

INTRODUCTION

The latest genomic test international evaluation for females fertility traits took place as scheduled at the Interbull Centre. Data from 20 countries were included in this evaluation.

International genetic evaluations for fertility traits of bulls were computed from:
 AUS BEL CAN CHE CZE DEU DFS ESP FRA GBR IRL ISR ITA NLD NZL POL USA ZAF URY JPN
 Holstein data were included in this evaluation.

CAN, DEU, FRA, DFS, GBR, ITA, NLD, POL submitted GEBVs.

cc1: CAN, DEU, , FRA, DFS, GBR, ITA, NLD, POL
 cc2: CAN, DEU, ESP, , DFS, GBR, ITA, NLD, POL
 crc: CAN, DEU, ESP, FRA, DFS, GBR, ITA, NLD, POL
 hco: CAN, DEU, , FRA, DFS, , ITA, NLD, POL
 int: CAN, DEU, ESP, , DFS, GBR, ITA, NLD, POL

Based on a decision made by Interbull Steering committee in August 2007, female fertility traits are classified as follows:

- T1 (HC): Maiden (H)eifer's ability to (C)onceive. A measure of confirmed conception, such as conception rate (CR), will be considered for this trait group. In the absence of confirmed conception an alternative measure, such as interval first-last insemination (FL), interval first insemination-conception (FC), number of inseminations (NI), or non-return rate (NR, preferably NR56) can be submitted;
- T2 (CR): Lactating (C)ow's ability to (R)ecycle after calving. The interval calving-first insemination (CF) is an example for this ability. In the absence of such a trait, a measure of the interval calving-conception, such as says oprn (DO) or calving interval (CI) can be submitted;
- T3 (C1): Lactating (C)ow's ability to conceive (1), expressed as a rate trait. Traits like conception rate (CR) and non-return rate (NR, preferably NR56) will be considered for this trait group;
- T4 (C2): Lactating (C)ow's ability to conceive (2), expressed as an interval trait. The interval first insemination-conception (FC) or interval first-last insemination (FL) will be considered for this trait group. As an alternative, number of inseminations (NI) can be submitted. In the absence of any of these traits, a measure of interval calving-conception such as days open (DO), or calving interval (CI) can be submitted. All countries are expected to submit data for this trait group, and as a last resort the trait submitted under T3 can be submitted for T4 as well.
- T5 (IT): Lactating cow's measurements of (I)nterval (T)raits calving-conception, such as days open (DO) and calving interval (CI).

Based on the above trait definitions the following traits have been submitted for international genetic evaluation of female fertility traits.

Country	Traits	Submitted traits and their definitions
AUS	T2=CY T4=C2 T5=IT	Calving interval converted to 42 days pregnancy rate Calving interval converted to 42 days pregnancy rate Calving interval converted to 42 days pregnancy rate
BEL	T2=CY T4=C2 T5=IT	PR=Pregnancy Rate ($=\frac{21}{(DO-45+11)} \times 100$, with DO=days open) PR=Pregnancy Rate ($=\frac{21}{(DO-45+11)} \times 100$, with DO=days open) PR=Pregnancy Rate ($=\frac{21}{(DO-45+11)} \times 100$, with DO=days open)
CAN	T1=HC T2=CY T3=C1 T4=C2 T5=IT	NR=Non Return Rate after 56 Days in heifers (NRR), % CF=Interval from Calving to First Service in cows (CF) NR=Non Return Rate after 56 Days in cows (NRR), % FC=Interval first insemination-conception in cows DO=Days open

