

# Making innovative gains in genetics



@jenniepryce

Jennie Pryce





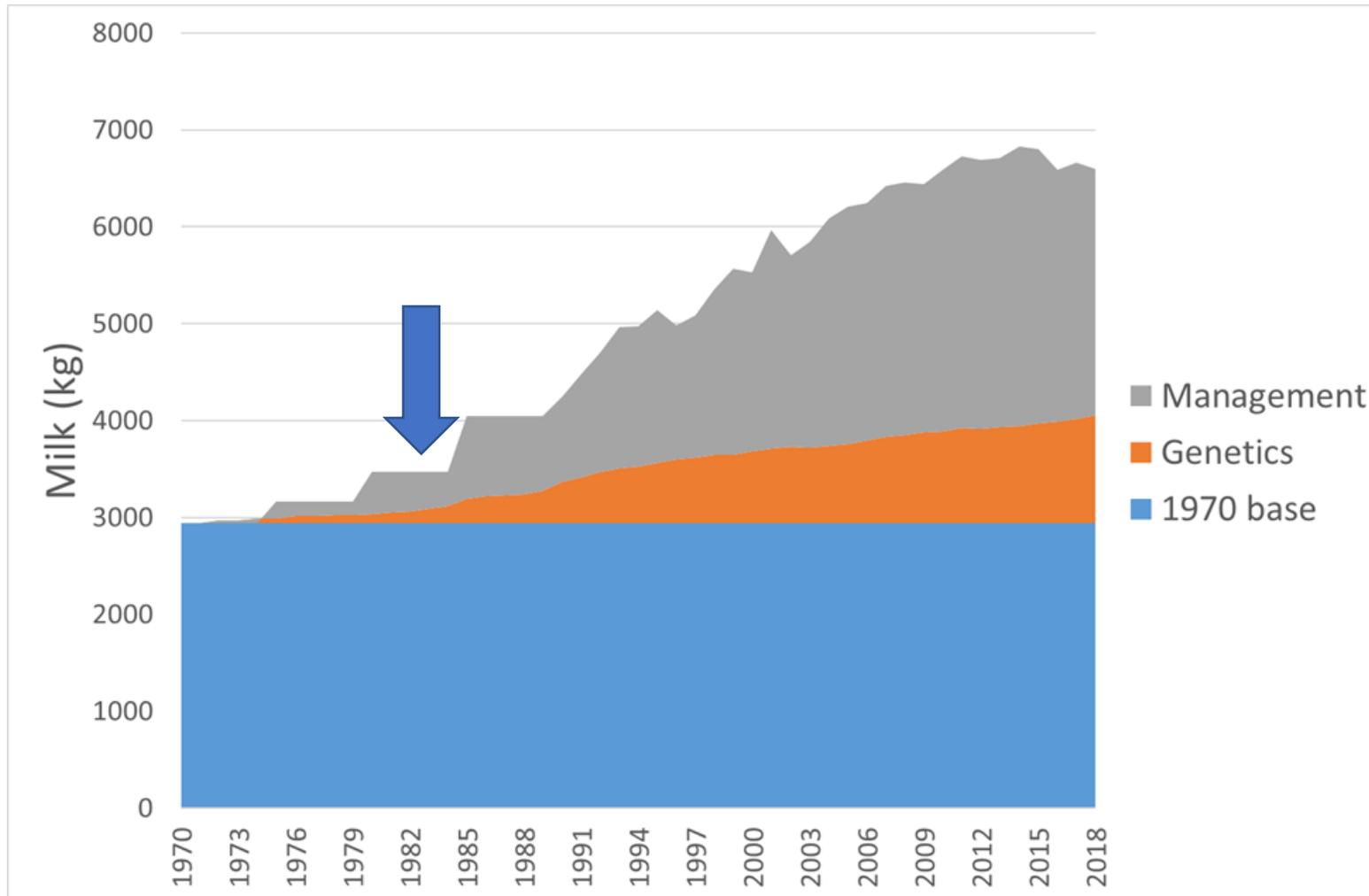
# 40



**Celebrating 40 Years of ABV's**

14 March 2023, 7pm

All Seasons Resort Hotel Bendigo

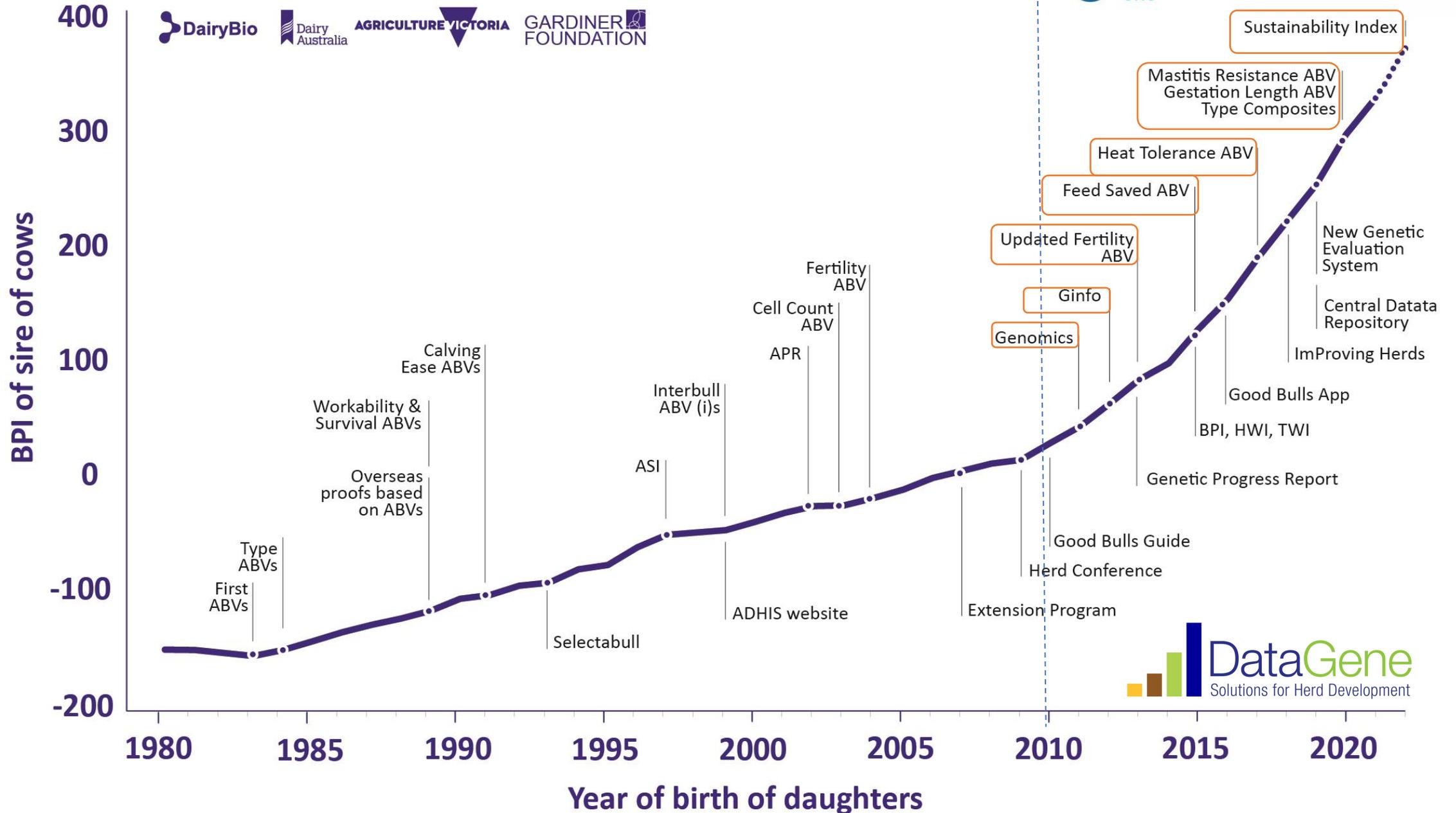


1970:  
~5 litres Milk/kg liveweight

2018:  
~10 litres Milk/kg liveweight

**A doubling of production efficiency**

# Australian genetic trends (Holstein)





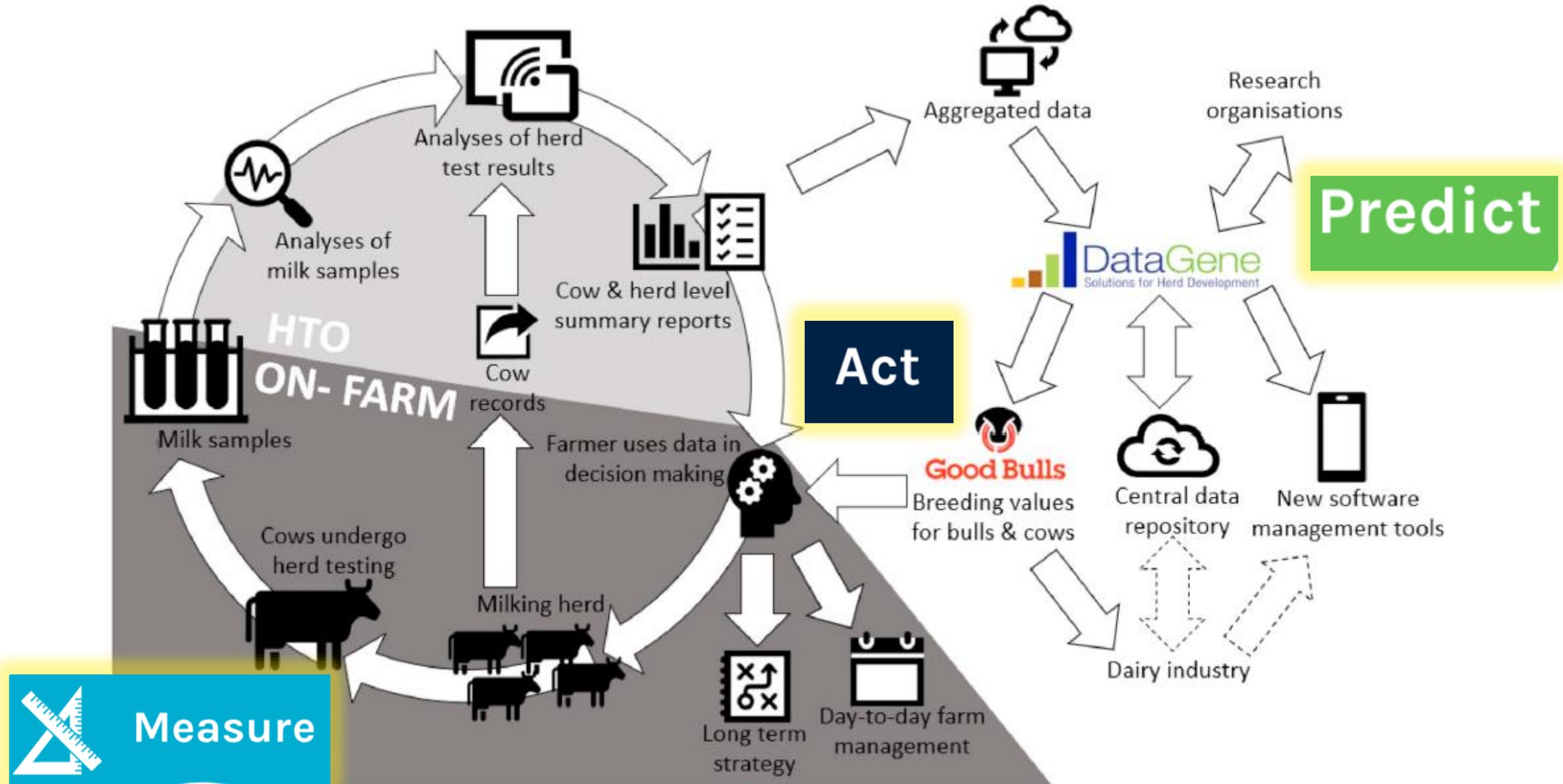
Measure



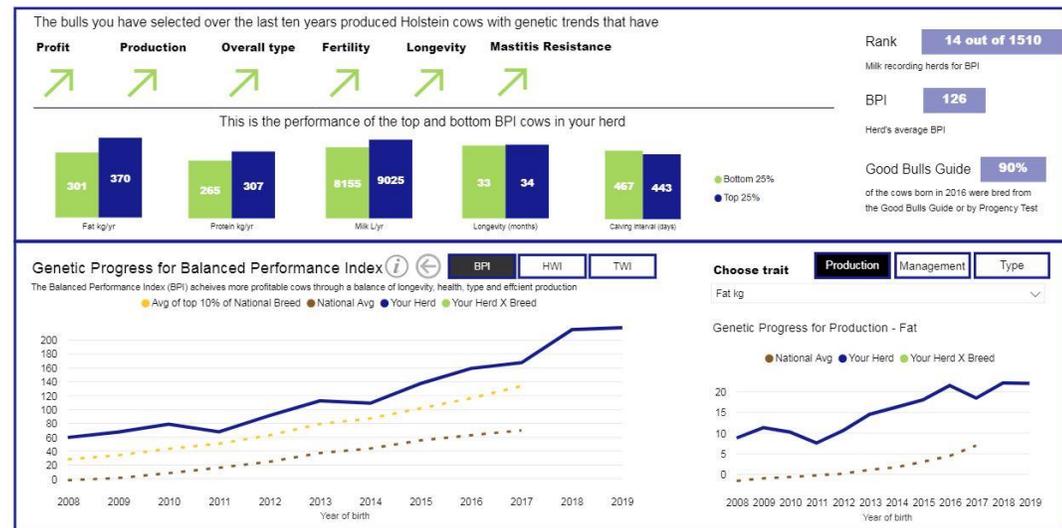
