

Introduction

The latest routine international evaluation for longevity trait took place as scheduled at the Interbull Centre. Data from twenty one (21) populations were included in this evaluation.

International genetic evaluations for direct longevity trait of bulls from Australia, Belgium, Canada, Switzerland, Germany, Denmark-Finland-Sweden Spain, France, The United Kingdom, Ireland, Israel, Italy, New Zealand, The Netherlands, The United States of America Hungary, Norway, Slovenia and Czech Republic were computed. Brown Swiss, Guernsey, Holstein, Jersey, Red Dairy Cattle and Simmental breed data were included in this evaluation.

Changes in national procedures

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

NOR (RDC) The rolling definition of hys (random) and herdX5yr (fixed) is causing the daughters to distribute somewhat differently over classes at each evaluation. Therefore some bulls occasionally may lose edc and reliability although number of daughters remain the same. Some cows disappear if they have been sold to a new herd since last evaluation. Usually there are less than five such cows per bull, but the number will be up to 20 for elite bulls with many recent daughters.

DEU (ALL) Performance data: phenotypic data from 2000 onwards. Pedigree: sire and maternal grandsire of animals having own performance must be known, Breed: breed of animal having own performance must be consistent with the breeds of parents

CHE (BSW) Ongoing correction of the data by the breeding organization together with the plausibility criterion applied with respect to herd size changes is causing some drops in information

CZE (HOL) New data since 2016 for HOL including a base change. No longer participating with SIM.

GBR (ALL) Noticeable updates in input data from our data providers, resulting in some bulls losing daughters and herd. In additional we have updated the way we build our pedigree as well resulting in some changes in the pedigree. Data providers have now correctly eliminated the eartag numbers of these cows, so that only the herd-book numbers are now included. Base change

NZL (ALL) Results based on brand new models which are based on the most recent version of LICâ s genetic evaluation software based on a multiple trait models. The new multiple traits have caused a general drop in reliability. It contains a number of enhancements which result in more accurate genetic evaluations and reduces the time taken to compute genetic evaluations. Implementation of Parent Average Adjustment (PAA), changes to the daughter count for all traits. When the single trait models are combined into a multi trait BV the single trait daughter count that was the greatest (which is always the 2 year old daughter count) was taken into account. The old routine for Fertility and longevity were based on having a record for that trait or a production record, this is now change so that it is a count of that particular trait.

NLD (ALL) Base change, now the cows born in 2015 are the base (it was 2010)

AUS (ALL) Pedigree corrections based on genotype information has caused drops in information. Changed the method for calculation of reliabilities

USA (ALL) Base change

SVN (ALL) Until now the EBV were limited to the interval(52, 148). We used to reduce all EBV greater than 147 to not exceed 148. We reduced all EBv smaller than 53 to be no less than 52. From now on, we no longer apply such restriction to EBVs.

POL (HOL) Base change

JPN (HOL) Small decrease in information due to additional records and modification of pedigree

BEL (HOL) Some change in type of proof due to changes in pedigree information and the fact that the program that determines the type of proof for bulls is based on pedigree information

ISR (HOL) Small decrease in information due to pedigree corrections.

ITA (HOL) Base change plus cut off of 1 year of data causing decreases in information.

DEA (BSW) Base change

POL (HOL) Decrease in information due to data edits

CHE (ALL) Base change, small drops in information due to manual editings. BSW: few bulls missing in this evaluation due to change in status of bulls.

CAN (ALL) Base change

FRA (ALL) Base change

INTERBULL CHANGES COMPARED TO THE PREVIOUS ROUTINE RUN

Subsetting:

As decided by the ITC in Orlando, new subsetting was introduced in the september test run. Sub-setting is necessary for operational purposes and restrictions of time scales. To minimize the effect of subsetting, larger subsets with 10-12 countries and with 4 link providing countries have been applied.

Window:

According to the decision taken by ITC in Orlando, the following changes have been introduced in regards to the windows used for post processing:

The upper bounds have been set to 0.99 as these were judged to have very little effect on evaluations. The lower values have been set to about the 25% percentile value. The largest changes are for the lower values for conformation traits, with the lowest window being 40% for OFL otherwise it is about 50% for all other confirmation traits. It is anticipated that these low values may not have large impact on evaluations since there were very few countries combinations whose estimated correlations fell between the old limit of 0.30 and these new limits.