CHE	T1=HC	CR=Heifers' Conception rate
	T2=CR	CF=Interval from Calving to First Service (ICF), days
	T3=C1	NR=Non Return Rate after 56 Days (NRR), %
	T4=C2	NR=Non Return Rate after 56 Days (NRR), %
CZE	T1=HC	CR=Heifers' Conception rate (pregnant or not after 3 months)
	T3=C1	CR=Cows' Conception rate (pregnant or not after 3 months)
	T4=C2	CR=Cows' Conception rate (pregnant or not after 3 months)
AUT/DEU	T1=HC	NR=Heifers' Non Return Rate after 56 days
	T2=CY	CF=Interval from calving to first insemination cows (days)
	T3=C1	NR=Cows' Non Return Rate after 56 days
	T4=C2	FL=Interval from first to last insemination cows (days)
	T5=IT	DO=Days open (days)
DFS	T1=HC	NR=Heifers' Non Return Rate after 56 days
	T2=CY	CF=Interval from calving to first insemination cows (days)
	T3=C1	NR=Cows' Non Return Rate after 56 days
	T4=C2	FL=Interval from first to last insemination cows (days)
	T5=IT	DO=Days open (days)
ESP	T2=CY	DO=Days open
	T4=C2	DO=Days open
	T5=IT	DO=Days open
FRA	T1=HC	CR=Heifers' Conception rate (binary trait) for maiden heifers
	T2=CY	Interval between calving and first AI
	T3=C1	CR=Cows' Conception rate (binary trait) for cows
	T4=C2	FL=Interval from first to last insemination cows (days)
GBR	T2=CY	CI=days between 1st and 2nd calvings
	T3=C1	NR=1st lactation non return at 56 days
	T4=C2	CI=days between 1st and 2nd calvings
	T5=IT	CI=days between 1st and 2nd calvings
IRL	T2=CY	CI=Calving interval
	T4=C2	CI=Calving interval
	T5=IT	CI=Calving interval
ISR	T3=C1	CR=Inverse of the number of insemination to conception (%)
	T4=C2	CR=Inverse of the number of insemination to conception (%)
ITA	T1=HC	NR= non-return rate 56 days (heifers)
	T2=CY	CF=Days to first service
	T3=C1	NR=Non-return rate at 56 days (%)
	T4=C2	FL=Interval from first to last insemination cows (days)
	T5=IT	DO=days open (days)
ITA(BSW)	T2=CY	CF=Interval calving to first insemination
	T4=C2	Days Open
	T5=IT	CI=Calving interval
NLD	T1=HC	CR=Heifers' Conception rate
	T2=CY	CF=Interval calving to first insemination (days)
	T3=C1	CR=Cows' Conception rate (binary trait) for cows
	T4=C2	FL=Interval from first to last insemination cows (days)
	T5=IT	CI=Calving Interval (days)
NOR	T1=HC	NR=NR=Non-return rate 56 days (heifers)
	T2=CY	CF=Interval calving to first insemination (days)
	T3=C1	NR=NR=Non-return rate 56 days (cows)
	T4=C2	CI=Calving Interval (days)
	T5=IT	CI=Calving Interval (days)
NZL	T2=CY	PM=Lactating cow's ability to start cycling
	T4=C2	PC=Lactating cow's ability to conceive (CR42)
	T5=IT	PC=Lactating cow's ability to conceive (CR42)
POL	T1=HC	CR=Conception rate for heifers

T2=CR Interval from calving to first insemination
T3=C1 CR=Conception rate for cows
T4=IT Days open
T5=IT Days open

USA T1=HC CR=Conception rate (heifer)
T2=CY CF=Interval from calving to first insemination
T3=C1 CR=Conception rate (cow)
T4=C2 DP=Daughter Pregnancy Rate
T5=IT DP=Daughter Pregnancy Rate

ZAF T4=IT CI=Calving Interval
T5=IT CI=Calving Interval

JPN T1=HC CR=Heifers' Conception rate
T2=CY DO=Days open
T3=C1 CR=Cows' Conception rate
T4=C2 DO=Days open
T5=IT DO=Days open

CHANGES IN NATIONAL PROCEDURES

Changes in the national genetic evaluation of fertility traits are as follows:

CAN (HOL) Base change
Decrease in reliability for CRC due to the decreased reference population for CAN as USA no longer participates in MACE for CRC since 2412r evaluation
ITA (HOL) Base change
Decrease in reliability due to the change of EDC for some bulls and if the bulls included or not in the reference population
NLD (HOL) Base change
FRA (HOL) Base change
Bulls changed from official to unofficial due to correction in some genotypes because of incompatible parentage check
Some bulls missing pedigree due to the pedigree update
Change in type of proof of hco
DEU (HOL) Base change
Submitted GEBVs using single-step methodology
POL (HOL) Change in status of bulls due to having more daughters and assigned new code
Decrease in reliability due to the change in MACE integration to the genomic evaluation
BEL (HOL) Participating with MACE data due to very old data and no more qualifying young bulls

INTERBULL CHANGES COMPARED TO THE DECEMBER ROUTINE RUN

No changes in Interbull procedures

DATA AND METHOD OF ANALYSIS

Thirteen Holstein populations sent GEBV data for up to 38 traits, while classical EBVs for the same traits were used in the analyses. Young bull GEBVs from the GEBV providers have been converted to the scales of all countries participating in classical MACE. A bull will get a MACE EBV or a GMACE EBV but not both.
From those thirteen countries, National GEBVs of bulls less than seven years of age and with no classical MACE proofs were included for the breeding value prediction with a further requirement of either a MACE-PA or a GMACE-PA (for young genomic bulls with young genomic sires) being available.

The parameter-space approach is used for the GMACE genetic evaluations (Sullivan, 2016)

SCIENTIFIC LITERATURE

The international genetic evaluation procedure is based on international work described in the following scientific publications:

Sullivan, P.G. 2016. Defining a Parameter Space for GMACE. Interbull Bulletin 50, p 85-93.