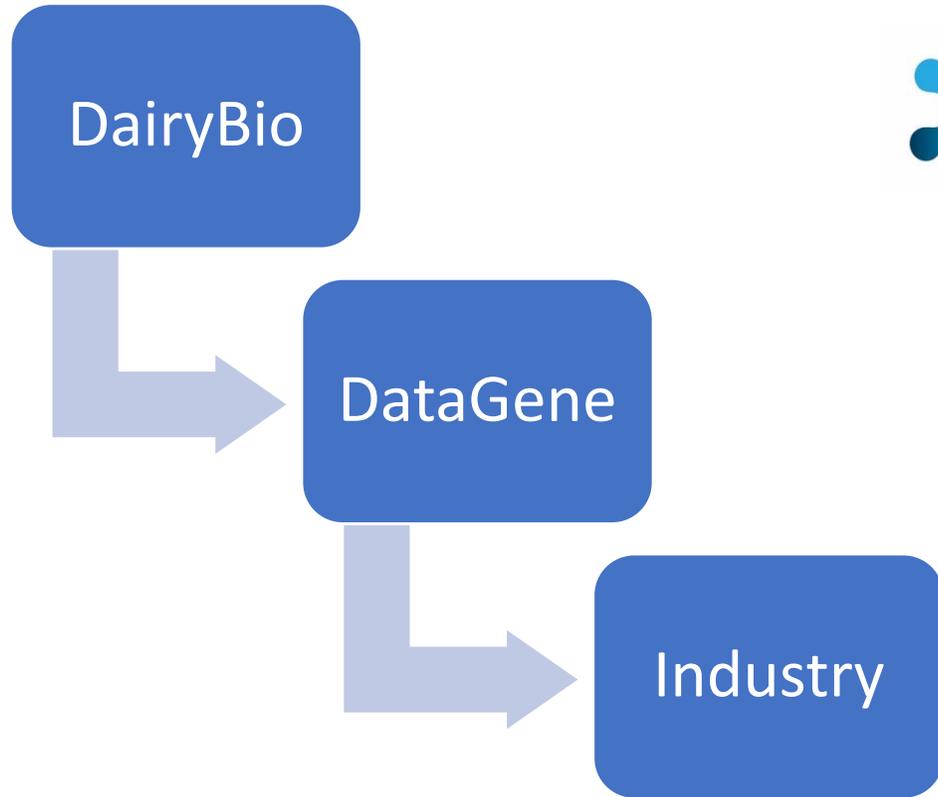
Predict



Act



# Pathway to farmers





# Measure

Milk records

Calving dates

Mating dates

Health information  
(mastitis, lameness,  
repro etc) + dates

Calving ease

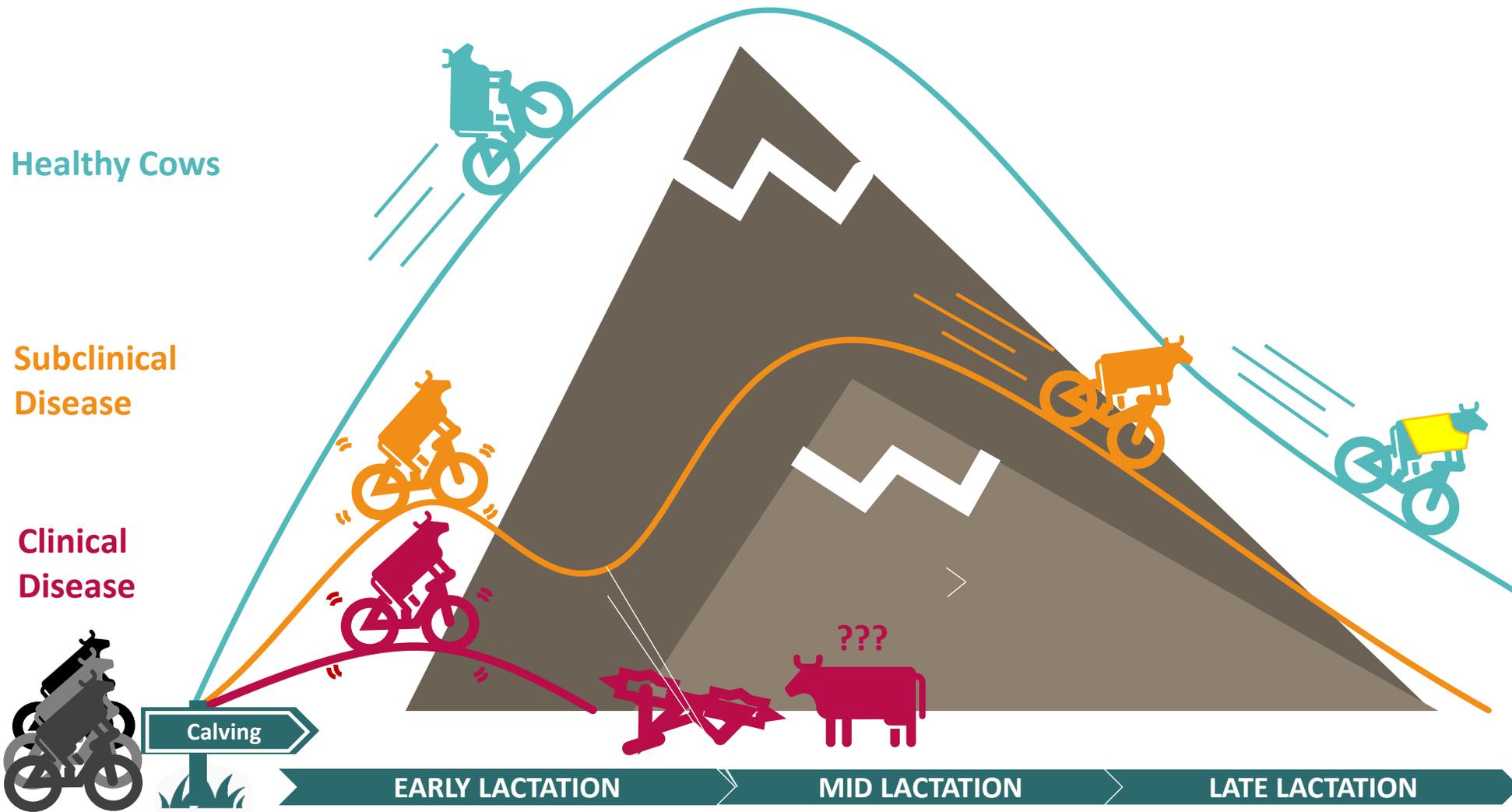
Temperament

Milking speed

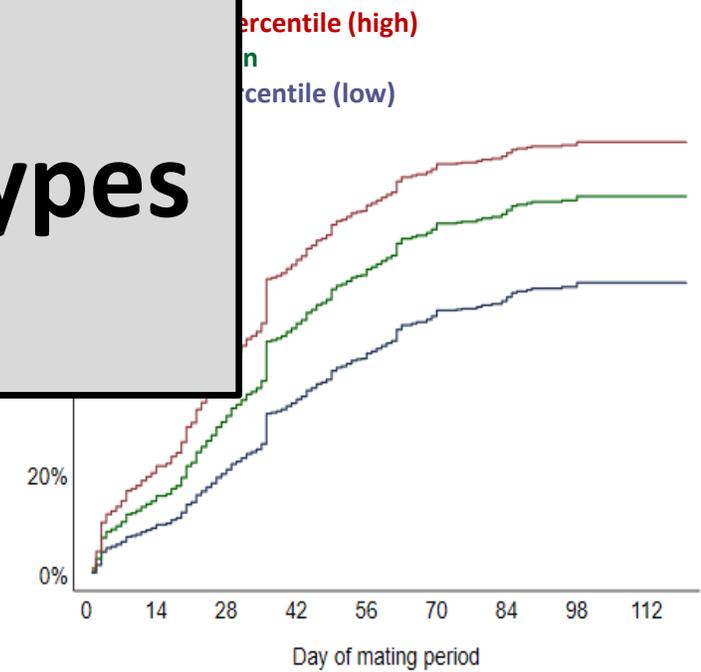
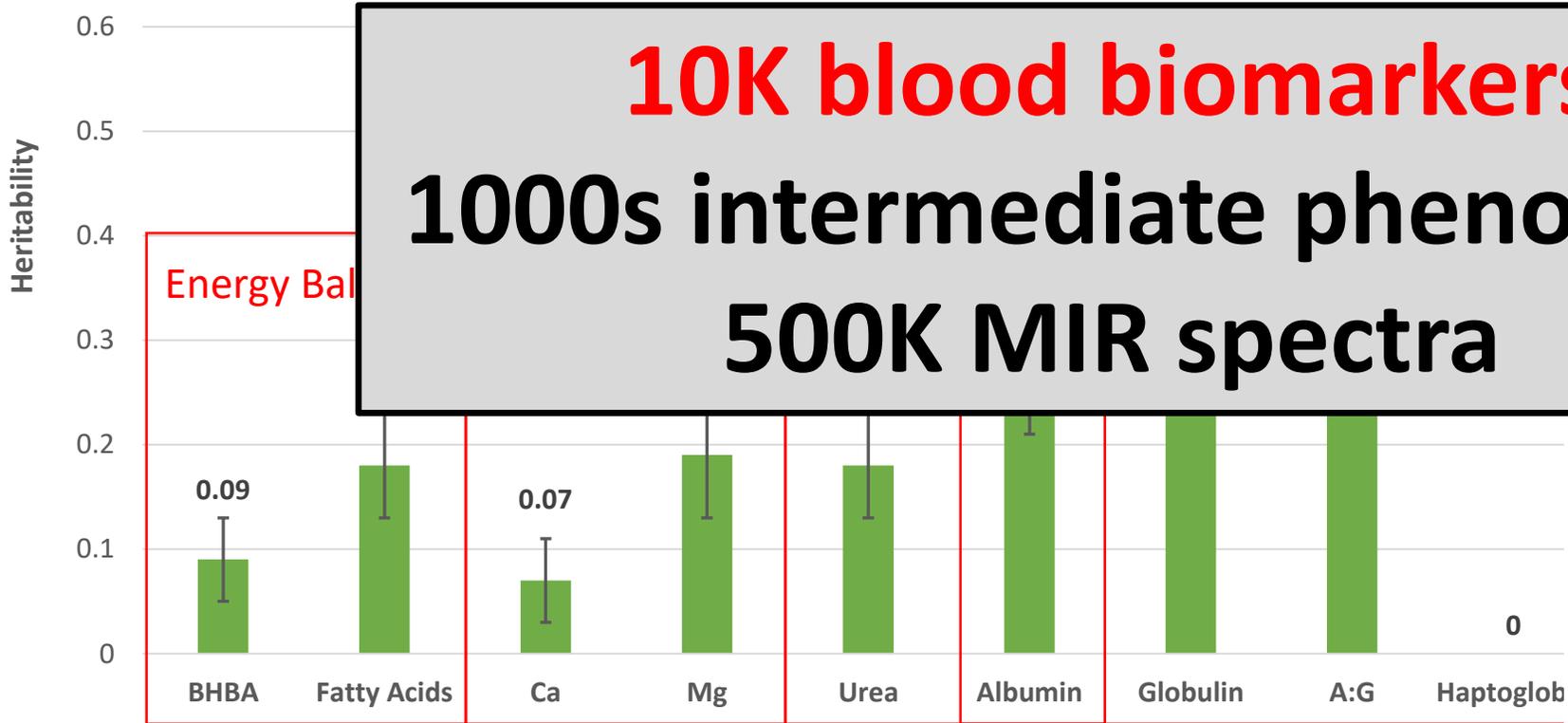
Conformation

Automated data  
(sensors/tags etc)

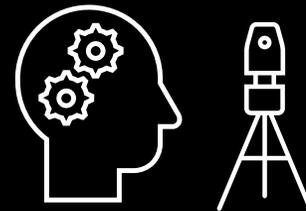
New traits.....