The window so far applied for MAS evaluation have been found too high compared to the within-country genetic correlation between mastitis and SCS available from the literature. It has been an ITC recommendation to adjust the windows for MAS in this test run to make them more in line with the values available from the literature. The recommendation has been approved by the Steering committee. Also, according to the decision taken by ITC in Orlando (2015) to review all windows every five (5) years, an overall review of the windows for all traits will take place during the first half of 2020 with the aim of implementation set for the September 2020 test run.

DATA AND METHOD OF ANALYSIS

Data were national genetic evaluations of AI sampled bulls with at least 10 daughters or 10 EDC (for clinical mastitis and maternal calving traits at least 50 daughters or 50 EDC, and for direct calving traits at least 50 calvings or 50 EDC) in at least 10 herds. Table 1 presents the amount of data included in this Interbull evaluation for all breeds.

National proofs were first de-regressed within country and then analysed jointly with a linear model including the effects of evaluation country, genetic group of bull and bull merit. Heritability estimates used in both the de-regression and international evaluation were as in each country's national evaluation.

Table 2 presents the date of evaluation as supplied by each country

Estimated genetic parameters and sire standard deviations are shown in APPENDIX I and the corresponding number of common bulls are listed in APPENDIX II.

SCIENTIFIC LITERATURE

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

International genetic evaluation computation:
Schaeffer, 1994. J. Dairy Sci. 77:2671-2678
Klei, 1998. Interbull Bulletin 17:3-7

Verification and Genetic trend validation:
Klei et al., 2002. Interbull Bulletin 29:178-182.
Boichard et al., 1995. J. Dairy Sci. 78:431-437

Weighting factors:
Fikse and Banos, 2001. J. Dairy Sci. 84:1759-1767

De-regression:
Sigurdsson and G. Banos. 1995. Acta Agric. Scand. 45:207-219
Jairath et al. 1998. J. Dairy Sci. Vol. 81:550-562

Genetic parameter estimation:
Klei and Weigel, 1998, Interbull Bulletin 17:8-14
Sullivan, 1999. Interbull Bulletin 22:146-148

Post-processing of estimated genetic correlations:

Mark et al., 2003, Interbull Bulletin 30:126-135
Jorjani et al., 2003. J. Dairy Sci. 86:677-679
<https://wiki.interbull.org/public/rG%20procedure?action=print>

Time edits
Weigel and Banos. 1997. J. Dairy Sci. 80:3425-3430

International reliability estimation
Harris and Johnson. 1998. Interbull Bulletin 17:31-36

NEXT ROUTINE INTERNATIONAL EVALUATION

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

NEXT TEST INTERNATIONAL EVALUATION

Dates for the 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 minimizing the need to resort to conversions.

At the same time, all recipients of Interbull results are expected to honor 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.

PUBLICATION OF INTERBULL TEST RUN

Test evaluation results are meant for review purposes only and should not be published.

^LTable 1. National evaluation data considered in the Interbull evaluation for Longevity (April Routine Evaluation 2020).
Number of records for direct longevity by breed

Country	BSW	GUE	HOL	JER	RDC	SIM
AUS		137	7906	1729	714	
BEL			1653			
CAN	226	103	12320	737	853	
CHE	2990		3448			
CZE			4314			
DEA	6500					
DEU			22024		269	
DFS			13588	2511	9232	
ESP			3753			
EST						
FRA	401		16947			
FRM						4600
GBR	119	308	7736	803	550	80

NLD	35	86	127	0	22	69	116	73	33	45
NZL	22	19	26	14	0	29	27	22	17	13
USA	150	292	291	58	24	0	239	121	81	41
ITA	104	392	598	95	23	170	0	196	71	100
FRA	73	125	166	58	19	83	155	0	52	56
GBR	53	51	46	25	14	73	49	44	0	23
SVN	29	75	97	45	11	33	99	56	18	0