VanRaden, P.M. and Sullivan, P.G. 2010. International genomic evaluation methods for dairy cattle. Gen. Sel. Evol. 42:7

Sullivan, P.G. and Jakobsen, J.H. 2012. Robust GMACE for young bulls methodology. Interbull Bulletin 45, Article 1.

Sullivan, P.G. 2012a. GMACE reliability approximation. Report to the GMACE working group of Interbull. GMACE_rels 2013

Sullivan, P.G. 2012b. GMACE variance estimation. Report to the GMACE working group of Interbull. GMACE_vce 2013

Sullivan, P.G. 2012c. GMACE Weighting Factors. Report to the GMACE working group of Interbull. GMACE_gedcs 2013

Jakobsen, J.H. and Sullivan, P.G. 2013. Trait specific computation of shared reference population. Reference sharing Nov 2013

 NEXT ROUTINE INTERNATIONAL EVALUATION

Dates for next routine run can be found on <http://www.interbull.org/ib/servicecalendar>

 NEXT TEST INTERNATIONAL EVALUATION

Dates for next test run can be found on <http://www.interbull.org/ib/servicecalendar>

 PUBLICATION OF INTERBULL ROUTINE RUN

Results were distributed by the Interbull Centre to designated representatives in each country. The international evaluation file comprised international proofs expressed on the base and unit of each country included in the analysis. Such records readily provide more information on bull performance in various countries, thereby minimising the need to resort to conversions.

At the same time, all recipients of Interbull results are expected to honour the agreed code of practice, decided by the Interbull Steering Committee, and only publish international evaluations on their own country scale. Evaluations expressed on another country scale are confidential and may only be used internally for research and review purposes.

Table 1. National evaluation dates in GMACE run April 2025

Country	Date
CAN	20250401
DEU	20250401
DFS	20250204
ESP	20250310
GBR	20250304
ITA	20250305
NLD	20250401
POL	20250303
FRA	20250402

Table 2.

Number of bulls in reference population for	hco
CAN 39433.0	
DEU 11884.0 45147.0	
DFS 6675.0 37572.0 38721.0	
FRA 5357.0 34688.0 34081.0 36263.0	
POL 4692.0 30933.0 30666.0 29427.0 32431.0	
NLD 3905.0 33735.0 33215.0 31932.0 28790.0 34667.0	

ITA 34317.0 11767.0 6525.0 4859.0 4202.0 3267.0 36226.0

Number of bulls in reference population for crc

CAN 24012.0
DEU 8665.0 44201.0
DFS 5920.0 39264.0 40288.0
ESP 23992.0 44193.0 40278.0 98763.0
GBR 21293.0 9681.0 6907.0 23888.0 23994.0
ITA 22111.0 8587.0 5829.0 23419.0 21671.0 23431.0
NLD 3783.0 35894.0 35466.0 37272.0 4173.0 3194.0 37277.0
POL 4499.0 33262.0 33063.0 34074.0 5107.0 4079.0 31131.0 34148.0
FRA 5248.0 36701.0 36130.0 38282.0 5789.0 4831.0 33959.0 31535.0 38289.0

Number of bulls in reference population for ccl

CAN 42183.0
DEU 12194.0 45647.0
DFS 6745.0 37758.0 38885.0
FRA 5473.0 34898.0 34233.0 36546.0
GBR 35757.0 13139.0 7631.0 5886.0 38194.0
ITA 36708.0 12079.0 6581.0 4962.0 36171.0 38166.0
NLD 3994.0 33938.0 33372.0 32106.0 4246.0 3348.0 34970.0
POL 4732.0 31163.0 30877.0 29650.0 5134.0 4233.0 29024.0 32490.0

Number of bulls in reference population for cc2

CAN 44813.0
DEU 12496.0 48306.0
DFS 6990.0 40299.0 41501.0
ESP 44797.0 48298.0 41490.0148447.0
GBR 37898.0 13494.0 7930.0 40768.0 40874.0
ITA 39014.0 12407.0 6839.0 40608.0 38373.0 40615.0
NLD 4205.0 36257.0 35741.0 38048.0 4525.0 3530.0 38054.0
POL 4965.0 33665.0 33426.0 34994.0 5419.0 4479.0 31409.0 35069.0

Number of bulls in reference population for int

CAN 42974.0
DEU 12355.0 48080.0
DFS 6931.0 40201.0 41390.0
ESP 42960.0 48072.0 41380.0144529.0
GBR 37777.0 13439.0 7907.0 40629.0 40735.0
ITA 37523.0 12282.0 6799.0 39074.0 38253.0 39081.0
NLD 4153.0 36191.0 35681.0 37953.0 4514.0 3514.0 37958.0
POL 4685.0 33567.0 33346.0 34327.0 5344.0 4223.0 31344.0 34403.0