**10K blood biomarkers**  
**1000s intermediate phenotypes**  
**500K MIR spectra**







Smart phenotyping coupled with better methods to help solve our grand challenges



# Measured CH4 data GEBVs

BS

Bolormaa Sunduimijid (DJPR) Yesterday 10:05 am

**Table 3.** Average weighted accuracies of GEBV of the 4-fold cross-validation populations using GBLUP with univariate and bivariate model

Yesterday 10:05 am

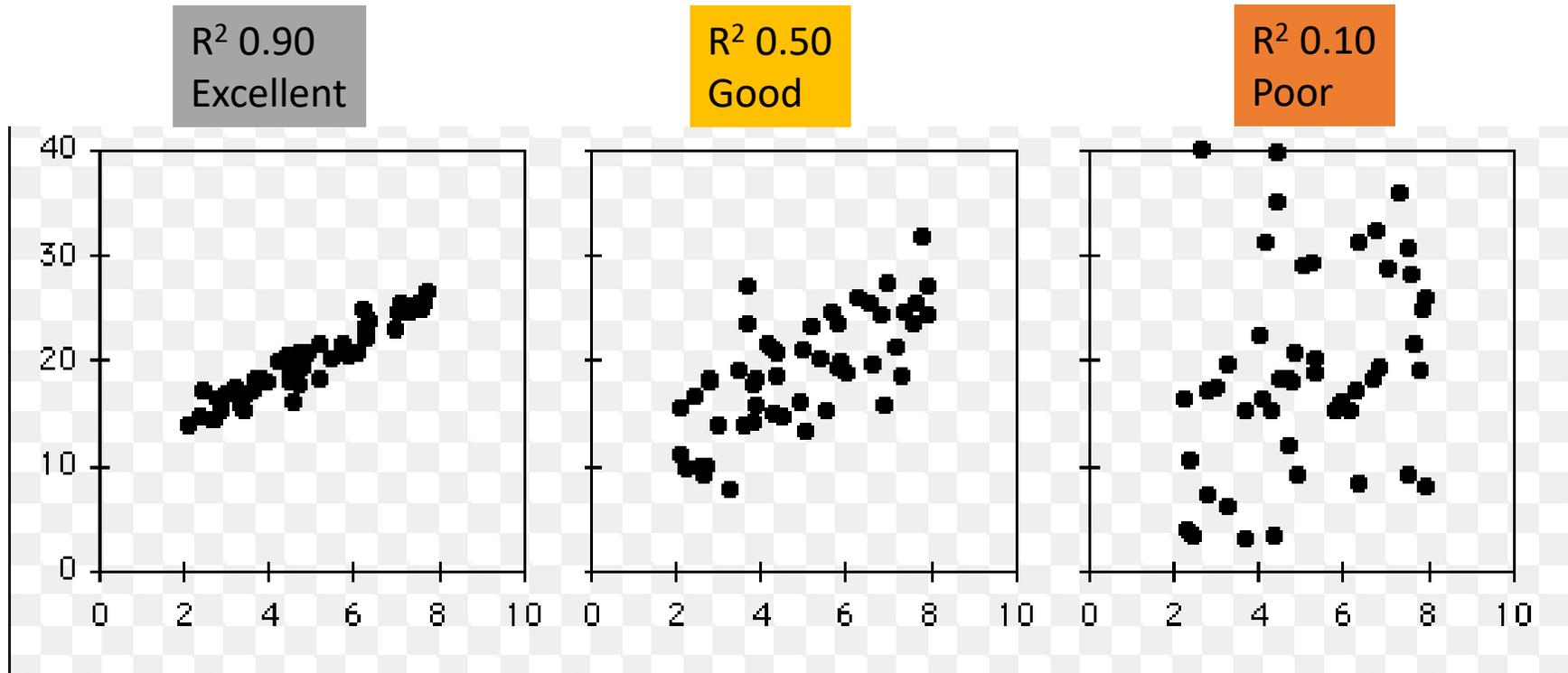


DATAset	SNPset	trait	r	Acc.	Acc_s.d.	Acc_s.e.
AUS	50k	CH4	0.12	0.30	0.157	0.078
AUSnOVE	50k	CH4	0.13	0.32	0.100	0.050
AUS	HD	CH4	0.14	0.34	0.186	0.093
AUSnOVE	HD	CH4	0.14	0.35	0.124	0.062
AUS	50k	CH4ecm	0.12	0.29	0.272	0.136
AUSnOVE	50k	CH4ecm	0.12	0.31	0.154	0.077
AUS	HD	CH4ecm	0.13	0.32	0.280	0.140
AUSnOVE	HD	CH4ecm	0.14	0.36	0.195	0.097

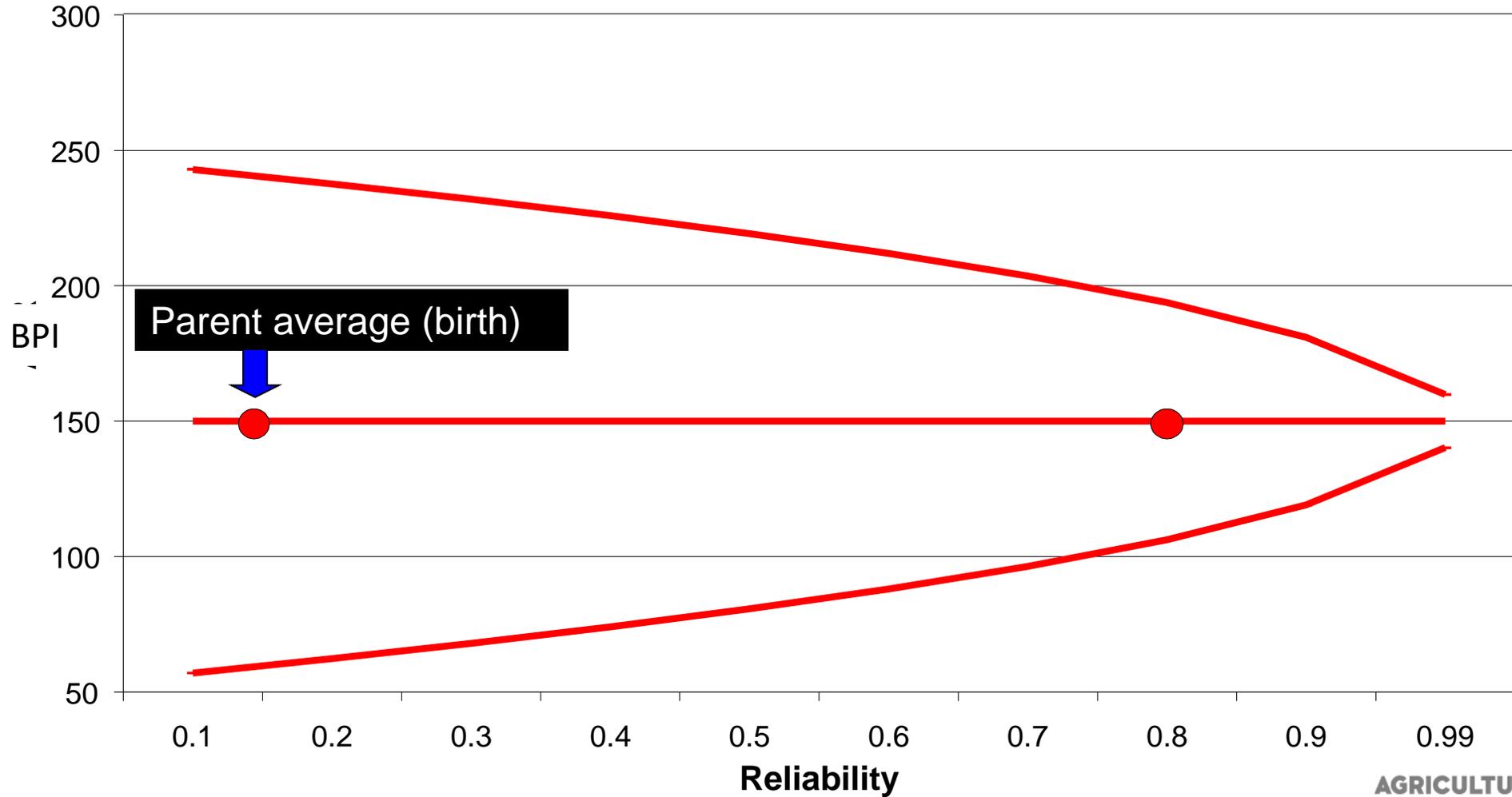
around 30% in AUS



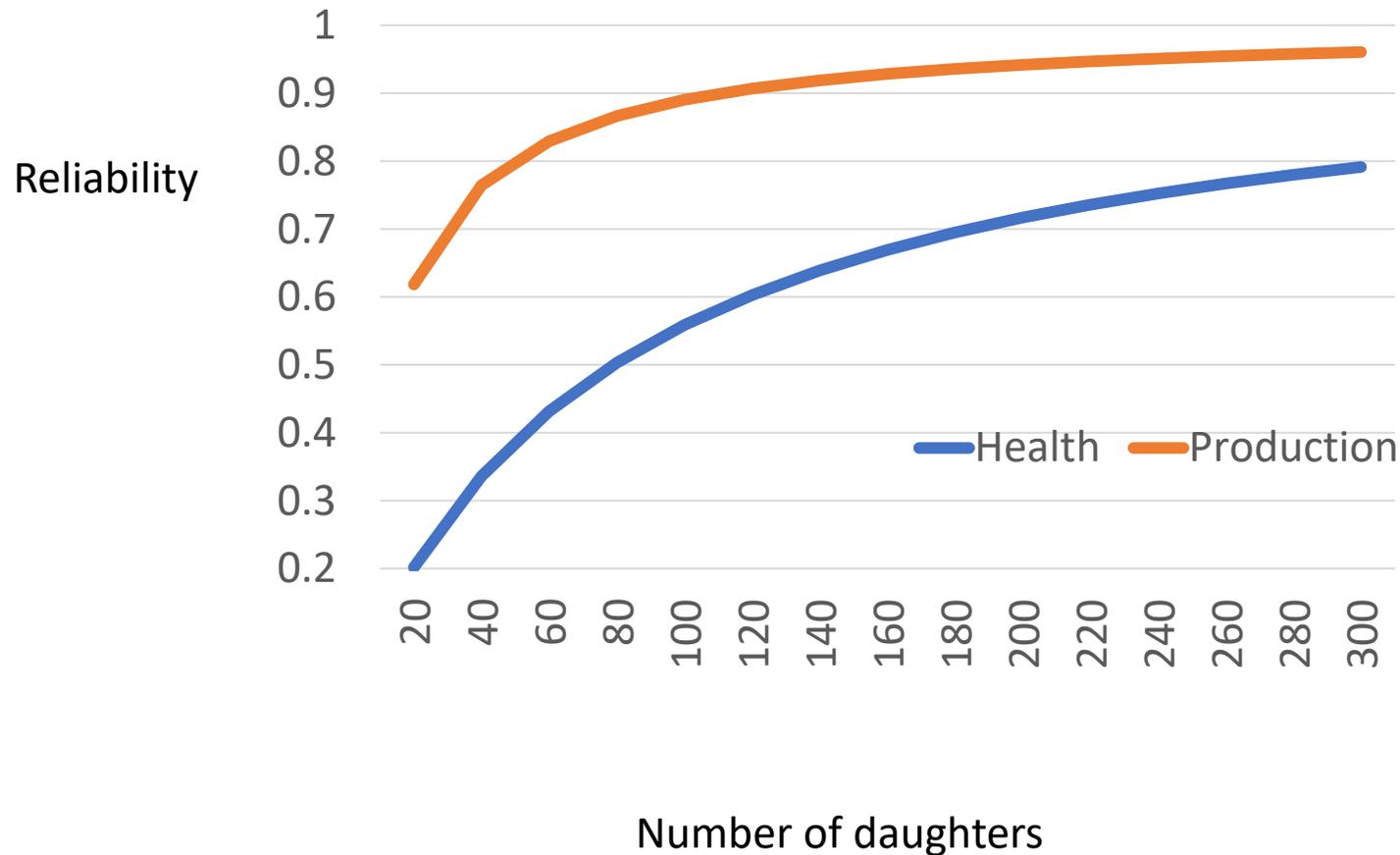
# Reliability ( $R^2$ )