GUE

common bulls below diagonal
 common three quarter sib group above diagonal

	AUS	CAN	NZL	USA	GBR
AUS	0	46	26	61	36
CAN	46	0	13	68	29
NZL	26	11	0	28	15
USA	56	58	26	0	88
GBR	32	24	13	90	0

HOL

common bulls below diagonal
 common three quarter sib group above diagonal

	AUS	BEL	CAN	CHE	DEU	DFS	ESP	FRA	GBR	IRL	ISR	ITA	NLD	NZL	USA	HUN	CZE	SVN	ZAF	POL
AUS	0	649	1243	560	1465	1226	821	1174	1373	693	104	1109	1338	1093	1721	691	798	174	461	956
BEL	559	0	667	515	1001	773	586	792	834	470	79	732	1019	450	828	489	535	164	296	684
CAN	1184	628	0	818	2158	1323	1200	1335	1618	518	118	1562	1375	661	3127	979	999	193	469	1263
CHE	478	511	647	0	1075	688	522	609	735	384	62	688	847	369	962	427	436	138	258	627
DEU	1054	1011	1498	941	0	2493	1420	2199	2140	839	161	2432	3023	877	3278	1226	1591	304	535	2270
DFS	865	715	1075	595	1797	0	981	1572	1718	749	152	1586	2083	795	2033	908	1211	258	504	1574
ESP	577	561	697	417	894	718	0	1067	1088	489	108	1212	1030	505	1469	746	829	187	435	996
FRA	735	735	780	510	1043	752	720	0	1565	714	125	1629	1831	739	2384	924	1198	199	459	1540
GBR	1220	852	1826	696	1784	1409	920	973	0	1012	147	1655	1914	965	2320	934	1138	233	530	1461
IRL	595	463	461	383	733	617	470	544	1082	0	99	654	875	704	768	446	537	125	327	603
ISR	64	47	74	37	128	116	60	59	115	76	0	146	159	106	187	118	124	48	67	145
ITA	809	689	1176	609	1595	1218	875	824	1390	571	108	0	1652	707	2494	1027	1195	236	482	1545
NLD	1114	1119	1212	802	2694	1821	883	1031	1810	816	122	1325	0	966	2364	967	1289	256	493	1730
NZL	1067	365	645	309	652	554	375	402	879	606	85	531	863	0	1004	485	598	128	349	613
USA	1650	712	3254	845	2245	1530	936	1163	2200	684	172	1705	1908	942	0	1325	1575	236	622	1967
HUN	517	408	846	340	952	723	587	588	878	398	83	892	794	375	1271	0	913	163	390	945
CZE	521	422	690	324	1206	790	610	726	913	423	93	870	1127	430	1241	847	0	191	405	1156
SVN	123	134	138	102	296	216	144	133	189	97	37	204	219	90	179	126	138	0	102	250
ZAF	396	253	394	210	417	380	374	303	482	288	44	379	401	281	596	310	282	72	0	408
POL	693	618	994	507	1979	1267	676	917	1341	504	112	1180	1566	462	1826	837	937	224	304	0

JER

common bulls below diagonal
 common three quarter sib group above diagonal

	AUS	CAN	DFS	NLD	NZL	USA	GBR	ZAF	IRL
AUS	0	235	136	63	411	453	215	224	52
CAN	238	0	94	31	165	405	164	152	9
DFS	104	85	0	92	138	188	168	140	43
NLD	53	25	90	0	65	76	76	65	30
NZL	445	174	114	57	0	335	221	196	111
USA	485	412	164	81	401	0	246	298	44
GBR	224	167	165	72	231	287	0	175	76
ZAF	216	147	120	60	203	311	183	0	38
IRL	50	8	37	29	124	45	80	38	0

RDC

common bulls below diagonal

common three quarter sib group above diagonal												
	AUS	CAN	DEU	DFS	NZL	USA	GBR	NLD	ZAF	IRL	NOR	CAM
AUS	0	93	35	190	121	116	86	24	38	16	61	10
CAN	95	0	12	152	77	205	93	6	72	5	6	0
DEU	35	11	0	48	13	20	14	14	3	6	13	0
DFS	169	154	39	0	153	176	117	44	51	19	133	0
NZL	122	76	13	147	0	104	78	18	37	11	35	9
USA	117	189	20	172	104	0	117	37	63	27	68	18
GBR	84	92	14	113	73	110	0	29	51	23	52	0
NLD	23	6	14	43	17	35	28	0	3	13	39	0
ZAF	39	74	3	50	33	57	44	3	0	3	0	0
IRL	15	5	6	15	11	27	22	13	3	0	54	0
NOR	51	6	12	105	33	69	54	39	0	52	0	0
CAM	10	0	0	0	9	18	0	0	0	0	0	0

SIM

common bulls below diagonal					
common three quarter sib group above diagonal					
	FRM	NLD	SVN	GBR	USA
FRM	0	107	0	63	43
NLD	128	0	46	42	19
SVN	0	45	0	0	0
GBR	80	40	0	0	19
USA	58	21	0	26	0