

Australia advances multibreed genetic evaluation for beef cattle

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The new hub brings together information on the development of multibreed beef genetic evaluation



Australian beef producers, breeders and industry stakeholders can now access a dedicated online resource explaining the development of one of the most significant advancements in the nation's livestock genetics system with the launch of Meat & Livestock Australia's (MLA) Multibreed Beef Genetic Evaluation Information Hub.

The new hub brings together information on the development of multibreed beef genetic evaluation, a major red meat industry strategic initiative designed to give producers the tools to compare the genetic merit of cattle across breeds and make more informed breeding decisions.

MLA Managing Director, Michael Crowley, said the Information Hub would help industry understand the progress of a project that has the potential to transform how genetic information is used across Australia's beef supply chain.

“This is about giving producers and breeders access to more information, more comparability and ultimately delivering improved commercial profitability outcomes from genetic investments,” Crowley said.

For decades, industry has identified the need for tools that allow genetics to be compared across breeds, particularly for commercial producers seeking genetic tools to support making faster progress towards their breeding objectives.

The Information Hub provides a central location where producers, breeders and stakeholders can learn about the science behind multibreed genetic evaluation, the progress being made in its development and the benefits it is expected to deliver.

The establishment of multibreed beef genetic evaluation and livestock credentials is one of the five bold ambitions outlined in the MLA Strategic Plan 2030 and builds on years of industry investment in genetics research and development.

As development progresses, the multibreed evaluation system is expected to deliver a suite of new tools, including Australian Cattle Breeding Values (ACBVs), Australian Cattle Genomic Values (ACgVs) and Australian Cattle Genetic Profiles (GenProfiles).

These tools are being developed to support improved bull selection, stronger herd benchmarking and future evaluation of emerging traits including fertility, adaptation, resilience and methane emissions.

The current research and development program includes separate multibreed evaluations for tropical and temperate beef breeds, with commercial release targets currently scheduled for tropical breeds in 2027 and temperate breeds in 2028.

The Information Hub outlines how separate multibreed evaluations are being developed for tropical and temperate beef breeds and explains how the new capability is intended to complement, rather than replace, existing genetic evaluation systems.