### 95% Confidence interval BPI at different reliabilities



# Progeny testing



80-100 daughters  
required to get  
reliabilities >50%

# Genomic selection

JOURNAL ARTICLE

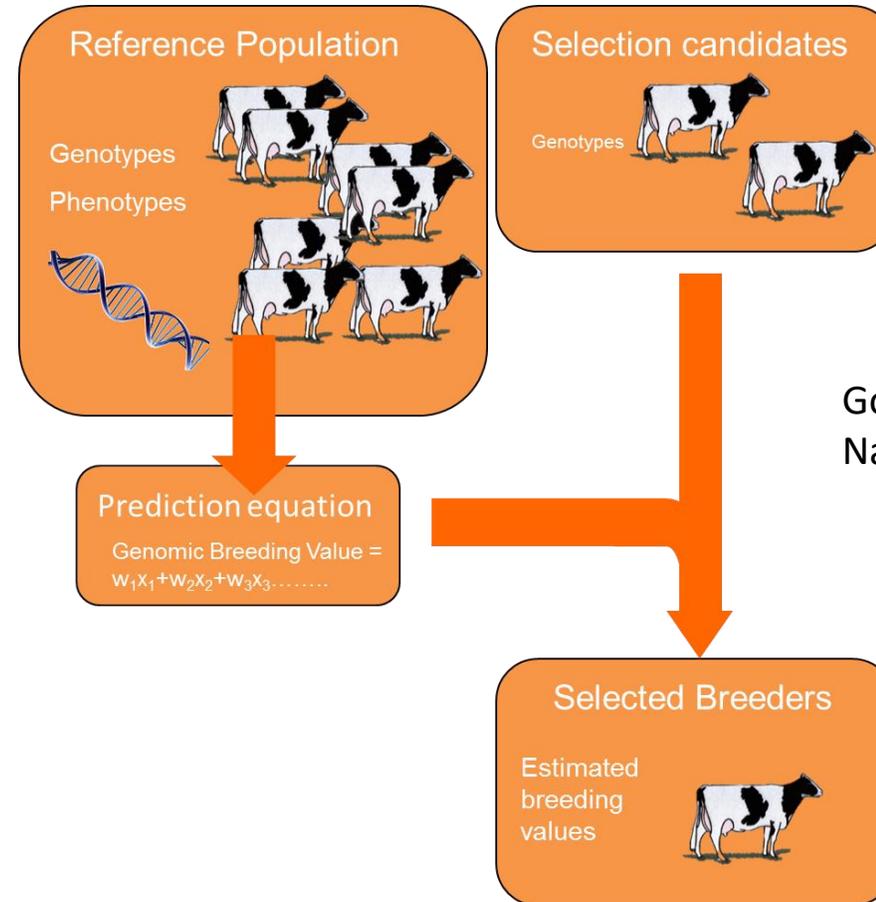
## Prediction of Total Genetic Value Using Genome-Wide Dense Marker Maps FREE

T H E Meuwissen ✉, B J Hayes, M E Goddard

*Genetics*, Volume 157, Issue 4, 1 April 2001, Pages 1819–1829,

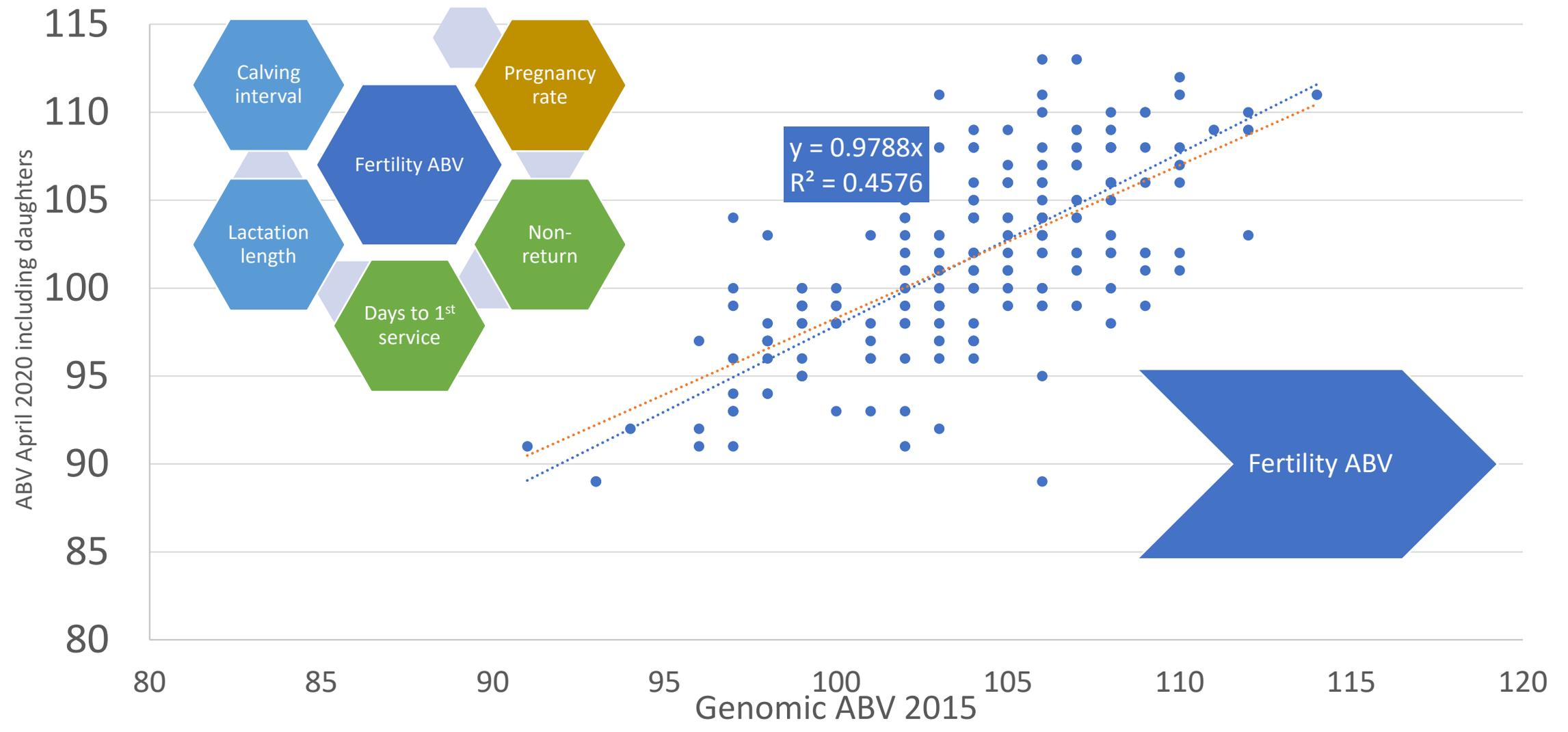
<https://doi.org/10.1093/genetics/157.4.1819>

Published: 01 April 2001 [Article history](#) ▼



Goddard & Hayes  
Nat. Rev. Genet. 2009

# Genomic only fertility ABVs of bulls in 2015 (as calves) and their ABVs in 2020 with (>50) daughters





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?

?

**Genomic reliabilities (calves)**

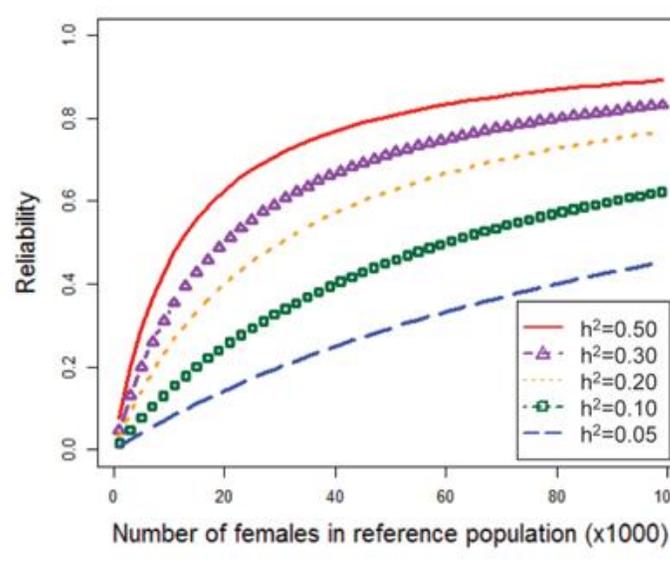
Protein	76%
Overall type	53%
Fertility	50%
Milking speed	61%

**Reliabilities ABVs (7<sup>th</sup> lactation)**

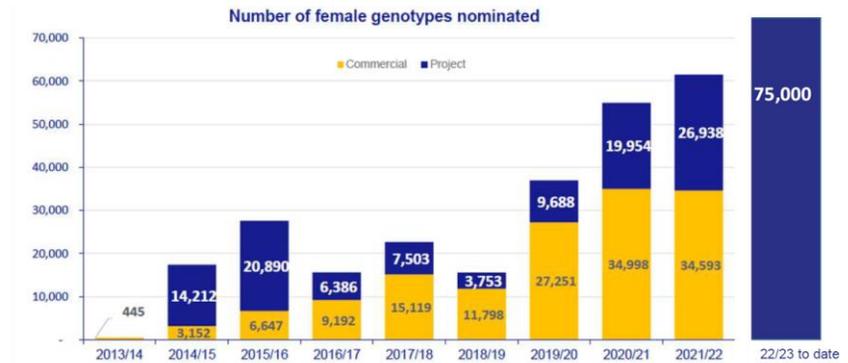
Protein	78%
Overall type	29%
Fertility	38%
Milking speed	37%



# How to increase genomic reliability



## Metrics



DataGen Solutions for Herd Development



Journal of Dairy Science

Volume 97, Issue 12, December 2014, Pages 7905-7915



## On the value of the phenotypes in the genomic era

O. Gonzalez-Recio <sup>\*</sup>, <sup>†</sup>, M.P. Coffey <sup>‡</sup>, J.E. Pryce <sup>\*</sup>, <sup>†</sup>, <sup>§</sup>  

# Reference populations



Research herds  
1000s cows

Feed saved

methane

New..

Ginfo  
30k+ cows

Health

Heat tolerance

New...

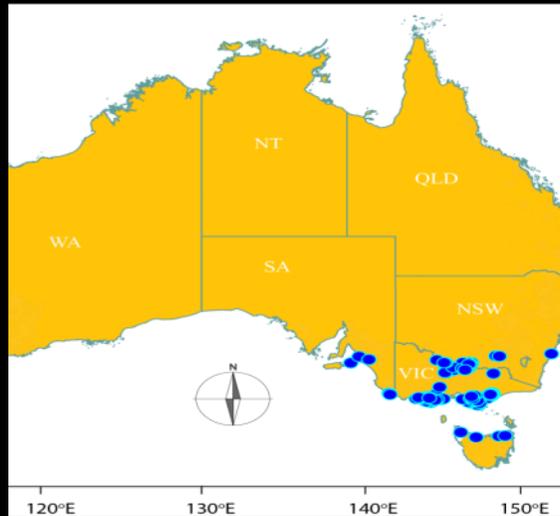


## Do you have excellent herd records?

DataGene is recruiting herds for the Ginfo project\*

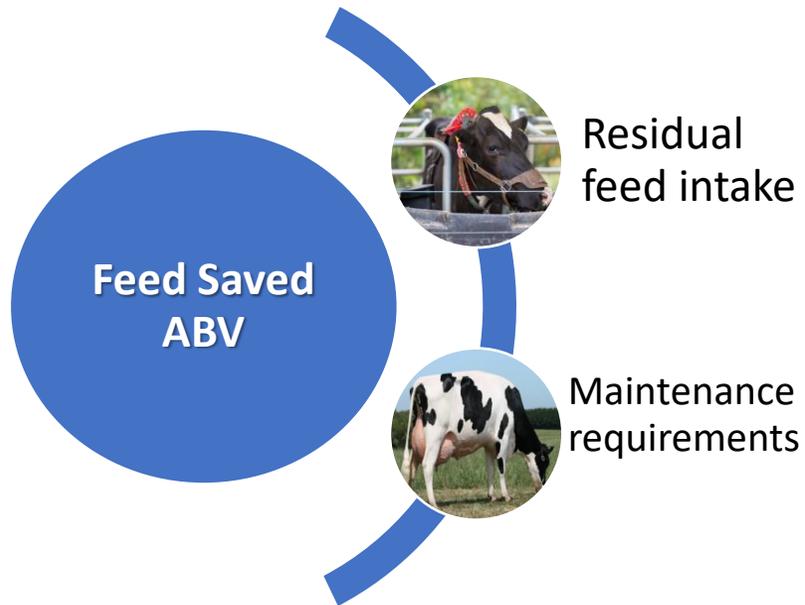
Participating farmers have their 2-year-old heifers genotyped and classified for free and the option to have young calves genotyped at a discount.

