



Verona, 2026-06-01

European Bovine Evaluation – building joint genetic evaluations across Europe

Interbull Annual Meeting 2026

*Johannes Heise, Zengting Liu, Reinhard Reents, Jens Baltissen, Anders Levring,
Haifa Splittorff, Laurent Schibler & Jean-Yves Dréau*

EBE – European Bovine Evaluation FMBA

Agro Food Park 12, 8200 Aarhus N, Denmark
CVR No 45902366

EBE – main aims

- 1) make EBVs of all animals directly comparable across participating countries
 - for individual traits

 - 2) increase reliabilities of breeding values

 - 3) make use of synergies
 - joint knowhow
 - cost reduction for routine genetic evaluations & new developments
- Develop and run joint single-step SNP-BLUP evaluations for all partners

AREA 1
Eliance
France, Belgium
(Wallonia)



AREA 2
DFS
Denmark, Sweden,
Finland, Norway



AREA 3
VIT
Germany, Austria
Luxembourg



EBE – PARTNERS AND COUNTRIES

Mission 2028 and beyond

- implement joint routine single-step SNP-BLUP evaluations
 - Holsteins
 - traits
 - Interbull traits (production, longevity, calving, fertility, conformation, workability, udder health)
 - additional health traits (claws, metabolism, reproduction)
 - young stock survival
 - main evaluations + weekly evaluations
- develop all systems such that they scale easily
 - to other traits
 - to other breeds
- after 2028:
 - add further traits
 - add further breeds

Where are we?

■ general setup

- EBE founded in July 2025 ✓
- EBE IT infrastructure set up & working smoothly ✓
- Skilled and experienced EBE Team in acceleration phase of development ✓
- Preparation of establishment of committees ⇐
 - EBE Technical Committee
 - EBE Breed Committees

■ tasks

- data call & first data received ✓
- concept & performance of central data processing system proven ✓
 - with full-size, real data sets
- scale central data processing system to all trait groups ⇐
- run variance components estimations ⇐
- run genetic evaluations ⇐

} continuous & iterative
development & optimisation

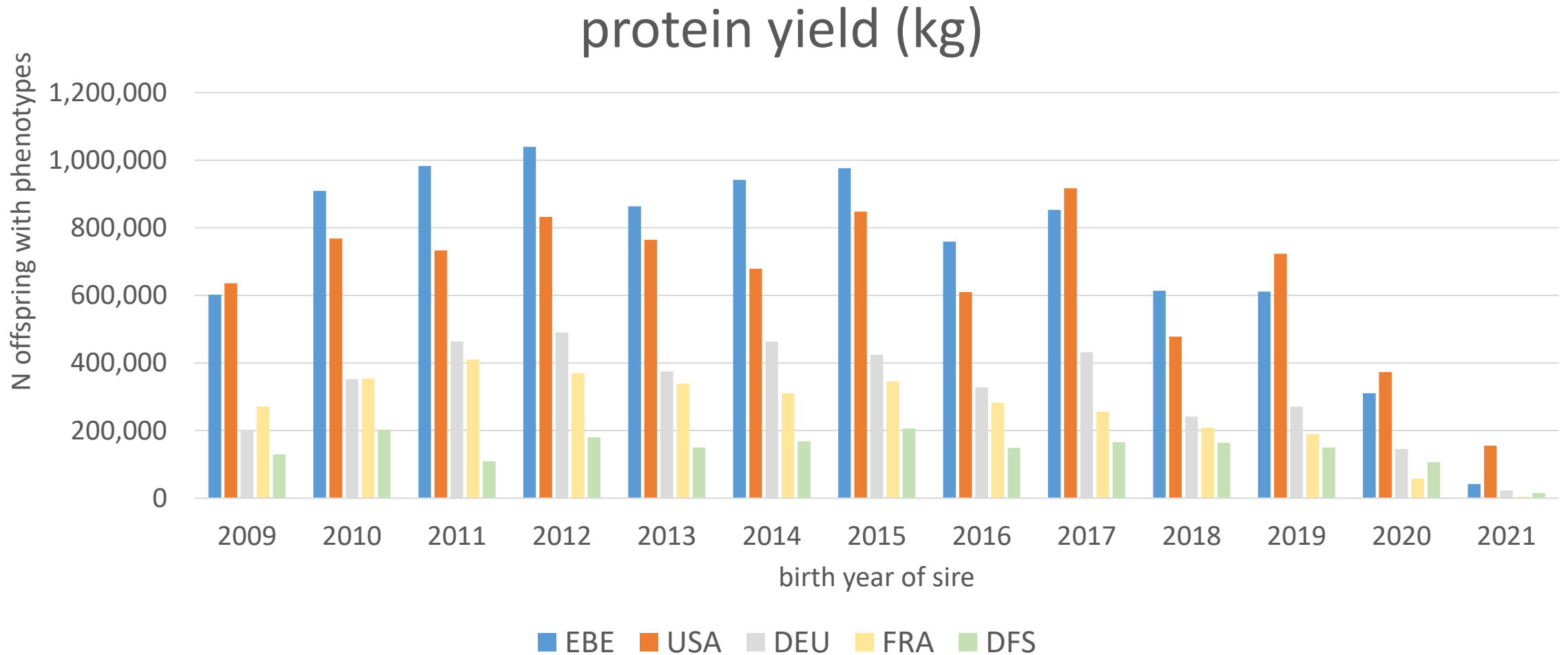
EBE perspectives

Frequently asked:

- How big will the population under genetic evaluation be in EBE?
- How will that compare to North America?

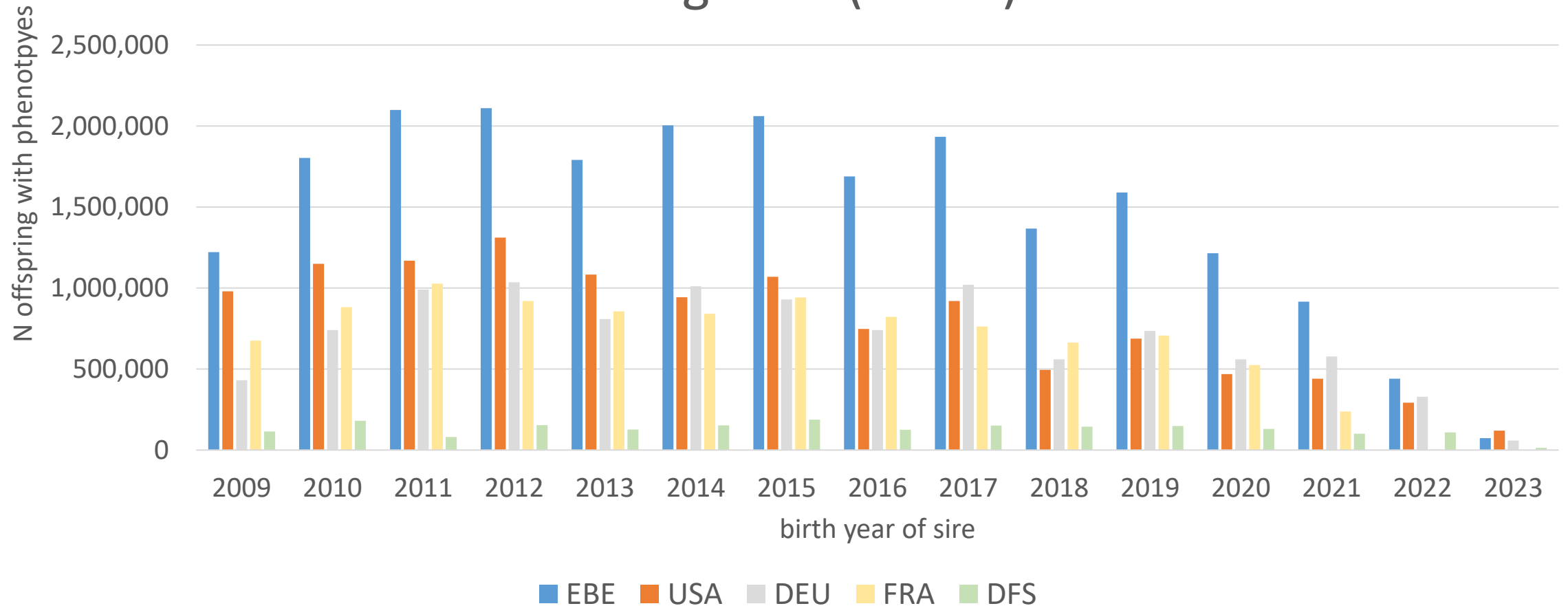
- based on Interbull information
 - as of April 2026
 - **by birth year of sire**
 - **number of offspring with phenotypes reported** by the different countries
 - as a proxy for the size of the populations under genetic evaluation
 - Holstein breed group only
 - USA
 - EBE: DEU + DFS + FRA (incl. BEL)
 - numbers differ by trait group

EBE perspectives



EBE perspectives

calving ease (direct)



Summary & conclusion

- N of offspring in genetic evaluations (Holsteins)
 - calculation might differ somewhat between countries and traits
 - based on reported figures, EBE will represent the largest population world-wide for genetic evaluation
- of course: size matters, but not alone
- quality as well

A bit further in the future

This will only be the beginning, because:

- we are open to win further partners in the future,
- we will add further breeds, and
- we will add further traits

Thank You!

- with EBE, we aim to set the **European Standard** for genetic evaluations of cattle
 - and we might even exceed that