact me:

Brad Crook
(02) 6773 5263
brad.crook@abri.une.edu.au

(or one of the following consultants:)
Wayne Upton
(02) 6773 3141
wupton@metz.une.edu.au

Richard Apps:
(07) 4927 6066
tcts@bigpond.com

Example TGRM scenario

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scenario Description</th>
<th>Fee per Cow</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>100 cow herd, all cows mated, ~1/2 day for completion</td>
<td>6.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>200 cow herd, all cows mated but with constraints on trait EBVs for heifer joinings, ~1 day for completion</td>
<td>5.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>300 candidate cows, 200 to be mated (i.e. selection+mating run), ~1 day for completion</td>
<td>5.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>500 cow herd run across two properties, all cows mated, use of natural service and AI sires with constraints on mating costs, ~1/2 days for completion</td>
<td>4.55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Benchmarking your mating list (~1/4 day for completion):</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>500 cows</td>
<td>3.40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100 cows</td>
<td>5.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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MLA, co-funded this research and many other projects discussed in this newsletter. See pages 9, 12 and 15.