To be eligible, herds need to be regularly herd testing and



# Feed Saved ABV – a world first!

Example Feed Saved ABVs



Holstein		BPI	FEED SAVED
BULL ID	BALANCED PERFORMANCE INDEX	FEED SAVED ABV	
A	336	- 43	
B	320	- 147	
C	302	- 4	
D	301	110	
E	285	2	
F	282	- 6	
G	277	72	
H	277	- 26	
I	274	18	
J	268	111	
		\$ profit/cow/year	kg feed saved /cow/year

 J. Dairy Sci. 98:7340–7350  
<http://dx.doi.org/10.3168/jds.2015-9621>  
 © American Dairy Science Association<sup>®</sup>, 2015.

**Hot topic: Definition and implementation of a breeding value for feed efficiency in dairy cows**

J. E. Pryce,\*† O. Gonzalez-Recio,\* G. Nieuwhof,\*‡ W. J. Wales,§ M. P. Coffey,# B. J. Hayes,\*† and M. E. Goddard\*||

\*Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources and Dairy Futures Cooperative Research Centre, Agribio, 5 Ring Road, Bundoora, VIC 3083, Australia  
 †School of Applied Systems Biology, La Trobe University, Bundoora, VIC 3083, Australia  
 ‡Australian Dairy Herd Improvement Scheme, 22 William Street, Melbourne, VIC 3000, Australia  
 §Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources, Ellinbank, VIC 3820, Australia  
 #SRUC, Easter Bush Campus, Midlothian EH25 9RG, United Kingdom  
 ||Faculty of Veterinary and Agricultural Sciences, The University of Melbourne, Parkville VIC 3010, Australia



*Trait Reference Sheet*  
 November 2020

## Feed Saved (FSAV)

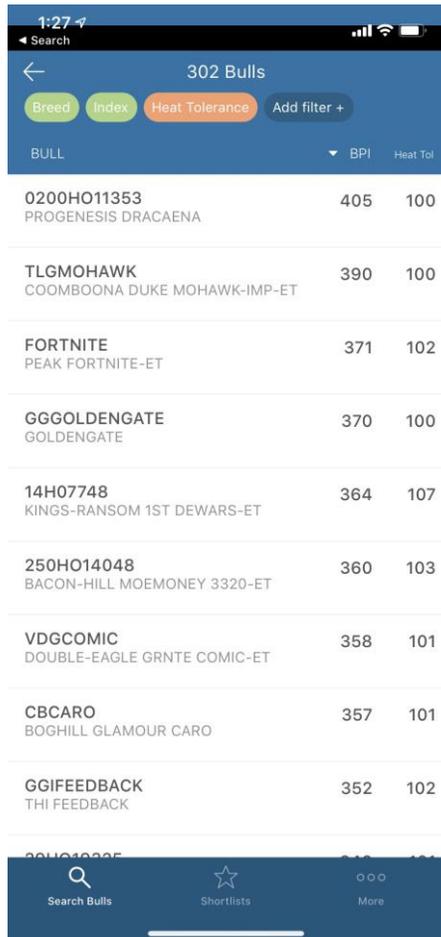
**INTRODUCTION DATE**  
 December 1, 2020, and then in all subsequent weekly, monthly and triannual evaluations

- BENEFITS OF TRAIT**
- Feed costs can make up over half of the total costs on a dairy farm<sup>1</sup>. Selecting for more feed-efficient cows can reduce these costs and improve profitability.
  - Improving the efficiency of dairy cows will help

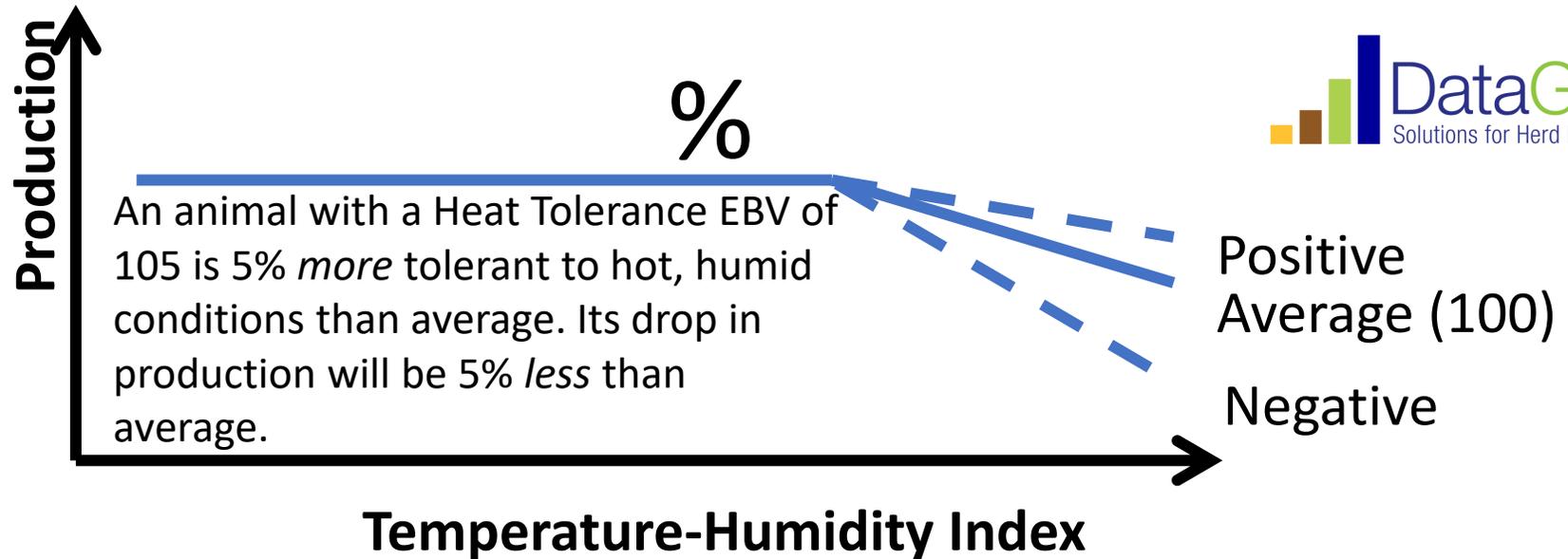


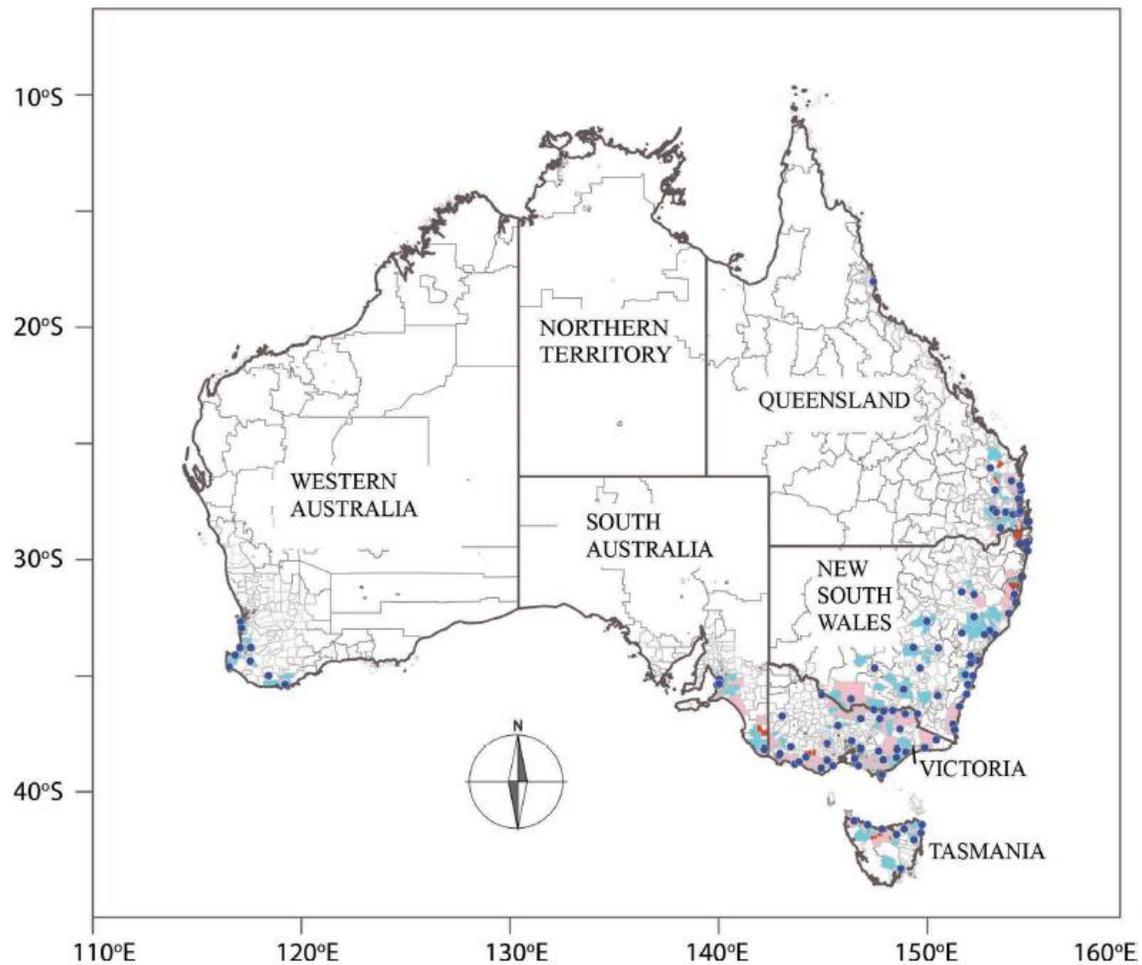
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# Heat tolerance ABV

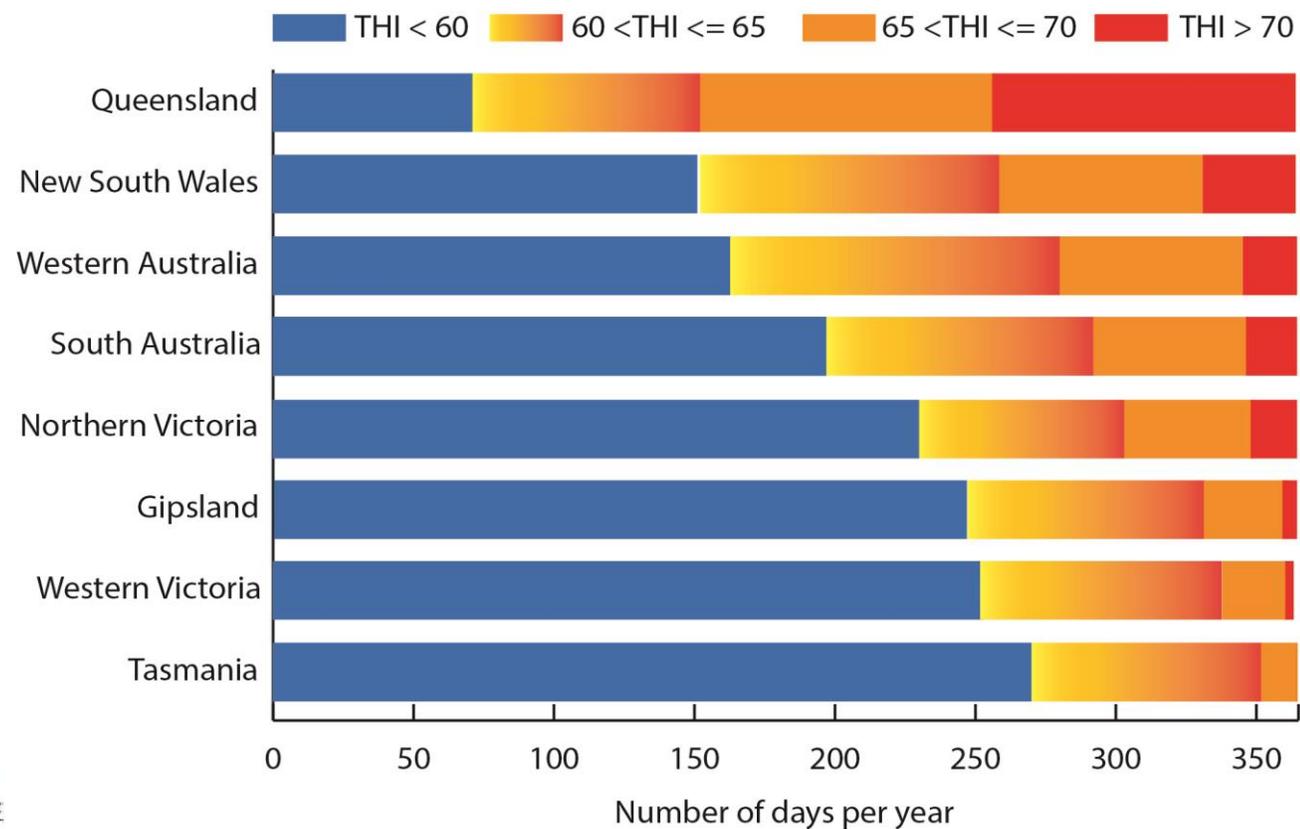


BULL	BPI	Heat Tol
0200HO11353 PROGENESIS DRACAENA	405	100
TLGMOHAWK COOMBOONA DUKE MOHAWK-IMP-ET	390	100
FORTNITE PEAK FORTNITE-ET	371	102
GGGOLDENGATE GOLDENGATE	370	100
14H07748 KINGS-RANSOM 1ST DEWARS-ET	364	107
250HO14048 BACON-HILL MOEMONEY 3320-ET	360	103
VDGCOMIC DOUBLE-EAGLE GRNTE COMIC-ET	358	101
CBCARO BOGHILL GLAMOUR CARO	357	101
GGIFEDBACK THI FEEDBACK	352	102





**Figure 1.** Locations of automatic weather stations and dairy herds for which climate and production data were used in the present study. Blue dots represent 105 weather stations. Pink, cyan, and red areas represent postcodes where both Holstein and Jersey herds, only Holstein herds, and only Jersey herds were located, respectively.



**J. Dairy Sci.** 99:2849–2862  
<http://dx.doi.org/10.3168/jds.2015-9685>  
 © American Dairy Science Association®, 2016.

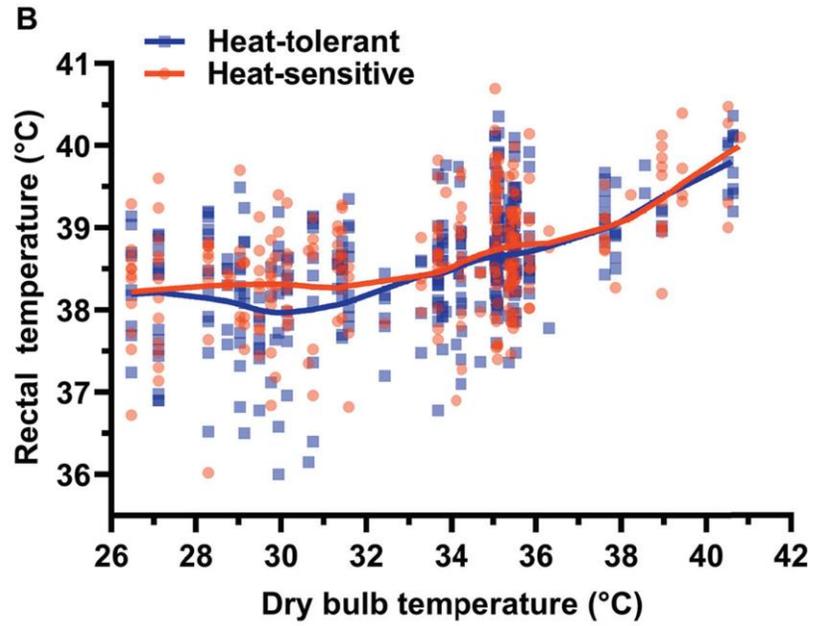
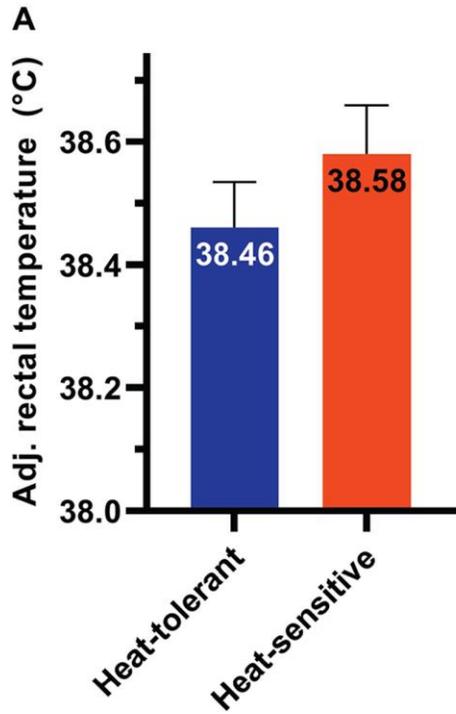
## Genomic selection for tolerance to heat stress in Australian dairy cattle

Thuy T. T. Nguyen,<sup>\*1</sup> Phil J. Bowman,<sup>\*</sup> Mekonnen Haile-Mariam,<sup>\*</sup> Jennie E. Pryce,<sup>\*†</sup> and Benjamin J. Hayes<sup>\*†</sup>

<sup>\*</sup>BioSciences Research Division, Department of Economic Developments, Jobs, Transport and Resources, and Dairy Futures Cooperative Research Centre, Agribio, 5 Ring Road, Bundoora, Victoria 3083, Australia

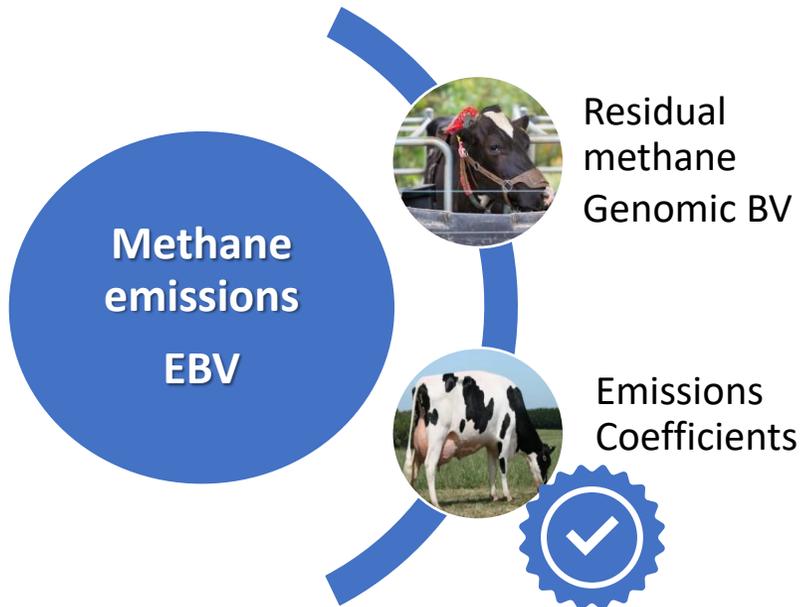
<sup>†</sup>La Trobe University, Bundoora, Victoria 3083, Australia





Heat tolerant cows keep cooler core body temperatures





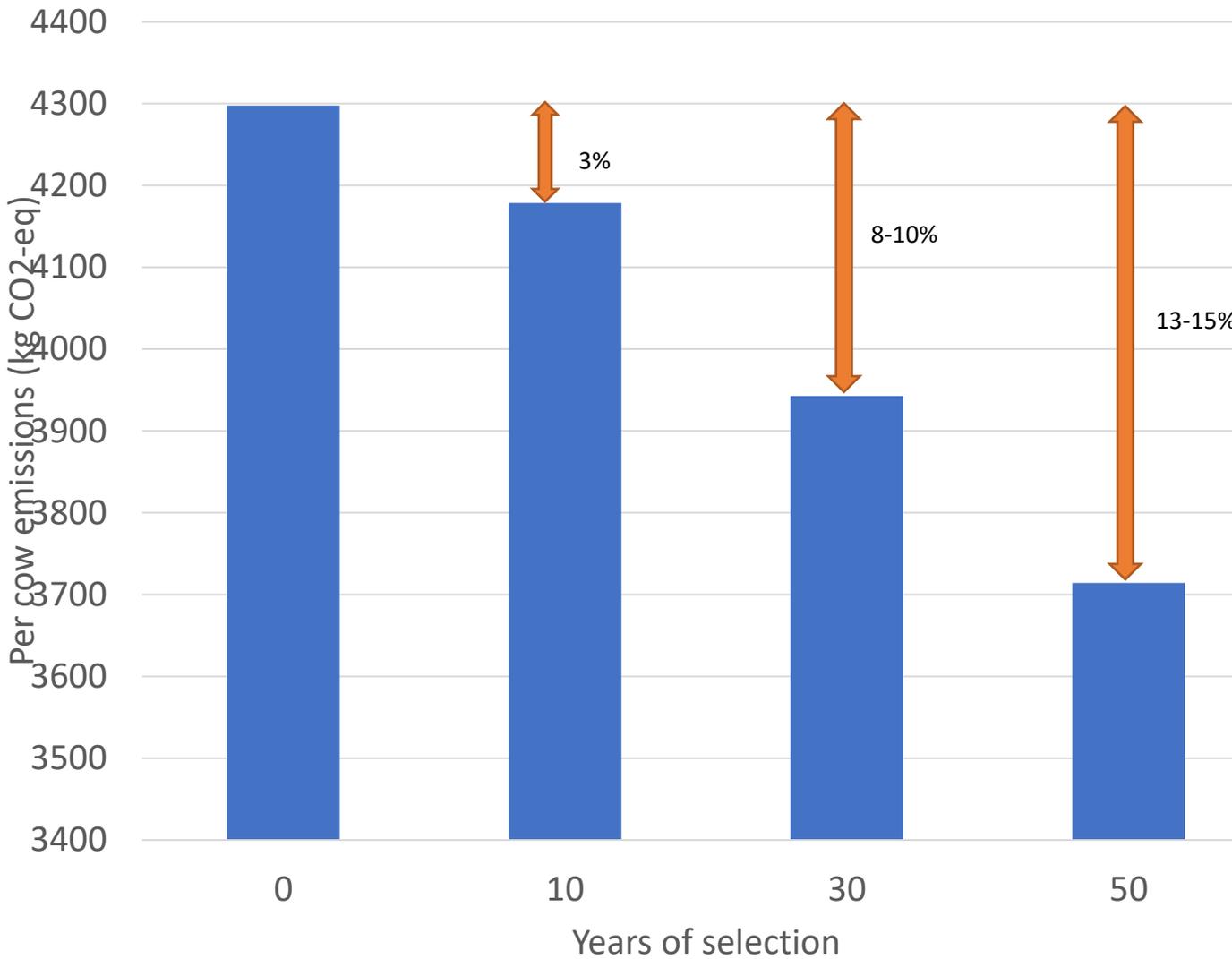
Milk + Welfare + Env't = Profit

A horizontal equation consisting of five blue circles. The first circle contains "Milk", followed by a plus sign, a second circle with "Welfare", another plus sign, a third circle with "Env't", an equals sign, and a final circle with "Profit".

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# Driving down emissions with genetics

- Current emissions intensity 12.7 kg CO<sub>2</sub>-eq/kg protein-eq
- By 2050:
  - Reduce gross emissions by 8-10%
  - Reduce emissions intensity by >20% (2.7 kg reduction of CO<sub>2</sub>-eq/kg protein)
- R&D required for 30-50 year targets



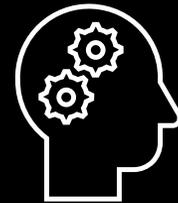
J. Dairy Sci. 105  
<https://doi.org/10.3168/jds.2021-21277>

© 2022, The Authors. Published by Elsevier Inc. and Fass Inc. on behalf of the American Dairy Science Association®. This is an open access article under the CC BY license (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>).

## Reducing greenhouse gas emissions through genetic selection in the Australian dairy industry

C. M. Richardson,<sup>1,2</sup> P. R. Amer,<sup>3</sup> C. Quinton,<sup>3</sup> J. Crowley,<sup>3</sup> F. S. Hely,<sup>3</sup> I. van den Berg,<sup>1</sup> and J. E. Pryce<sup>1,2\*</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Agriculture Victoria Research, AgriBio, Centre for AgriBioscience, Bundoora, Victoria 3083, Australia  
<sup>2</sup>School of Applied Systems Biology, La Trobe University, Bundoora, Victoria 3083, Australia  
<sup>3</sup>AbacusBio Limited, P.O. Box 5585, Dunedin, New Zealand



Consumer focus

HMOs give newborns multiple layers of protection



# SCIENTIFIC REPORTS

## OPEN Fine-mapping sequence mutations with a major effect on oligosaccharide content in bovine milk

Received: 23 July 2018  
Accepted: 20 December 2018  
Published online: 14 February 2019

Zhiqian Liu<sup>1</sup>, Tingting Wang<sup>1</sup>, Jennie E. Pryce<sup>1,2</sup>, Iona M. MacLeod<sup>1</sup>, Ben J. Hayes<sup>1,3</sup>, Amanda J. Chamberlain<sup>1,3</sup>, Christy Vander Jagt<sup>1</sup>, Coralie M. Reich<sup>1</sup>, Brett A. Mason<sup>1</sup>, Simone Rochfort<sup>1,2</sup> & Benjamin G. Cocks<sup>1,2</sup>

Human milk contains abundant oligosaccharides (OS) which are believed to have strong health benefits for neonates. OS are a minor component of bovine milk and little is known about how the production of OS is regulated in the bovine mammary gland. We have measured the abundance of 12 major OS in milk of 360 cows, which had high density SNP marker genotypes. Most of the OS were found to be highly heritable ( $h^2$  between 50 and 84%). A genome-wide association study allowed us to fine-map several QTL and identify candidate genes with major effects on five OS. Among them, a putative causal

www.nature.com/scientificreports



# Oligosaccharides in cow's milk

- 330 Holstein cows
- 10 oligosaccharides
- Sequence genotypes

~80% of genetic variance

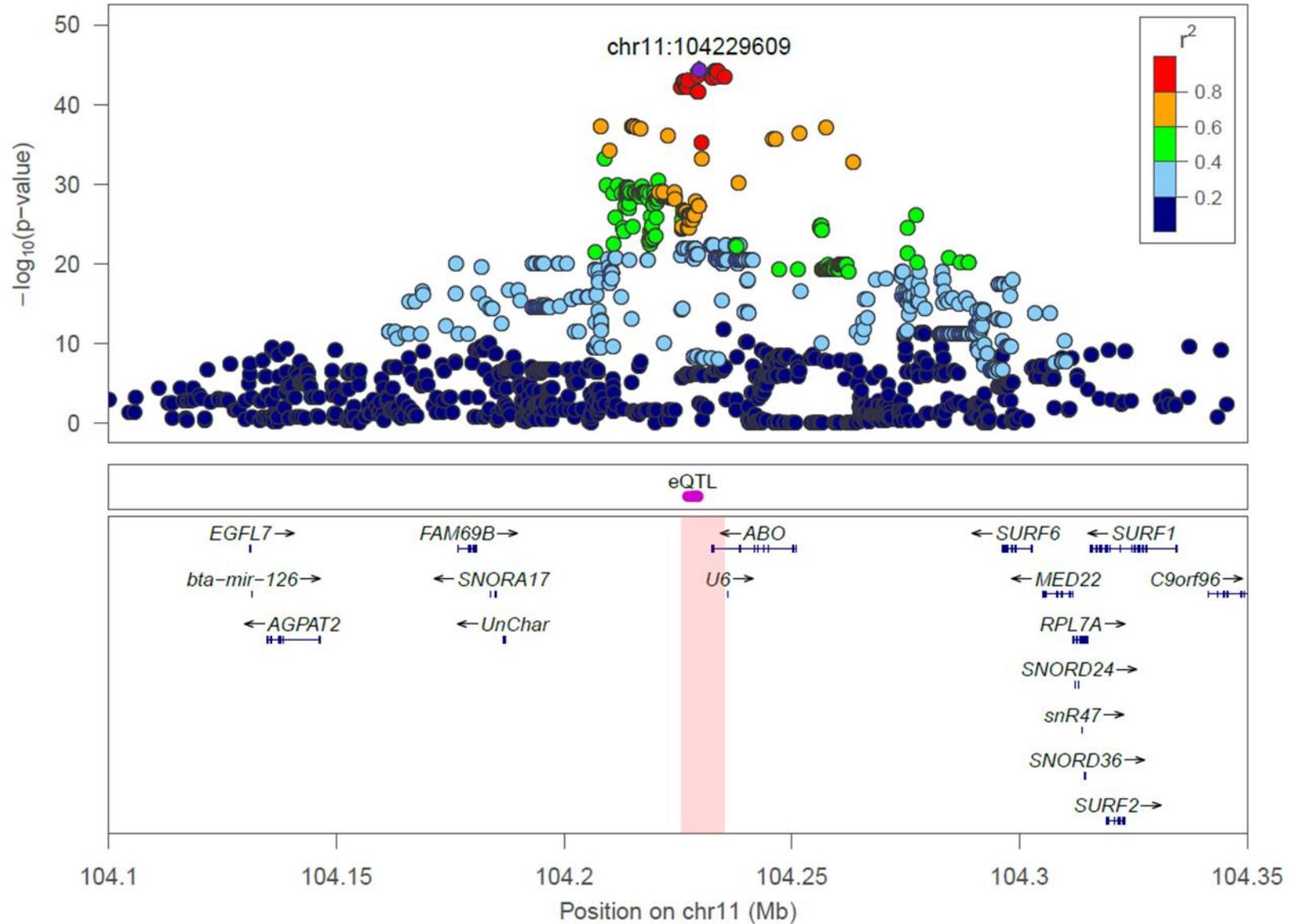


MENU SCIENTIFIC

Article | Open Access | Pu

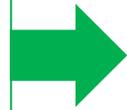
**Fine-mapping major effect QTL for oligosaccharides in bovine milk**

Zhiqian Liu, Tingting Wang, J. Chamberlain, Christy VanRochfort & Benjamin G. ...



### Reference Genotypes

Importation  
Amputation  
Imputation, etc



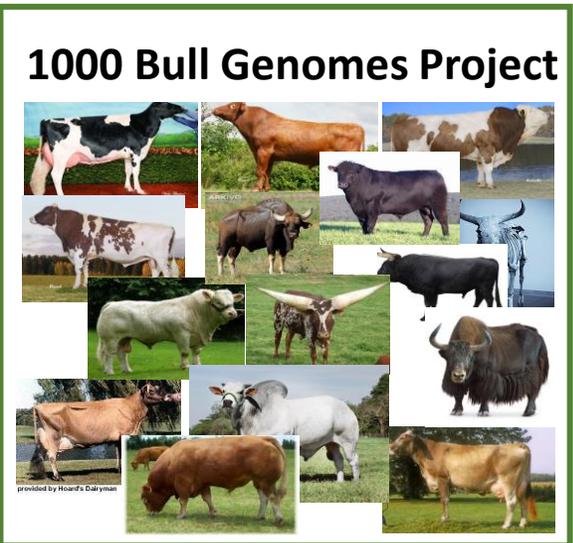
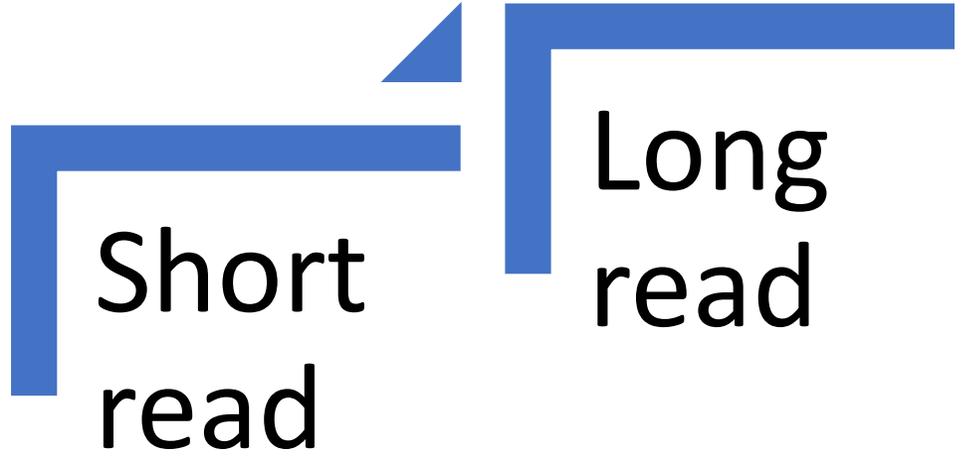
### Target Genotypes

i\_p\_t\_t\_n  
etc



### Imputed Genotypes

imputation



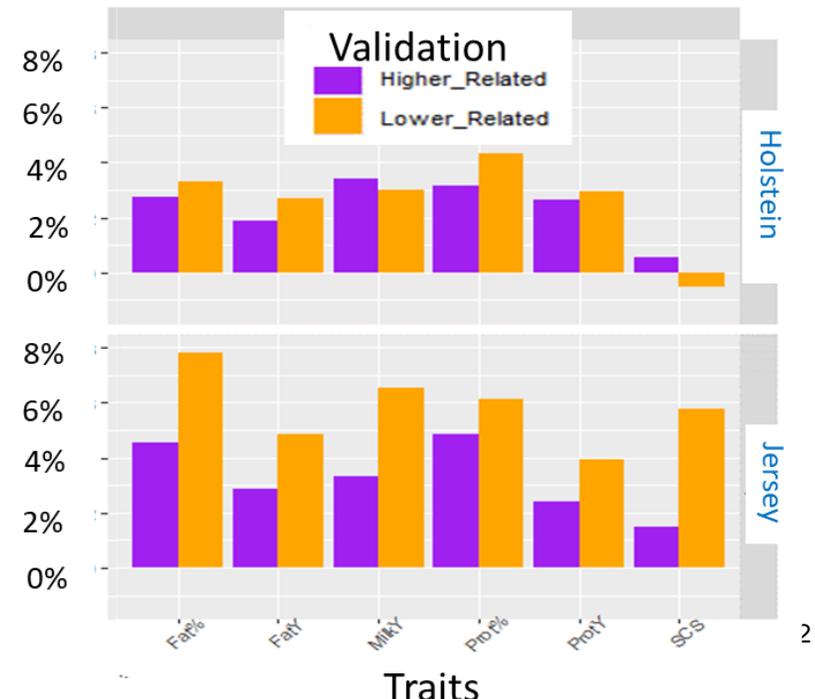
Short-read = "1000 Bull Genomes Project" (6,190)

OPEN ACCESS Freely available online **PLOS GENETICS**

**A 660-Kb Deletion with Antagonistic Effects on Fertility and Milk Production Segregates at High Frequency in Nordic Red Cattle: Additional Evidence for the Common Occurrence of Balancing Selection in Livestock**

Naveen Kumar Kadri<sup>1</sup>, Goutam Sahana<sup>1\*</sup>, Carole Charlier<sup>2</sup>, Terhi Iso-Touru<sup>3</sup>, Bernt Guldbrandsen<sup>1</sup>, Latifa Karim<sup>2</sup>, Ulrik Sander Nielsen<sup>4</sup>, Frank Panitz<sup>5</sup>, Gert Pedersen Aamand<sup>6</sup>, Nina Schulman<sup>3</sup>, Michel Georges<sup>2</sup>, Johanna Vilkki<sup>3</sup>, Mogens Sandø Lund<sup>1</sup>, Tom Druet<sup>2\*</sup>

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## Genetic variants associated with two major bovine milk fatty acids offer opportunities to breed for altered milk fat composition

Tim Martin Knutsen  Hanne Gro Olsen Isaya Appelesy Ketto Kristil Kindem Sundsaasen Achim Kohler Valeria Tafintseva Morten Svendsen Matthew Peter Kent & Sigbjørn Lien

*Genetics Selection Evolution* 54, Article number: 35 (2022) | [Cite this article](#)

1712 Accesses | [Metrics](#)

1 **Running head: Genomic regions affecting trait correlations**

2 **Dissecting the genomic regions that underpin the genetic correlations between**  
3 **production, fertility, and urea traits in dairy cattle**

4 Babatunde S. Olasege<sup>1,2</sup>, Irene van den Berg<sup>3</sup>, Mekonnen Haile-Mariam<sup>3,5</sup>, Phuong Ho<sup>3</sup>, Zhen

5 Yin Oh<sup>1</sup>, Laercio R. Porto-Neto<sup>2</sup>, Ben J. Hayes<sup>4</sup>, Jennie E. Pryce<sup>3,5</sup>, Marina R. S. Fortes<sup>1,4\*</sup>

6 <sup>1</sup>The University of Queensland, School of Chemistry and Molecular Biosciences, Saint Lucia Campus, Brisbane,  
7 QLD, 4072, Australia

8 <sup>2</sup>CSIRO Agriculture and Food, Saint Lucia, QLD, 4067, Australia

9 <sup>3</sup>Agriculture Victoria, [AgriBio](#), Centre for [AgriBioscience](#), 5 Ring Road, Bundoora, Vic. 3083, Australia

10 <sup>4</sup>The University of Queensland, Queensland Alliance for Agriculture and Food Innovation (QAAFI), Saint Lucia  
11 Campus, Brisbane, QLD, 4072, Australia

12 <sup>5</sup>School of Applied Systems Biology, La Trobe University, 5 Ring Road, Bundoora, Vic. 3083, Australia

13 \*Corresponding author: [m.fortes@uq.edu.au](mailto:m.fortes@uq.edu.au)

## Fine mapping QTL associated with fertility in dairy cattle using gene expression

I. Van Den Berg<sup>1</sup>, A.J. Chamberlain<sup>1,2</sup>, L.M. MacLeod<sup>1</sup>, T.V. Nguyen<sup>1</sup>, M.E. Goddard<sup>1,3</sup>, R. Xiang<sup>1,3</sup>, B. Mason<sup>1</sup>, S. Meier<sup>4</sup>, C. Phym<sup>4</sup>, C. Burke<sup>4</sup>, J.E. Pryce<sup>1,2</sup>  
<sup>1</sup>Agriculture Victoria, 5 Ring Road, 3082 Bundoora, Australia, <sup>2</sup>School of Applied Systems Biology, La Trobe University, 3082 Bundoora, Australia, <sup>3</sup>Faculty of Veterinary and Agricultural Science, University of Melbourne, 3010 Parkville, Australia, <sup>4</sup>DairyNZ Limited, 605 Ruakura Rd, 3240 Hamilton, New Zealand; [irene.vandenbergh@agriculture.vic.gov.au](mailto:irene.vandenbergh@agriculture.vic.gov.au)

Bolormaa et al. *Genetics Selection Evolution* (2022) 54:60  
<https://doi.org/10.1186/s12711-022-00749-z>



## Sharing of either phenotypes or genetic variants can increase the accuracy of genomic prediction of feed efficiency

Sunduimijid Bolormaa<sup>1\*</sup>, Iona M. MacLeod<sup>1</sup>, Majid Khansafid<sup>1</sup>, Leah C. Maret<sup>2,3</sup>, William J. Wales<sup>2,3</sup>, Filippo Miglior<sup>4,5</sup>, Christine F. Baes<sup>6,6</sup>, Flavio S. Schenke<sup>7</sup>, Erin E. Connor<sup>7,8</sup>, Coralia I. V. Manzanilla-Pech<sup>9</sup>, Paul Stothard<sup>10</sup>, Emily Herman<sup>10</sup>, Gert J. Nieuwhof<sup>11</sup>, Michael E. Goddard<sup>11,12</sup> and Jennie E. Pryce<sup>11,13</sup>

# Using “gene level” knowledge

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Measure

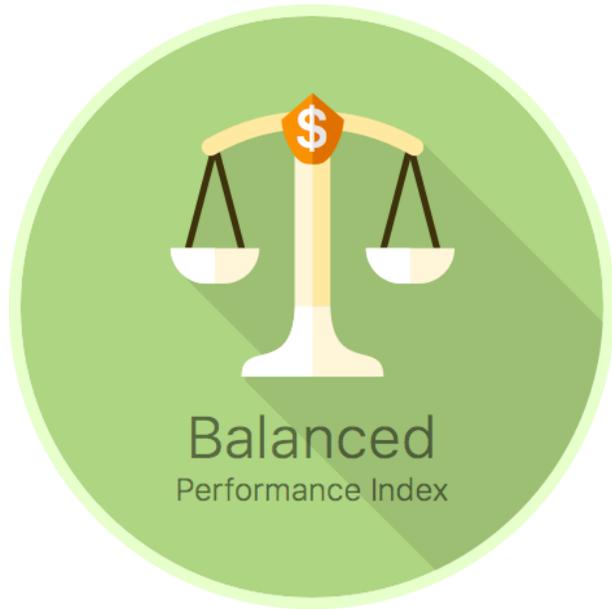


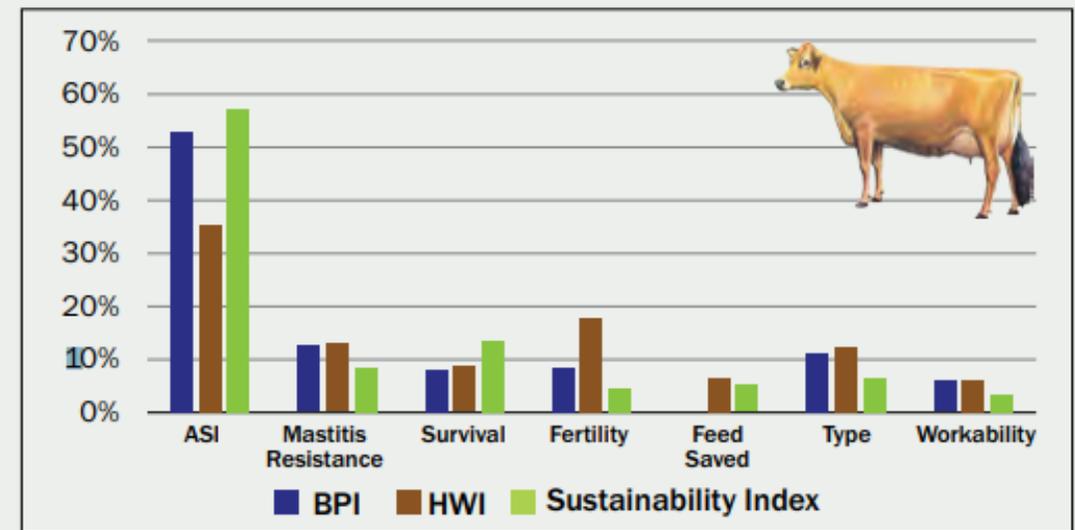
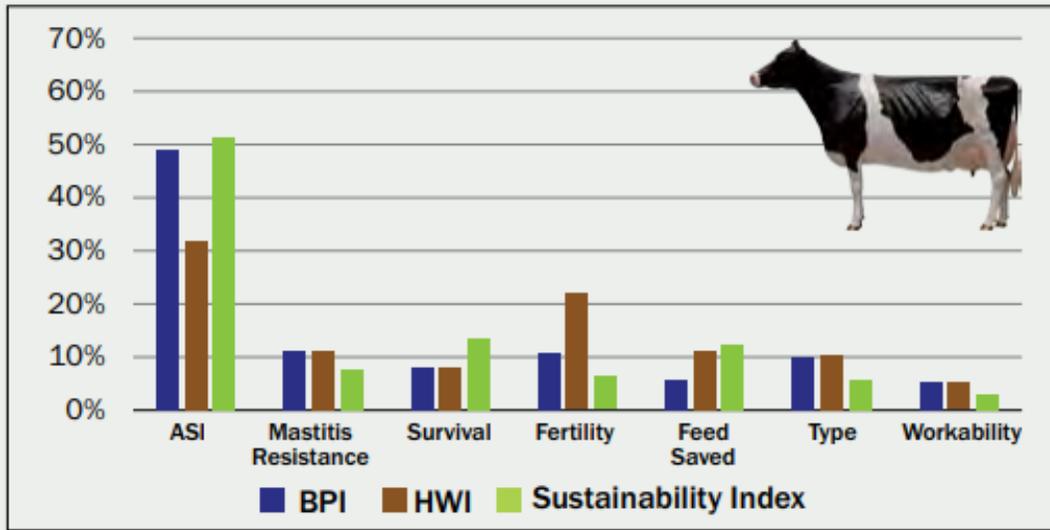
Predict



Act

# Australia's breeding indices

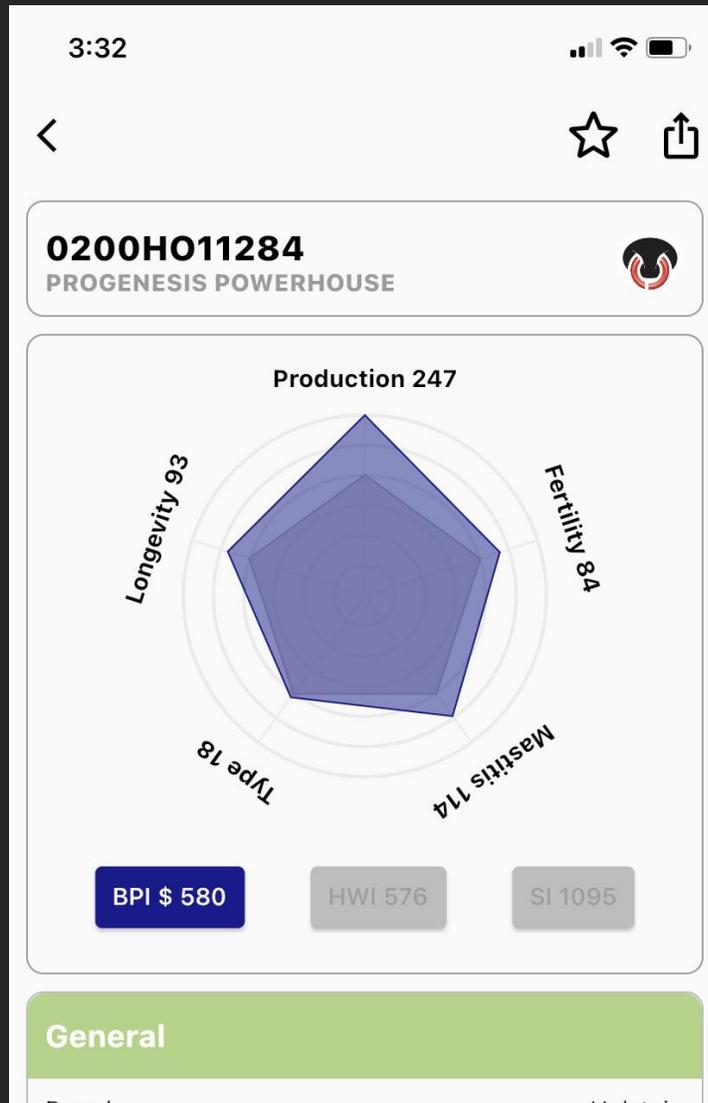




<b>Balanced Performance Index (BPI)</b>  \$	<b>Health Weighted Index (HWI)</b>  Index units	<b>Sustainability Index (SI)</b>  Index units
<b>Eg. BPI of 300</b> On average this animal returns \$300/year more income over feed/herd costs. The average is 0.	<b>Eg. HWI of 280</b> This animal is 280 units greater for the desired objective than average. The Average is 0.	<b>Eg. Sustainability Index of 250</b> This animal is 250 units more efficient for emissions intensity than average. The average is 0.



# A selection index simplifies selection



# Your breeding strategy

- Use the Good Bulls to pick your bulls
- Start with an Australian index
- Make secondary decisions if you wish:
  - What traits are important to you?
  - What traits are important to your customers?
- What traits do we need to breed for the future?



**To answer, please scan the QR code on the screen or on your table**

# Future breeding focus

- **Importance** - agriculture around 4% of global GDP
- **Sustainability** –demand for quality food
- **Animal products** - societal issues (environment, welfare)
- **Global warming** – pro-active and re-active



# Thank you and any questions?



**Agriculture Victoria staff (Ellinbank)**



**Agriculture Victoria staff (Agribio)**



## Ginfo farmers



"Ginfo is a great tool for the entire dairy industry by providing the latest genetic information and adding to genetic reliability. At an individual farm level, Ginfo means you have genetic accuracy because of genomic testing, and the ability to make informed selection decisions because of the access to early genomics on young heifers. There are a lot of really good farmers are involved in the Ginfo project so it also gives participants access a great network of progressive farmers."  
- Sam McCluggage Allansford, Victoria, milking 700 Holsteins.



"My herd is now a better, stronger and a lot more consistent herd today than it would have been were it not for the Ginfo project and the sum of these gains across all herds strengthens our whole industry.... Contributing my data to help validate the science and technology was not any inconvenience as we were already had good systems of recordkeeping of herd events and were herd testing monthly. Ginfo is about speeding up herd improvement and this has been a win-win; I would thoroughly recommend it."  
- Ruth McGregor, Busselton, WA, milking 320 Holsteins.



"Ginfo has benefits for the broader dairy industry as well as the individual farm so I can't understand why more people aren't involved. The more information you have, the better armed you are to make the right decisions. Ginfo helps us identify which heifers to keep and rear and which ones to sell and then join the best cows to better bulls."  
- Bev Carpenter, South Riana, milking more than 900 Holsteins across two herds.



"Anthea and I believe in the importance of an Australian Herd Improvement Industry and that genetic growth creates profit, so it is easy to be involved with something as important as Ginfo. One of the big advantages for us comes in the form of subsidized genome testing of our young stock. We genome test all our calves and use this information to help build our business strategy."  
- Trevor Saunders and Anthea Day, Shady Creek, Gippsland, milking 750 predominantly Jersey.